



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

REFERENCE: CERD/EWUAP/101st session/2020/Belarus/CA/ks

7 August 2020

Excellency,

I would like to inform you that during its 101st session, the Committee continued to consider the allegations of violations of discrimination against Roma in Mogilev Oblast in Belarus.

The Committee would like to thank your Government for the response to its letter of 13 December 2019 and for the information provided in relation to this case. On the basis of this response, the Committee notes that the State party has not registered complaints of mass arrests, excessive use of force, intimidation and violence against persons belonging to the Roma community, in the context of the investigation of the murder of a police officer in Mogilev Oblast.

The Committee also takes note that an investigation was carried out with regard to the procedural abuses and irregularities committed by internal affairs officers in the course of this proceeding and that a recommendation was made by the General Prosecutor's office to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to take measures to address such irregularities. In this regard, the Ministry of Internal Affairs created a commission composed of members of its Internal Security, and Law Enforcement and Prevention Department to carry out an investigation and as a result, disciplinary measures and sanctions were imposed on officers and senior officials, and a training session was also held on 13 August 2019.

The Committee is concerned about the impartiality and effectiveness of the commission of investigation given its composition of members of two departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is also concerned that the investigation focused on procedural irregularities of the proceeding rather than on the allegations of discrimination against Roma by law enforcement. In addition, while noting that disciplinary measures have been adopted against officers and senior officials, the Committee is concerned that no judicial prosecution has been initiated and no compensation has been provided to the victims.

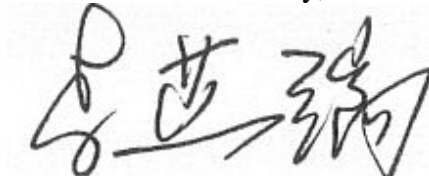
H.E Mr. Yury Ambrazevich
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belarus
to the United Nations Office Geneva
E-mail: belarus.geneva@mfa.gov.by

The Committee regrets that no information has been provided on measures taken to protect victims from any form of retaliation or reprisals for reporting these cases, and on measures taken to promote dialogue and understanding between Roma and Non-Roma communities.

The Committee requests the State party to provide updated and detailed information on the measures taken to address its concerns mentioned above in its next combined 24th and 25th periodic report, which was due on 8 May 2020. The Committee encourages the State party to submit its periodic report without further delay.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Belarus with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Yanduan Li
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination