



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: CERD/EWUAP/100th session/2019/Belarus/JP/ks

13 December 2019

Excellency,

I would like to inform you that in the course of its 100th Session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure allegations of discrimination against Roma in Mogilev Oblast, in Belarus.

The information received indicates that media reported, on 16 May 2019, that the person responsible of the murder of a police lieutenant in Mogilev Oblast could be a member of the Roma community. Immediately after, local police conducted raids and mass arrests in Roma communities in the suburbs of Mogilev, as well as in other cities of the State party. The information also alleges that over 100 persons of Roma origin, including women and children were arrested. During the arrest, police officers would have been responsible for acts of intimidation, excessive use of force and violence against these persons. It is also reported that Roma persons in Mogilev would have been victims of hate speech by police statements in the media. Moreover, the victims allegedly fear reprisals and do not want to file complaints.

The Committee is concerned that these allegations, if verified, would amount to serious human rights violations under the Convention. The Committee reminds the State party that it has already raised concerns over racial discrimination and profiling by law enforcement and criminal justice authorities in the State party (CERD/C/BLR/CO/20-23, para. 23).

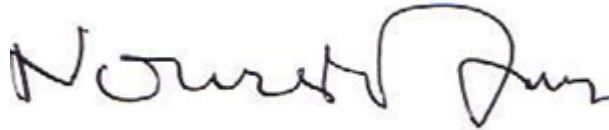
In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee requests that the State party submit information on all of the issues of concern outlined above by 13 March 2020, as well as on any action already taken to address these concerns. In particular, it requests that the State party provide information on measures taken to:

H.E Mr. Yury Ambrazevich
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belarus
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- (a) Ensure thorough and impartial investigation regarding the murder of a police lieutenant, mentioned above;
- (b) Investigate all allegations of racial discrimination against Roma mentioned above, including hate speech and racial profiling by law enforcement authorities, hold accountable those responsible and provide effective remedies to victims including reparation;
- (c) Protect victims from any forms of retaliation or reprisals for reporting such cases;
- (d) Promote dialogue and mutual understanding between different Roma and Non Roma communities with a view to achieving tolerance and peace.

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,



Nouredine Amir
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination