

NATIONS UNIES  
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

I write following the receipt of information on racist and xenophobic discourse in Italy, including within political circles and the media, and the apparent development of a climate of hostility against Roma and migrants.

In this regard, the Committee wishes to express support for the content of the joint statement of 15 July 2008 by the United Nations Independent Experts on racism; minority issues; and the human rights of migrants concerning the stigmatization of the Roma community in Italy. The Committee also wishes to echo the concerns expressed in recent statements and memoranda by the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance in relation to recent events and developments concerning the situation of Roma communities and migrants in Italy.

The Committee further wishes to recall its General Recommendation No 27/1999 on Discrimination against Roma and its General Recommendation No 30/2004 on non-citizens, as well as its Concluding Observations (CERD/C/ITA/CO/15) adopted in respect of the periodic report of Italy earlier this year at its 72<sup>nd</sup> session, following a dialogue with a delegation of the Italian Government. In paragraph 28 of the Concluding Observations, the Committee had requested that information on the implementation of its recommendations in paragraphs 13, 18 and 22 be provided within one year. In light of recent events and developments, the Committee now requests the Government to provide this information, together with information on its follow up to the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 12, 14 to 16 and 18 to 20, as soon as possible and in any event not later than 31 January 2009.

H.E. Mr. Giovanni Caracciola di Vietri  
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In addition, in light of its concern that the new legislation adopted by the Government of Italy as a "Security package", as well as related measures, may lead to further acts of discrimination against the Roma community and immigrants, the Committee, after considering the situation under its early warning and urgent action procedure, requests the Government of Italy to submit, no later than 30 October 2008, detailed information on the content of that legislation and its actual and potential impact on persons of Roma origin from Romania and other countries, Italian citizens of Roma origin, and immigrants generally, whether with or without legal status in Italy.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue a constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's request for information is made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah  
Chairperson of the Committee for the  
Elimination of Racial Discrimination