



NEWS REPORT

Date: 18 December 2009
Expert: Margarita Ilieva
Title: **Supreme Court confirms mayor liable for anti-Roma hate speech**
Country: **Bulgaria**

Context

Issue at stake: Hate speech by official
Ground of discrimination: of Race/ ethnicity
Source: Final court ruling
Field: all fields

Legislative provisions:

Content

Case/law/political development: The Supreme Administrative Court has confirmed a decision by the lower court confirming a decision by the equality body that a Sofia district mayor is liable for public hate speech against the Roma as such. The Court holds that extreme racist statements made on national radio constituted harassment of all Roma. The lower court and the equality body had explicitly held that intent on the part of the official was irrelevant since humiliation of Roma and an offensive environment were at hand as a result. The body ordered the mayor to pay a fine of EURO 500,00, apologise for his words on the same radio, publish the ruling at his own expense in one of the two best-read dailies, and not repeat similar statements. The mayor complied with these orders. The present ruling is final.

Decision of the Court: N 14472 in case N 11158/2009