



NEWS REPORT

Date: 27 June 2011
Expert: Romanița Iordache
Title: The Amnesty International report accuses legal system for discrimination of Roma in housing
Country: Romania
Context
Issue at stake: Report published by Amnesty International highlights Roma housing discrimination and faults Romanian legal system
Ground of discrimination: Race/ethnic origin - Roma
Source: Report
Field: Housing

Content

Case/law/political development: The report **Romania: Mind the legal gap: Roma and the right to housing in Romania**, issued on 23 June 2011 concludes that the Roma minority in Romania lacks legal protection from forced evictions, and that Roma families are often left in sub-standard housing conditions with no chance for redress.

The report is based on a number of cases in cities of Baia Mare, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Craiova, Mangalia, Miercurea Ciuc, Piatra Neamț, Podari and Tulcea, from recent years, cases in which Roma families were forced out of their homes and sent to "temporary" housing units on the margins of the cities, or left homeless, putting their lives and physical and physiological integrity at risk and basically segregating Roma in the outskirts.

The report identifies gaps in the protection of the right to housing and highlights that “remedies available under the existing legislation for evictions are mainly available to tenants or owners and do not adequately cover other groups of people, such as people living on public land.” Further, the report argues that “the Romanian government has so far failed to introduce an effective system that would hold local authorities accountable for non-compliance with human rights treaties to which Romania is a state party” and concludes that even if the courts or the national equality body



should provide Roma with a means of redress, these systems lack the power to hold the government accountable.

Internet link source and additional information: Report available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/romania-legal-system-condemning-roma-poor-housing-2011-06-23> (25.06.2011)