

# Census: Forced evictions of migrant Roma in France

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*(January – February – March 2014)*

## 1. Summary

### **Forced evictions: absurdly stubborn, stubbornly absurd**

Forced evictions of migrant Roma have continued steadily during the first three months of 2014. We could have hoped for another scenario during wintertime. As in past years, cold, wind, rain and snow have not changed the government's stubborn intent to pursue its harsh policy.

Since 1st of January 2014, 3428 people have been forcibly evicted from 36 different places; 2904 by authorities during 27 evictions and 524 became homeless after fires raged in 9 different settlements. These figures remain very high for the winter season, as in past years: we counted 3.007 and 2.153 people forcibly evicted in the first three months of respectively 2013 and 2012.

There were 22 forced evictions following a Court order requested by the owners of the land, 3 following decisions taken by the Mayor or Prefect for security or sanitary reasons, and in 1 case, people left the settlement by themselves, under threat of a forced eviction. One settlement was evicted by force without any legal decision.

The European Roma Rights Centre and LDH did not see any noticeable change in the implementation of the interministerial circular of 26 August 2012, which ordered local authorities to carry out a social assessment of Roma during all evictions. Evictions have continued almost everywhere without the social assessment, without offering adequate alternative housing solutions and without any social support.

We deeply deplore the death of a child in a fire in her settlement of Bobigny, on 12 February 2014.

During of the recent municipal election campaign in France, the anti-Roma mood was pathological, and extreme and hateful speeches were legion.

The announcement in late January by the Minister for Housing of a plan to "eradicate slums" with the public-private company Adoma at the helm has yet to prove effective. We can wonder if such a policy is feasible when the Minister of the Interior's approach is to evict Romani settlements systematically. We see the same evicted people settling a little bit further down the road, in a situation of even greater poverty and exclusion.

The appointment of the previous Minister of Interior as First Minister is indicating that the systematisation of the evictions as a solution to "eradicate the slums" would be accelerated, which may be feared as the as the worst scenario.

**Note:**

This survey is the result of joint work between the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and the Human Rights League (LDH). The figures are not comprehensive, but the census aims to be as accurate as possible in the absence of official data. The figures were gathered through media monitoring and reports from NGOs.

## 2. Results

Since 1st of January 2014, 3428 people have been forcibly evicted from 36 different places; 2904 by authorities during 27 evictions and 528 became homeless after fires raged in 9 different settlements.

There were 22 forced evictions following a decision of the civil or administrative court, 3 following a decision taken by the Mayor or Prefect for security or sanitary reasons and in 1 case, people left the settlement by themselves, under threat of a forced eviction. One forced eviction was done without any legal decision.

Results show that evictions mainly happened in 4 regions of France (95% of the evictions): Paris region (73%), Lyon region (16%), Bordeaux region (3%) and Marseille region (3%).

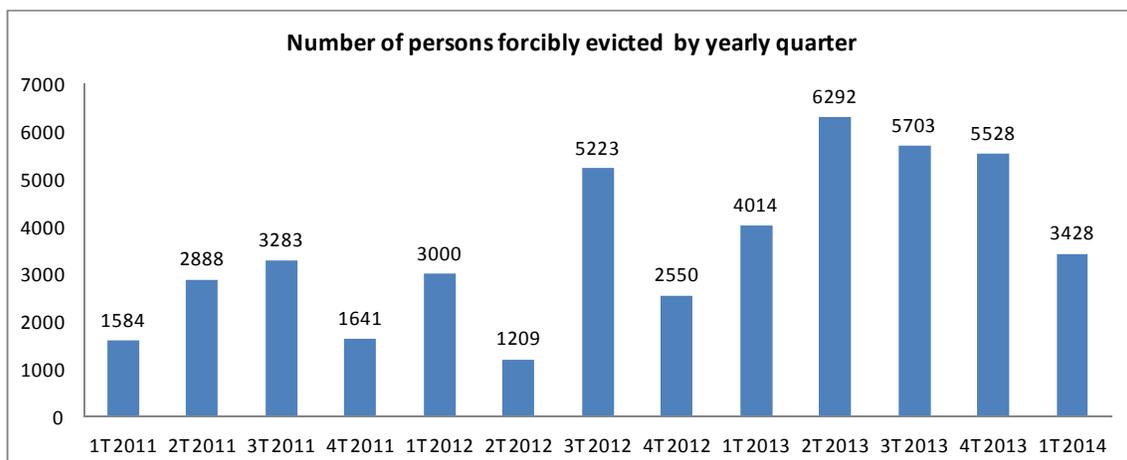
The authorities offered partial alternative accommodation XXX times; it remains insignificant in practice, although in this report they are recorded when offered. Housing solutions are most often temporary stays (two to three days) in emergency housing, and can be sometimes longer for a few families selected based on obscure criteria. Hotels are generally scattered and in remote places, away from the schools that children attend. Also, alternative accommodation is often offered the same day of the eviction: people are not aware that they could be relocated for a few nights, so they leave their settlement before the arrival of police and housing services. Authorities often separate families by providing emergency housing only to mothers and young children, leaving fathers and other older children on the street.

We continue to monitor the distribution of expulsion orders (*obligation de quitter le territoire français – OQTF*), including to European Union citizens. Very often the distributions of these orders are linked with the eviction of the settlement.

## 3. Changes compared to the previous period

The following charts detail the different figures and their evolution.

This analysis shows that the number of people evicted during the first quarter of 2014 remains extremely high. Looking at the figures, there has been no special consideration of winter's tough weather conditions as there was no decrease of the number of people evicted.



	nbr of evictions by authorities	nbr of fires	nbr of evicted settlements	Partial altern. accom.	People evicted by authorities	People evicted by fires	Nbr of people
1T 2013	29	10	39	16	3007	1007	4014
2T 2013	38	4	42	17	5762	530	6292
3T 2013	57	5	62	29	5203	500	5703
4T 2013	41	3	44	12	5408	120	5528
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>19380</b>	<b>2157</b>	<b>21537</b>
1T2014	27	9	36	17	2904	524	3428

Note : These figures **do not** include either people expelled after an administrative decision (OQTF) or charter flights to send individuals back to their country of origin (for the record, at least 446 people were repatriated in group with 4 charter flights in 2013).

#### 4. Violence and hate speech against Romani migrants

The list below is not exhaustive and gives only a few examples of violent cases.

##### January to March 2014:

- During the fire of the settlement of *Les Coquetiers* in Bobigny on 12 February, an 8-year-old child was found dead in her shack.
- After the eviction of a settlement in Wattignies (Lille region) on 21 February, a family found shelter in another settlement in Roncq. On the same night, while going out of the settlement, their 8-year-old daughter was accidentally hit by a car. She died on site.
- A man attacked a Roma family living on a sidewalk in the Place de la République in Paris with acid. Two people filed a complaint. We found out this man had been doing this on a regular basis since August 2013.
- Paul Marie Couteaux, running for the City Council of Paris' 6<sup>th</sup> district, wrote a blog piece where he suggested to the Minister of Interior to "concentrate" Roma in "camps"<sup>1</sup>.
- The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights targeted France for being a country – together with Greece – where there are "very serious forms of police abuse towards minorities and especially Roma and migrants"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Un candidat d'extrême droite évoque l'idée de « concentrer » les Roms dans des « camps »*, Le Monde, 3 March 2014

<sup>2</sup> *Les violences policières – une menace grave pour l'État de droit*, le carnet des droits de l'Homme du Commissaire du Conseil de l'Europe, 25 February 2014

## 5. Details results for first quarter of 2014

Evacuations forcées de Roms étrangers occupant des lieux de vie en France (année 2014)															
Adresse ou lieu-dit	Commune(s)	Dpt	Région	Date	Trim	Nombre Nbr total de personnes évacuées	Expulsés pour cause			Présence OFII ou PAF (1=oui)	Sol. de relog. (1=partielle)	Arrêté Préfet / Maire / 48h flagrance	Motif Jugement TGI ou TA	seuls sous pression	Source/Réaction
							Nbr de personnes évacuées par les autorités	nbr	Nbr de personnes évacuées suite à incendies ou autres						
squat La Métaire	St Etienne	Loire	Rhône-Alpes	03-janv	1T2014	133	133	1			1		1	France Bleu 3 janvier	
centre commercial Belle-Epine	Thiais	Val-de-Marne	Ile-de-France	09-janv	1T2014	70	70	1				1		Le Parisien 9 janvier	
Déchétène	Perpignan	Pyénées-Orientales	Languedoc-Roussillon	09-janv	1T2014	20	20	1				1		France Bleu 10 janvier	
Avenue Roger Salengro	La Courneuve	Seine-St-Denis	Ile-de-France	15-janv	1T2014	200	200	1		1			1	Aulnaylibre 16 janvier	
Rue de la Mulatière	St Etienne	Loire	Rhône-Alpes	21-janv	1T2014	78	78	1					1	Le Progrès 22 janvier	
Rue Dr Schinazy - Bacalan	Bordeaux	Gironde	Aquitaine	21-janv	1T2014	70	70	1		1			1	Sudouest 22 janvier	
N19 et N406	Bonneuil-sur-Marne	Val-de-Marne	Ile-de-France	28-janv	1T2014	600	600	1		1			1	Le Parisien 28 janvier	
Hôpital musulman	La Courneuve	Seine-St-Denis	Ile-de-France	29-janv	1T2014	20	20	1					1	Romeurope	
34 rue Primat	Villeurbane	Rhône	Rhône-Alpes	04-fevr	1T2014	130	130	1				1		Rue89 Lyon 4 février	
Route d'Eragny	Saint Ouen	Val d'Oise	Ile-de-France	06-fevr	1T2014	30	30	1				1		Romeurope	
Route de Caissargues	Nîmes	Gard	Languedoc-Roussillon	06-fevr	1T2014	32	32	1				1		Midi Libre 7 février	
Rue des écoles	Chavigny	Meurthe-et-Moselle	Lorraine	07-fevr	1T2014	20			20	1				Est Republicain 7 février	
Rue de Changney	Besancon	Doubs	Franche-Comté	10-fevr	1T2014	10			10	1				Est Republicain 11 février	
Porte Aubervilliers n°1	Paris	Paris	Ile-de-France	12-fevr	1T2014	40	40	1		1			1	LDH 12 février	
Porte Aubervilliers Abeille	Paris	Paris	Ile-de-France	12-fevr	1T2014	200	200	1				1		LDH 12 février	
Coquetiers	Bobigny	Seine-St-Denis	Ile-de-France	12-fevr	1T2014	50			50	1		1		Le Monde 12 février	
Aveue Jean Mermoz	La Courneuve	Seine-St-Denis	Ile-de-France	13-fevr	1T2014	200	200	1				1		MdM mission bidonvilles	
D110	Limeil-Brevannes	Val-de-Marne	Ile-de-France	13-fevr	1T2014	100	100	1		1			1	Le Parisien 13 février	
Av du Cap Pinède	Marseille	Bouches-du-Rhône	PACA	16-fevr	1T2014	45			45	1	1			Metronews 16 février	
Rue Marcel Paul	Le Blanc Mesnil	Seine-St-Denis	Ile-de-France	18-fevr	1T2014	150	150	1				1		ERRC 20 février	
Madrague ville	Marseille	Bouches-du-Rhône	PACA	19-fevr	1T2014	50			50	1			1	La Provence 19 février	
Vélodrome	Montigny-le-Bretonneux	Yvelines	Ile-de-France	20-fevr	1T2014	21	21	1			1	1		lesnouvelles.fr 20 février	
Rue Pasteur	Wattignies	Nord	Nord-Pas-de-Calais	21-fevr	1T2014	35	35	1				1		Romeurope	
Av Jean Jaures	La Courneuve	Seine-St-Denis	Ile-de-France	26-fevr	1T2014	30	30	1				1		ERRC 27 février	
Route de Bédarieux	Béziers	Hérault	Languedoc-Roussillon	03-mars	1T2014	12	12	1				1		midi Libre 4 mars	
Boulevard Sampaix	St-Fons	Rhône	Rhône-Alpes	05-mars	1T2014	133	133	1		1		1		RTL 5 mars	
entreprise Everite	Dammaries-lès-Lys	Seine-et-Marne	Ile-de-France	12-mars	1T2014	117	117	1					1	La République 12 mars	
Porte des Poissonniers	Paris	Paris	Ile-de-France	13-mars	1T2014	111	111	1		1		1		Metronews 13 mars	
Cité Descartes	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	Ile-de-France	13-mars	1T2014	300	300	1		1		1		Le Parisien 13 mars	
Route de Corbeil à Montgeron	Montgeron	Essonne	Ile-de-France	17-mars	1T2014	250			250	1	1			Le Républicain 17 mars	
Gymnase Gérard Philippe	Fontaine	Isère	Rhône-Alpes	20-mars	1T2014	30			30	1	1			FR3 20 mars	
Cité Descartes 2	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	Ile-de-France	21-mars	1T2014	25	25	1					1	CS Val Maubuée	
Rue du Colonel de Catejau	Lons-le-Saunier	Jura	Franche-Comté	26-mars	1T2014	7	7	1		1			1	Le Progrès 27 mars	
Av Chefdebién	Perpignan	Pyénées-Orientales	Languedoc-Roussillon	26-mars	1T2014	14			14	1	1			FR3 27 mars	
Rue Antoine Polotti	Grenoble	Isère	Rhône-Alpes	28-mars	1T2014	55			55	1	1			FR3 28 mars	
Grand port maritime	Ambares	Gironde	Aquitaine	31-mars	1T2014	40	40	1				1		Sudouest 31 mars	
<b>1er trimestre 2014</b>						<b>3428</b>	<b>2904</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>

## APPENDIX

### 1. Description of data used in the survey and definitions

Only the most reliable and precise sources are kept: they come from press articles and media, press releases, direct testimonies to ERRC or LDH or forwarded by other NGOs such as CNDH Romeurope.

The survey includes data on the name of the place, the city, the number of people evicted, the reason for the eviction, the housing solutions offered, the legal basis of the eviction and the source of the information in each case. The place evicted can be a settlement made of hand-built shacks or caravans, or a squatted building. The date mentioned is always the date of the forced eviction and the number of people comes from the sources.

Only information we could double-check is included in this survey.