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Socio - Sanitaria e per i Diritti di Stranieri e
Nomadi - ONLUS MILANO

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UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing
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Mr Morten Kjaerum
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
Schwarzenbergplatz 11
1040 Wien, Austria
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Re: Urgent response needed to recurrent evictions of Roma in Milan, Italy

Dear Mr Hammarberg, Ms Rolnik and Mr Kjaerum,

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)¹ and NAGA² are writing to request your urgent intervention with Italian authorities to stop an unprecedented wave of evictions of Roma and Sinti, ongoing in Milan since November 2009.

According to ERRC and NAGA documentation, media and other NGO reports, in 2010 alone (1 January and 30 April), Milan authorities have conducted at least 61 forced evictions of Roma and Sinti (a full list of known evictions is appended here). In many cases, the affected individuals have been rendered homeless, some numerous times.

The ERRC and NAGA are deeply concerned about the heightened effect of anti-Romani policies and practice in Italy, especially on Roma who have migrated from other countries. One year ago, on 4 May 2009, the ERRC and partner organisations raised the alarm about serious human rights and data protection violations targeting Roma and Sinti in Italy committed within the census conducted under the so-called *Nomad Emergency Decree*. This decree proclaimed a state of emergency and enacted a series of measures targeting Roma and Sinti individuals, making easier the forced eviction of Roma and Sinti. At that time, concern was expressed about the predicted impact of the census on the housing rights of Roma and Sinti; in particular that the census conducted would gather information that could be used to facilitate evictions. Events of recent months have shown this concern to be well-founded and the policies introduced as well

¹ The ERRC is an international public interest law organisation working to combat anti-Romani racism and human rights abuse of Roma through strategic litigation, research and policy development, advocacy and human rights education.

² The NAGA association aims to pursue social solidarity through the promotion of the human and social engagement of democratic citizens without any discrimination, to encourage social and assistance activities, to defend and guarantee the rights of foreigners and Roma people in state of need.

as the practice at the local level have had a very strong negative impact on already substandard living conditions of Roma and Sinti in Italy.

With serious concern that there is no end in sight to the practice of forced eviction and the inhuman treatment of Roma and Sinti in Italy, the ERRC and NAGA call on your offices to denounce publicly the severe human rights violations currently ongoing in Milan. We also respectfully request your urgent engagement through emergency country visits to engage in constructive dialogue with Italian authorities to bring an end to the harms suffered by Roma and Sinti. The ERRC and NAGA would be happy to assist your efforts in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Rob Kushen
Managing Director
ERRC

Avv. Pietro Massarotto
President
NAGA Onlus

ANNEX

KNOW EVICTIONS IN MILAN 1 JANUARY- 30 APRIL 2010

The ERRC and NAGA have not independently verified all evictions included in this list. It is compiled on the basis of some media and NGO reports; several of which have been independently documented by the ERRC and NAGA. The aim of this annex is to provide a snapshot of recent eviction activity in Milan revealing the intensity and frequency of the government's efforts.

Sources: Press Release from Riccardo De Corato, Deputy-Mayor of Milan (municipality) and councillor for security; Italian press (La Repubblica, Corriere della Sera, Avvenire, Il Giorno, Libero, Il Giornale, Omnimilano, Redattore Sociale, AGI, CronacaQui, Ansa, Apcom, www.chiesadimilano.it, Apcom, Milanotoday)

1. **14 January: via Forlanini:** 14 Romanian Roma (including 5 children) coming from the clearing out of via Rubattino; eviction carried out by local police (15 officers); 9 shacks and 2 tents demolished. No written notice, no written order. Families refused alternative accommodation in reception centres of the municipality as families would have been broken up.
2. **15 January: via Sarca:** about 40 Romanian Roma evicted from private property; the eviction was carried out by local police; 20 houses (shacks, tents) demolished. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
3. **19 January: Piazza Tirana:** 30 Romanian Roma (including 12 children) evicted; eviction carried out by local police under the order of the prefect-commissioner; 6 shacks with the properties were demolished; no written order, no alternative accommodation provided.
4. **19 January: Municipality of Rho (near Milan):** demolition of a house on land owned by 3 families of Romanian Roma (10 persons). No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
5. **19 January: via Gonin:** 11 Romanian Roma; 6 shacks demolished. Maurizio Pagani, person in charge of "Opera Nomadi" said: "Parents were threatened that their children would be taken away from them if they refused to move."
6. **21 January: via Sant'Arialdo (Chiaravalle):** 95 Romanian Roma (including 31 children) evicted by 102 local police officers from private property; 83 shacks demolished; no written notice, no written order; alternative accommodation was offered just for women and children, which was refused as families would have been broken up.
7. **28 January: via Cristina Belgioioso:** about 60 Romanian Roma evicted by 40 local police officers from private property; 10 shacks were destroyed; the eviction was carried out after a complaint by the property owner. The Roma had already been sued for illegal occupation. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
8. **29 January: via Molinetto da Lorenteggio:** about 100 Romanian Roma previously evicted from via Rubattino (November 2009) and Chiaravalle. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation available.
9. **29 January: via Giambellino:** eviction of Romanian Roma previously evicted from Rubattino. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
10. **31 January: via Molinetto da Lorenteggio:** 25 Romanian Roma, who lived in 9 cars, evicted by local police from the same area evicted two days before. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.

11. **31 January: via Giambellino:** about 20 Romanian Roma expelled from the same area evicted two days before. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
12. **2 February: Bovisa (via Siccoli):** 48 Romanian Roma evicted, all already evicted from Rubattino; eviction carried out by local police; no written notice, no written order. Alternative accommodation provided but families refused because accommodation offered would result in family break-up. Only a woman with two children accepted.
13. **2 February: Overpass Bacula:** 10 Romanian Roma evicted by local police from highway overpass; no written notice; no written order; no alternative accommodation offered.
14. **3 February: Cascina Gatti:** in the municipality of Sesto San Giovanni (near Milan); 20 Roma evicted by police. Alternative accommodation refused by Roma.
15. **4 February: settlement in via Rogoredo:** under bridges of Tangential Est; about 90 Romanian Roma evicted by 35 officers of local police; no written notice, no written order; alternative accommodation accepted only by a mother with her child and a woman with disability.
16. **5 February: Municipality of Rho (near Milan):** three evictions in a day. No further information available.
17. **8 February: settlement in Alzaia Naviglio:** 15 Romanian Roma evicted; 7 shacks destroyed.
18. **9 February: via Vaiano Valle (Chiaravalle):**; about 120 Romanian Roma (including approximately 60 children), some of whom came from evictions in via Rubattino and in the same area of Chiaravalle, evicted from private land after complaint by owner by about 90 local police officers. Eviction took place while it snowed; no written notice, no written order.
19. **9 February: Piazza Tirana:** Some Romanian Roma families including 7 children previously evicted on January 19, were evicted from public square near train station. One family has found refuge in a car. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
20. **9 February: Overpass Bacula:** 10 tents destroyed. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
21. **9 February: Overpass Gordiani:** eviction of Romanian Roma. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
22. **9 February: via Giambellino:** 1 shack demolished. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
23. **9 February: via Cardinal Tosi:** 15 caravans of about 50 Sinti were moved away. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
24. **9 February: piazzale Lugano:** 15 Romanian Roma evicted. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
25. **16 February: via Cassanese municipality of Segrate (near via Rubattino):** about 130 Romanian Roma already evicted from Rubattino, Bovisa, Bacula. Eviction carried out by *Carabinieri*³. All the shacks were destroyed. No written order, no written notice. Families refused alternative accommodation in reception centres of the municipality because it would have resulted in family break-up. Some families with children attending schools in the area have been hosted by the families of classmates in their homes.

³ "Carabinieri" throughout refers to national military police.

26. **16 February: via Rubattino and Segrate:** on the same day the Roma were evicted 3 times (from Lavanderie di Segrate, then from via Rubattino, then from Segrate). After two days, 13 Roma families (about 60 people) finally found accommodation in an industrial structure in agreement with the municipality of Segrate.. Another group was housed temporarily in a church (about 50 people).
27. **18 February: via Boffalora:** 30 Romanian Roma evicted by *Carabinieri*. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
28. **24 February: Bovisa (via Carlo Reale-via Bovisasca):** 16 Romanian Roma (including 6 children) evicted by 6 *Carabinieri* in plain clothes. No written notice, no written order. No alternative accommodation. 5 shacks were destroyed with property inside.
29. **25 February: Bovisa (via Carlo Reale-via Bovisasca):** the same 16 Romanian Roma evicted from the same area the day before. No alternative accommodation.
30. **26 February: cavalcavia Vulcano:** 60 Romanian Roma evicted from the area of Cavalcavia Vulcano in the municipality of Sesto San Giovanni (near Milano).
31. **9 March: via Bonfadini-via Pestegalli:** 40 Romanian Roma evicted and 15 shacks demolished; eviction carried out by local police (35 officers) in agreement with the Prefect of Milan. Alternative accommodation provided just for women and children; 4 women and some children accepted communal structure for some days.
32. **10 March: Bovisa (via Durando):** 50 Romanian Roma evicted by *Carabinieri*; no written order, no alternative accommodation. These families arrived from via Rubattino, then from via Siccoli, then from via Carlo Reale.
33. **18 March: via Bisceglie-Ciconi:** 60 Romanian Roma evicted from public property; 20 shacks demolished by local police in agreement with Prefecture; alternative accommodation provided just for women and children, refused.
34. **23 March: Bacula (via Colico):** 40 Romanian Roma evicted from private property;, 20 shacks and tents demolished by 20 local police officers.
35. **25 March: via Parri:** 60 Romanian Roma evicted from Fontanili Park, 30 shacks demolished by local police (30 officers) in agreement with Prefecture; alternative accommodation just for women and children, refused.
36. **1 April: Bacula (via Ardissonne):** 60 Romanian Roma evicted from public property, 17 tents and 4 shacks demolished by local police (35 officers) in agreement with Prefecture; alternative accommodation offered just for women and children, but refused. No written notice, no written order. 10 Roma denounced because of abusive occupation. Three children were found alone in a tent: social workers put them into a public structure and their parents were denounced. Police are investigating.
37. **1 April: Piazzale Lodi:** 3 Romanian Roma evicted from public property. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
38. **6 April: via Zama:** 7 Romanian Roma evicted by local police from unused public dwelling. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
39. **6 April: via Tosi:** 50 Italian Sinti (from Sicily) and their caravans evicted. No information available about notice.
40. **8 April: via Selvanesco:** 3 tents and 7 shacks on public property demolished by local police in agreement with Prefecture; 10 Romanian Roma denounced because of abusive occupation. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.

41. **9 April: Bovisa (via Siccoli):** in 70 Romanian Roma evicted from State Railway property; 15 shacks demolished by 35 local police officers, in agreement with Prefecture. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
42. **9 April: via Pepe:** 15 Roma evicted. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
43. **9 April: Ponte delle Milizie:** 15 Roma evicted. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
44. **12 April: via Cannelli:** 10 Romanian Roma evicted from a public farm building by local police. Riccardo De Corato, Deputy-mayor of Milan (municipality) and councillor for security, said: "It's the fourth time we have delivered this building since 2007." No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
45. **14 April: Peschiera Borromeo and via Caduti di Marcinelle:** 70 Spanish Roma arrived and parked their cars and caravans in a parking area in Peschiera Borromeo (municipality near Milan), but police evicted them. Then, they parked their vehicles in via Caduti di Marcinelle (Milan, near via Rubattino), but police evicted them again. No information available about notice.
46. **14 April: Bacula:** 15 tents demolished by 20 local police officers in agreement with Prefecture; alternative accommodation offered just for women and children, but refused; 10 Romanian Roma denounced because of abusive occupation (art. 633 Italian Penal Code). 4 Children lived there. Since 2007, it's the fifteenth eviction in this area. Riccardo De Corato, Deputy-mayor of Milan (municipality) and councillor for security, said: "It's the third time we have evicted this area in a month."
47. **14 April: Alzaia Naviglio Grande:** Romanian Roma evicted by local police. No further information available.
48. **14 April: San Cristoforo Station:** Romanian Roma evicted by local police. No further information available.
49. **16 April: via Curiel:**; two caravans were evicted from market area and accompanied by police out of Milan. There were 5 Italian Sinti (from Sicily) and 6 ex-Yugoslav Roma. The owner of one of the caravans received a 450 Euro fine.
50. **16 April: via Margaria:**; 6 shacks on public property demolished by local police; 15 Romanian Roma evicted; a man denounced because of abusive occupation (art. 633 Italian Penal Code). Riccardo De Corato, Deputy-mayor of Milan (municipality) and councillor for security, said: "Since the beginning of 2010 we have realized 65 evictions from private or public areas." No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
51. **19 April: via Tosi:** 28 Italian Sinti (from Sicily) (16 adults and 12 children) evicted. Police accompanied their 8 caravans from Milan; 8 owners of vehicles received 450 EUR fines.
52. **20 April: via Sant'Arialdo (Chiaravalle):** 70 Romanian Roma evicted from public property and 18 shacks demolished; 20 men denounced because of abusive occupation (art. 633 Italian Penal Code); alternative accommodation provided just for women and children, refused. Riccardo De Corato, Deputy-Mayor of Milan (municipality) and councillor for security, commented on this action, saying: "243 evictions since 2007."
53. **20 April: via Caduti di Marcinelle:** eviction of 60 caravans of 200 Spanish Roma parked in a roadway. Police accompanied them out of Milan. No information available about notice.
54. **20 April: Greco-Pirelli Station:** 30 Romanian Roma evicted from an unused building by local police in collaboration with Polfer (Railway police). No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.

55. **20 April: via Molinetto di Lorenteggio** 15 Romanian Roma evicted by 8 local police officers. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
56. **22 April: Ponte delle Milizie:** 50 Romanian Roma evicted from public property, 15 shacks demolished by 10 local police officers. Riccardo De Corato, Deputy-mayor of Milan (municipality) and councillor for security, said: "It's the third eviction in this area in less than two weeks." No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
57. **25 April: via Rubattino:** 230 Spanish Roma (52 caravans) evicted. Riccardo De Corato, Deputy-mayor of Milan (municipality) and councillor for security, said: "Since the beginning of 2010 we have realised 71 evictions in Milan. (...) Law-breakers Roma – like any stranger who lives by one's wits and who doesn't respect the law – threaten town security."
58. **27 April: via Cardinal Tosi:** 35 Italian Sinti evicted (9 caravans); each caravan fined 450 Euro, according to the decree against camping.
59. **28 April: Bacula (Piazza Lugano):** 20 Romanian Roma evicted from building on State Railways property by local police. 15 tents demolished. 8 men denounced because of abusive occupation (art. 633 Italian Penal Code); alternative accommodation offered just for women and children, but refused.
60. **28 April: San Cristoforo Station:** 2 Romanian Roma denounced and evicted from State Railways property by local police. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.
61. **28 April: Piazza Tirana:** 10 Romanian Roma evicted and their small tents demolished. No information available about notice or alternative accommodation.