

**BIENNIAL REPORT 2003-2004**





# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK .....   | 5  |
| ROMA RIGHTS IMPACT 2003–2004.....  | 9  |
| European Roma Rights Union.....  | 12 |
| Developing Anti-Discrimination Law.....  | 15 |
| The Desegregation Agenda .....   | 21 |
| Advancing the Right to Adequate Housing.....   | 25 |
| Romani Women's Rights .....  | 28 |
| Capacitating Roma Rights Activists .....   | 34 |
| FUNDING AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE AND<br>MANAGEMENT ISSUES .....                                  | 38 |
| APPENDIX A   |    |
| Itemised Expenditures for 2003–2004 .....  | 41 |
| APPENDIX B   |    |
| Short Summaries of ERRC Cases Pending Before International Tribunals<br>as of December 2004..... | 42 |
| APPENDIX C   |    |
| Short Description of Cases Filed in 2003–2004 Under Joint<br>Litigation Projects.....            | 55 |
| APPENDIX D   |    |
| Brief Description of Cases Funded by ERRC Legal Defence Programme<br>2003–2004.....              | 60 |
| APPENDIX E   |    |
| ERRC Scholarship Recipients 2003–2004.....   | 65 |
| APPENDIX F   |    |
| Interns and Externs 2003–2004.....   | 74 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| APPENDIX G                                    |    |
| ERRC Publication 2003–2004 .....              | 76 |
| APPENDIX H                                    |    |
| ERRC Local and Legal Monitors 2003–2004 ..... | 80 |
| APPENDIX I                                    |    |
| 6 Founder, Board and Staff (2003–2004) .....  | 84 |

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# From the Executive Director's Desk

Similar to every previous two-year period in the life of the ERRC, since the last time we set out to publish our biennial report, the scene has again changed utterly, and it is once again as if we summarise the work of entirely new organisation.

7

On May 1, 2004, ten countries joined the European Union. Among them were the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, countries of very significant ERRC engagement throughout the 1990s and into the new millennium. Shortly thereafter, European Parliament elections throughout the 25 EU Member States brought two Romani parliamentarians into range of EU law and policy making. These changes at EU level mirrored similar changes in some Member States. For example, following parliamentary elections in Hungary in 2002, the Hungarian administration for the first time hired several tens of Roma to work in various Ministries. A first threshold of Roma inclusion was crossed.

This and other changes reshaped the ERRC's relations with public institutions. Without compromising our independence – we guard our independence jealously – new opportunities have arisen repeatedly to bring Roma rights into the halls of power and to design public policy from within. The most significant of these has been the authoring by the ERRC, in consortium with several other groups, of a European Commission report on the situation of Roma in an Enlarged European Union. In our day-to-day work, we now regularly seek and find allies in a number of public institutions. These relationships have amplified our message and facilitated our ability to guide developments in policy. Our positions have been taken up: the school desegregation agenda, for example, is now normative in a number of countries.

That said, the issues we address remain daunting. During 2004, with local partners, the ERRC assisted Romani women in the Czech Republic in bringing complaints to the Ombudsman and before courts to challenge policies and practices of coercive sterilisation unchecked by any actions of the Czech government. As of the date of this writing, 72 persons have filed complaints in cases as recent as 2001. Most of them are Romani and all but one of them women. Although certain segments of the Czech administration have worked with us to secure justice, the nature of the practice, as well as the fact that some of the victims were coercively sterilised under Communism, means that for all of the victims to have access to justice, a law on compensation for victims of coercive

sterilisation will be required, involving simplified procedures presuming the essential plausibility of the allegations. Allies in the Czech administration have expressed sympathy with these goals, but told us “you will never achieve such a thing, because of the deeply rooted hostility of Czech authorities and the Czech public.” In the coming years, we will work to prove this assessment incorrect. But for now we are a long way from an acceptable resolution of this matter.

Daunting also have been our experiences to date in Russia. In some places, we have met with police officials unable or unwilling to challenge local vigilantes who summarily demolish the houses of people they accuse of being drug dealers, generally on the basis of their ethnic origin. In other places, we have met police officials who blocked the access of emergency fire and ambulance services trying to get to the site of a pogrom. We have struggled to keep cases challenging racially motivated violence and the extreme corruption of the judiciary by racial animus in the courts, in the face of regular and very plausible threats to victims (or surviving members of their families), witnesses and/or their legal representatives. The eight matters we are currently litigating are the fragmentary remnant of efforts in many dozens of such cases.

In some countries where we work, authorities have taken an active role in thwarting possibilities for justice. Kosovo – where in 1999, under the auspices of KFOR troops ethnic Albanians hounded from their homes using methods including arson, torture and systematic rape the greater part of a Romani community numbering well over 100,000 – remains a vacuum of justice. Tens of thousands of persons are now displaced in Serbia and Montenegro and Macedonia, as well as throughout Western Europe. Their tormentors remain at large and the abettors of these crimes unsanctioned. The massive systemic exclusion of a previously integrated Romani community is daily reaffirmed and fixed in place as Kosovo’s land and properties are privatised into the hands of the perpetrators. Rather than act to ensure the implementation of justice, Western powers – and in particular the German government – have set as a priority the expulsion of the refugees to Kosovo, disregarding all facts on the ground and manipulating information about Kosovo to pave the way for a smooth “normalisation”. Among other things this has meant, to name only one example, suppression by UN authorities in Kosovo of a 2000 report by the World Health Organization indicating that three camps for displaced Roma in Kosovo are located in areas so highly toxic that a number of their inhabitants have subsequently died of lead poisoning. We have worked – are working – to challenge these matters. We have also worked – are working – to shut down the Western European expulsion agenda. Where our efforts come up against a concert of Western powers determined to let injustice prevail, these efforts have not yet been successful.

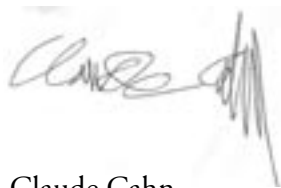
The foregoing notwithstanding, 2003 and 2004 was a period in which we registered a number of our greatest successes to date. We won many legal cases, securing

justice for Romani victims of human rights abuse. In a number of these decisions, European law banning racial discrimination was reshaped such that future actions by ourselves and others will be more likely to succeed. In our advocacy work, we pushed through comprehensive anti-discrimination laws in a number of countries and began the work of seeing them implemented, among other things by bringing test cases to court. Also during the period, the ground was laid for positive decisions coming in 2005, such as ruling in the 1993 Hadareni pogrom in Romania (in which three Roma were killed by a mob on the day Romania joined the Council of Europe) and the first ever ruling under the European Social Charter mechanism in a Roma rights case, a finding that Greece by policy and practice systematically thwarts the fundamental rights of Roma to adequate housing.

We also matured internally. The period 2003-2004 was a time in which we became unequivocally committed to the principle that we work with equal engagement on human rights abuses carried out in Romani communities by Romani perpetrators – issues such as child marriage, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Addressing these matters became a regular part of our human rights training activities, publication and advocacy during the period and in 2004 we took our first domestic violence case. Although in the past we have been told that these matters are “sensitive”, it has become clear that we have a leadership role to play in this area. This support has been welcomed by very significant segments of the Romani community, brought to articulate the position that the Romani identity does not depend on practices anathema to fundamental human rights.

These and related developments brought a welcome illumination of our own relationship with the burgeoning Romani movement. As a growing and diverse field of players test their muscles, struggle with timeless dilemmas related to (individual and community) autonomy and power, and sort through a range of possible discursive paths, we continue to act as bellwether.

The pages that follow attempt to summarise our actions of the previous two years. Materials are organised thematically. Of necessity, much is left out. Our efforts are undertaken within the policy and law frameworks available at any given moment, and are filtered through them. This document is only one artefact of our most recent efforts to articulate Romani concerns within a human rights framework. As always, we hope it is only a prelude to further discussion of the future of Roma rights.



Claude Cahn  
Acting Executive Director



# Roma Rights Impact 2003-2004

11

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) is an international public interest law organisation engaging in a range of activities aimed at combating anti-Romani racism and human rights abuse of Roma. The ERRC works to combat prejudice and discrimination against Roma, and to promote genuine equality of treatment and equality of respect. Since its establishment in 1996, the ERRC has endeavoured to give Roma the tools necessary to combat discrimination and win equal access to government, education, employment, health care, housing and public services. Core ERRC approaches include:

- Strategic litigation and other legal action in cases of human rights abuse of Roma and others perceived as “Gypsies”.
- Legal training/capacitation for advocates and other members of the legal community.
- Research and policy development, including publication activities aimed at raising public awareness and awareness among policy makers of Roma rights issues.
- International advocacy at key inter-governmental agencies.
- Human rights training of Romani activists.

In 2003 and 2004 the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) enjoyed among the most successful periods in its first decade of existence. Achievements for the period include:

- Becoming recognised as the major civil society stakeholder shaping Roma related rights-based policy at the European level and writing the official European Union policy report on Roma.
- Reshaping European international and domestic law in a number of areas through landmark decisions won in Roma Rights cases.
- Training a new generation of legal practitioners in anti-discrimination law and strategy through measures including workshops, close work with attorneys directly on cases, and other actions.



Romani girls playing in the Kustepe neighbourhood in the District of Sisli, Istanbul, Turkey; home to Roma, Kurds and Turks.

Photo: ERRC

- Intensifying work in the area of women's rights through training workshops and research into women's rights issues, as well as by compiling our first comprehensive submissions focused exclusively on women's rights issues.
- Breaking new ground in undertaking Roma rights work in the former Soviet Union – including Russia, Ukraine and the Caucasus.
- Making significant progress in the matter of school desegregation in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Heightening the capacity of Romani individuals and organisations to secure Roma inclusion in relevant areas of policy and administration.

## European Roma Rights Union

14

A central focus of ERRC advocacy during 2003-2004 was the European Union. As a result of ERRC efforts, as well as of the efforts of partners in Roma rights action, the EU has devoted increasing attention to remedying the very worrying situation of Roma in Europe. The attention and engagement of Europe's most powerful institution has brought new power and prestige to Roma rights.

Following the expansion of the European Union, Roma have become the largest ethnic minority in Europe and yet are still the most deprived. The severe marginalization faced by Roma in EU member states has in many cases worsened due in part to economic crises and the resurgence of racism in Europe. As a result of ERRC lobbying and advocacy work, Roma rights has shifted to the centre of EU human rights and social inclusion concerns. In 2004, the Directorate General of Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission, by far the most powerful agency in Europe working on anti-discrimination and social inclusion policy, focused extensive and intensive new efforts on Roma issues. The Commission opened contract for a project to be undertaken by the ERRC, the UK firm Focus Consultancy and Brussels-based European Roma Information Office. The project involved compiling a report on the situation of Roma in an enlarged European Union. Local researchers were engaged in eleven countries of Central and Eastern Europe, of which the ERRC supervised eight.

The resulting report represents an important milestone in the adoption of ERRC positions by European Union institutions, addressing such issues as segregation in education, high rates of unemployment, lack of infrastructure and social housing, environmental racism, discrimination in provision of healthcare, discrimination in the criminal justice system and other obstacles faced by Roma in accessing basic services. The report also details problems such as a lack of statistical data available on Roma, inadequate policy implementation, and opposition by local authorities, who in many cases undermine government initiatives to resolve the situation. Some of the short- and long-term solutions proposed in the report include establishing benchmarks in education, creating guidelines and national action plans under the European Employment Strategy, ratifying the Revised European Social Charter and adopting a series of further anti-discrimination and Roma-specific measures, including legally binding measures to secure Roma inclusion. The full text of the report is available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2119>.

During 2003-2004, the ERRC also targeted for advocacy work the social inclusion processes developed at the 2000 European Lisbon Council. Each of

the 10 countries joining the EU on 1 May 2004 had to prepare, in consultation with the European Commission, a Joint Inclusion Memorandum (JIM) – a document which aids the new EU Member States in joining the EU National Action Plans (NAP) process, and to co-ordinate policies on social inclusion and the eradication of poverty. The ERRC applied its expertise in Roma rights matters to engage in the process of preparing the “JIMs” by commenting extensively on draft JIMs and bringing a number of recommendations for the National Action Plans. In early 2004, the ERRC sent letters concerning the Joint Inclusion Memoranda of nine EU accession countries to government officials and the EU Commissioner on Employment and Social Affairs. By intervening directly in dialogues between the European Commission and EU candidate state governments, the ERRC was able to influence the government policies of EU candidate countries as those countries prepared EU-compatible policies to combat social exclusion. These nine policy documents are available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=117>.

The ERRC also provided written comments to European Commission’s “Green Paper: Equality and Non-Discrimination in an Enlarged European Union”. The ERRC’s comments focused on the problem of “nationality exclusion” under some aspects of EU anti-discrimination law. The ERRC noted that the “nationality exclusion” included in the Directive 43/2000 “implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin” had essentially eliminated “nationality” from the definition of racial discrimination as provided under the international law *acquis*, and thereby introduced into EU law a partial and insufficient definition of discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin. The ERRC argued that the exclusion of nationality from the ban on racial discrimination has allowed for the possibility of ethnic and/or racial discrimination on the grounds of “nationality” and the potential for discrimination against non-nationals. The full text of the ERRC comments are available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2009>.

The ERRC was also directly involved in consultations on the EU’s plan to set up a new Fundamental Rights Agency. This Agency will replace the current European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). Due to the growing importance of fundamental rights issues in the EU and the gap between the EU’s commitments to develop law and standards on fundamental rights and enforce these commitments, it was agreed that a monitoring body such as the EU Fundamental Rights Agency could address these issues by compiling its own research and analysis and recommending an independent course of action. The ERRC urged that the Fundamental Rights Agency’s role extend well beyond that of the existing EUMC. It was urged that the remit of the Agency should encompass all areas of European Union and Member States’ competence, where fundamental human rights are concerned. The ERRC also stated that care should be taken to ensure that EUMC’s

primary focus on racial discrimination issues be maintained by a dedicated unit within the future Fundamental Rights Agency. The full text of the ERRC's written intervention in the matter is available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2009>.

As 2005 opened, the ERRC was poised to work further to ensure that policies adopted at the Union level are designed for maximum effect in improving the human rights situation of Roma in Europe.

16

Roma children in camp set up by UNHCR in Krusevc, Obilic, Kosovo.

Photo: Andreea Anca-Strauss



## Developing Anti-Discrimination Law

ERRC strategies were reshaped beginning in 2000, when the European Union adopted Directive 43/2000 “implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin”, now generally referred to as “the Race Directive”, as well as several related directives. During 2003-2004, the ERRC continued to make the implementation and monitoring of anti-discrimination law in Europe a core feature of its advocacy work, litigation activities, publication and human rights training. Pressing for full transposition of the EU anti-discrimination directives, as well as ratification of Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights providing for a comprehensive discrimination law, the ERRC worked closely with partner NGOs and government officials in a number of countries to secure strong anti-discrimination law and practice.

17

Direct action undertaken during the period included work in Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine. Advocacy activities in these countries included submitting amicus briefs and policy notes, as well as holding roundtable workshops for relevant policy- and lawmakers. In addition, the ERRC also used opportunities provided by review of a number of strategic ERRC countries by international bodies such as United Nations review committees and key institutions of the Council of Europe to press for anti-discrimination laws and policies. Most significantly, the ERRC took legal action to challenge discriminatory practices, in order to secure justice for victims, as well as to develop law in this area, and to work toward full implementation of anti-discrimination law in a number of jurisdictions.

In December 2004, the ERRC achieved a monumental victory when the House of Lords ruled that the UK government had discriminated on racial grounds against Czech citizens of Romani origin by stationing immigration officers at the Prague Airport to detect persons who might attempt to claim asylum in the UK and to prevent such persons from travelling to the UK. The overwhelming number of passengers who were denied entry to the UK was Romani. The practice was described by the Lords as “inherently and systematically discriminatory”. This decision is among the most important ever in terms of condemning racial discrimination in the exercise of border control and the implementation of border policy.

Since the new anti-discrimination legislation came into force in Bulgaria in January 2004, the ERRC, together with local partners Romani Baht Foundation and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, filed a number of actions

challenging discrimination against Roma in the provision of services and employment. As of the end 2004, six landmark judgements had been reached by the Bulgarian courts, finding discriminators in violation of Bulgaria's new anti-discrimination law, fining them, and awarding damages to victims.

Also concerning racist action in Bulgaria, in February 2004, the European Court of Human Rights unanimously found the Bulgarian state responsible for the deaths of two Romani men in the case of *Nachova v. Bulgaria*. For the first time in its history, the Court found a violation of the guarantee against racial discrimination contained in the European Convention on Human Rights – Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken together with Article 2 (right to life). The ERRC supported local partners in legal action in this landmark case by providing an *amicus curiae* brief on the key matter of standards of proof of racial discrimination.

Much ERRC legal action to challenge racial discrimination against Roma during the period took place in the framework of country-specific litigation projects undertaken jointly with partners in Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary and Serbia and Montenegro, focussing on areas of anti-discrimination law and practice, where litigation was deemed to have the potential of achieving positive reform. In a number of cases launched in Serbia, situational testing was used to establish the unequal treatment of Roma. In co-operation of the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) and the Minority Rights Center in Serbia, a series of tests were carried out across Serbia to establish whether Roma were in fact discriminated against in access to public accommodations, such as clubs, discotheques, restaurants, swimming pools, etc. Based on test results, the ERRC and the HLC filed an application with CERD against Serbia and Montenegro in the case of *Durmic v. Serbia and Montenegro*. The case, which is our first CERD complaint against Serbia and Montenegro to date, addressed discrimination in access to public accommodation, in this case a discotheque in downtown Belgrade. A similar test was carried out at the Krsmanovaca swimming pool in Sabac, Serbia, after which the Serbian Supreme Court upheld the first ruling of a Serbian court finding discrimination in access to public accommodation. The ERRC and the HLC filed a civil action for racial discrimination against the company that operates the swimming pool, securing a public apology to the Roma who were denied entry solely based on their ethnicity. The non-Romani testers of the swimming pool had been allowed entry without question. The Supreme Court's decision in this case has had a major impact on the advancement of anti-discrimination jurisprudence in Serbia.

In its country litigation project in Hungary, jointly with the organisation Legal Defence Bureau for National and Ethnic Minorities (NEKI), the ERRC undertook a number of legal actions against discriminators. To name only one



Italy – Roma camp of Via Salone.  
Local police and bulldozers during a "cleaning operation" of the area where  
Roma camp is located, demolishing the Romanian Romani houses.

Photo: Stefano Montesi

# First five cases won under the

**S**INCE the new anti-discrimination legislation came into force in Bulgaria on 1 January 2004, the ERRC, acting alone or with Romani Baht Foundation and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, has filed a number of civil actions alleging discrimination against Roma. As of September 2004, five landmark anti-discrimination judgements had been issued by Bulgarian courts.

20

In the first judgement on 9 July 2004, the Sofia District Court ruled against the company VALI Ltd. awarding compensation to the plaintiff Ms. Sevda Nanova, a Romani woman who had suffered discrimination in access to services, solely based on her race. VALI Ltd. operates a clothing shop in Sofia in which Ms. Nanova was refused service and banned from its premises by the company's staff who threatened Ms. Nanova with violence and verbal abuse with respect to her Romani origin. The Court found such conduct to be discriminatory and in violation of Bulgarian law.

On 12 July 2004, the Sofia District Court issued a decision in the matter of Mr. Rumen Grigorov v. the Sofia state-owned electric company. The Romani plaintiff was denied access to electricity when he refused to sign an additional agreement, which would permit the company to place his electrical metre on a 9 metre high pole to prevent illegal connection by Roma. The plaintiff had no unpaid bills and no history of illegally connecting to the power grid yet he would be unable to monitor his electricity consumption as a result of the metre's unorthodox placement. The Sofia District Court ruled that Mr. Grigorov had been discriminated against, and ordered the respondent company to provide him with adequate access to his electricity metre and to cease such practices in the future.

In a similar case, on 6 August 2004, the Sofia District Court ruled in favour of Mr. Kocho Kochev and five other Romani plaintiffs, all residents of Filipovtsi, a Romani settlement in Sofia. The plaintiffs' claim of discrimination against the state-owned electric company was sufficiently substantiated to shift the burden of proof onto the respondent who failed to establish that non-Romani consumers had been treated similarly. The Court found that the six Romani individuals had suffered discrimination and ordered the company to relocate the electrical metres to an accessible height and pay the plaintiffs compensation.

example, a joint application was filed against Hungary at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in a case involving racially motivated threats and discrimination in access to housing. In the case, Hungarian authorities were unable and/or unwilling to provide a domestic remedy to a number of Roma denied access to housing on racial grounds. As such, the case has been brought before an international tribunal.

During 2003-2004, the ERRC also undertook a number of publications aimed at raising awareness of anti-discrimination issues for the public at large, and assisting anti-discrimination practitioners throughout Europe

# new Bulgarian equality law

On 13 August 2004, the Sofia District Court decided in favour of the plaintiff Mr. Anguel Assenov, who was refused a job interview by Kenar Ltd. solely due to his ethnic origin. Acting on test reports of discriminatory hiring practices, Mr. Assenov, a young Romani man, placed a call to the respondent company, a food producer and distributor, to inquire about a job posting. The employee who answered the plaintiff's call asked Mr. Assenov to come for an interview but when Mr. Assenov said he was a Romani, the employee told him that there was consequently no need for an interview, since the company had a strict policy of not hiring Roma. The phone conversation took place through a loudspeaker, and was heard by two other witnesses who later testified in court. The plaintiff requested a finding of discrimination, an award of compensation and a court order obliging the respondent to refrain from such hiring practices in the future. All of the above requested remedies were granted by the court.

On 19 August 2004, the Sofia District Court rendered a decision in a case against the Sofia state-owned electric company concerning denial of electricity to bill-paying Romani customers. The ERRC joined the proceedings as an intervener in the public interest. Following a breakdown of the power grid on 9 January 2004, in the segregated Romani neighbourhood of Fakulteta, Sofia, over 100 Romani families remained without power. The respondent company did not restore power to the neighbourhood for more than two months contending that many of the affected consumers had unpaid debts to the company. However, more than 30 Romani households had no outstanding debts. The plaintiffs argued that such actions were discriminatory because they were imposed on residents of a Romani neighbourhood, and that bill-paying non-Romani customers would not be denied access to power based on the unpaid debts of their neighbours. The Sofia District Court agreed and held that the Romani plaintiffs had indeed been discriminated against.

The discriminatory practices as described in these five cases is in breach of numerous international standards of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. They are also in violation of the Bulgarian anti-discrimination act, which prohibits discrimination by public and private parties in all fields of public life, including the provision of services and employment.

in undertaking their work. In particular, Numbers 1 and 2/2003 of the ERRC Quarterly Roma Rights addressed the theme of "Anti-Discrimination Law" and Number 2/2004 of Roma Rights examined issues surrounding the gathering and uses of ethnic statistical data, a key tool for addressing racial discrimination. In addition, *Strategic Litigation of Race Discrimination in Europe: From Principles to Practice: A Manual on the Theory and Practice of Strategic Litigation with Particular Reference to the EC Race Directive* was produced and distributed to practitioners in 2004 by a three-member consortium including the ERRC and partners Interights and the Migration Policy Group.

In its workshop activities, the ERRC offered strategic assistance and training for local human rights lawyers, judges, NGOs and government officials, encouraging them to incorporate international jurisprudence and standards into human rights claims at a domestic and international level. In undertaking workshop training in anti-discrimination law matters, the ERRC worked closely with a range of partners including the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Romani Baht, Greek Helsinki Monitor, the Slovak Ministry of Justice, the Swedish Ethnic Discrimination Ombudsman, and the European Commission's DG Employment and Social Affairs, among others. A wide range of topics was covered, ranging from legislative advocacy of anti-discrimination law, discrimination in education and housing, women's rights, litigation of human rights violations both domestically and with the European Court of Human Rights, methods for situational testing, and advocacy for transposition of the European Union Race Equality Directive.

In December 2003, the ERRC joined four successful EU tenders by lead partners in EU Member States to implement anti-discrimination law in Europe. These projects involved anti-discrimination training for advocates and other stakeholders, as well as actions to counter discrimination against Roma in education and employment. Project partners include the Irish Traveller Movement, Italian Helsinki Committee, Minority Rights Group, the Office of the Swedish Ombudsman on Ethnic Discrimination, the Northern Ireland Council on Ethnic Minorities, the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights and European Roma Information Office. Implementing these projects will comprise a significant part of ERRC activity in the coming period.

The impact of ERRC action on anti-discrimination law matters has been seismic. Central and Eastern European countries such as Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia now for the first time in their history have comprehensive laws banning discrimination on a number of grounds, including the very serious harm of racial discrimination. The ERRC has also facilitated access to justice by Romani victims of racial discrimination in a number of countries, bringing due remedy to individuals for the first time. Continued action in this area is a key ERRC priority for the coming years.

## The Desegregation Agenda

Racial segregation of Roma in education is at present a pan-European problem. It has caused irreparable damage to generations of Roma raised with the stigma of inferiority. At the root of this phenomenon lies deep-seated anti-Romani sentiment, as well as the educational system's intolerance of cultural diversity. The inferior education provided to Roma through segregated education makes it difficult for them to meet the requirements of university entry exams, and ill-prepared to compete in the labour market. The indignity of segregation also leads to feelings of low self-esteem and emotional distress, which Roma carry with them throughout their lives. It is the foundation on which their interaction with mainstream society is built.

23

The ERRC has continued to make the advocating of school desegregation a top priority in countries with the most significant Romani populations. In line with this strategy, the ERRC published *Stigmata: Segregated Schooling of Roma in Central and Eastern Europe*, in May 2004. The Stigmata report is the result of eighteen months of intensive research on the educational situation of Roma in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. The report surveys the most common practices of segregated education of Roma such as placing Romani children in remedial or special schools for children with disabilities, segregating students in Romani-only ghetto schools and segregating Roma in classes within mainstream schools. In some cases, Romani children are excluded from schools entirely. Roma are not only subjected to exceedingly poor material conditions and inferior quality education, but are also often neglected or even racially abused by teaching staff. For the most part, governments have not yet succeeded in designing and implementing effective school desegregation policies. In its report, the ERRC developed recommendations for government desegregation policy reform by proposing the phasing out remedial special schools and segregated Roma-only schools, and ensuring the acceptance of Romani children into mainstream schools and any other measures which would facilitate Roma integration into mainstream society. It also emphasized that racial segregation of Roma in education, whether intentional or not, is in breach of international human rights law as well as European Union law. The full text of *Stigmata* is available on the CD Rom accompanying this Biennial Report.

The ERRC also took legal action to challenge racial segregation of Roma in education, filing a number of complaints throughout the period. In one case, following legal action by the ERRC with local partners, the Budapest Metropolitan City Court of Appeals upheld the first instance court decision in June 2004, whereby the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Court ordered the primary school and the local government to pay damages in the total of 14,600



Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians Refugees at the Macedonian-Greek Border, May 2003. In recent years, the ERRC has engaged to stop abusive expulsions of Romani refugees from Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Photo: ERRC

Euro to nine families whose children were unlawfully kept in segregated classes from 1994 to 1999. The complaint which was filed as part of a joint strategic litigation project undertaken by the Legal Defence Bureau for National and Ethnic Minorities and the ERRC, was based on the school psychologists' assessment that it was "in the children's own best interest" to be placed in special classes for the mentally deficient. In its judgement in October 2003, the Budapest Metropolitan City Court of Appeals concluded that the segregation of the plaintiffs by the school and the local authorities was in breach of the Hungarian Public Education Act. In addition, the court held that the school had clearly failed to recognise and address the plaintiffs' learning difficulties and had instead chosen to administer an inferior curriculum that has jeopardised their future development and integration into mainstream society.

During 2003-2004, the ERRC also worked with local partners in Bulgaria to file legal complaints against a number of schools undertaking racial segregation of Roma in schooling. In Croatia, the ERRC, together with the Croatian Helsinki Committee and a Croatian attorney-at-law, filed an application against Croatia with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in December 2004. The submission concerned the practice of racial segregation of Romani children in Croatian primary schools, and was lodged on behalf of 15 Romani pupils attending Roma-only classes in "regular" primary schools in the County of Medjmurje. Their placement stemmed from a blatant practice of discrimination based on ethnicity and the unwillingness of the Croatian authorities to provide redress. The action began in April 2002 when the 15 applicants, assisted by local counsel and the ERRC, filed a complaint with the Municipal Court in Cakovec against the Republic of Croatia/Ministry of Education, the County of Medjmurje, as well as the four primary schools, requesting a judicial finding of racial discrimination, an order to end racial segregation and discrimination and achieve full integration, and an order that the plaintiffs be placed in racially integrated classrooms where they would be provided with a compensatory education. The complaint was rejected by the Municipal Court in Cakovec, after which, the decision was appealed. The appeal was also rejected. In December 2002 the applicants filed a complaint with the Croatian Constitutional Court requesting that both the first and the second instance judgements be quashed and the case retried. More than two years later, the court is yet to take any action. The applicants however, have now turned to the European Court of Human Rights for justice.

To further its action on desegregation in education, the ERRC worked jointly with the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe to design and implement projects aimed at lobbying for a normative basis for integrated education in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania. The main objectives of these projects were to develop and implement comprehensive school desegregation programmes and to press for the allocation

of financial resources for the transfer of the Roma children to mainstream schools; to lobby the Ministry of Finance to develop a Public Fund for School Desegregation; to advocate the effective implementation of existing legislation on integrated education; and to lobby national Parliaments for the introduction of a budget for the Public Fund for School Desegregation. The projects involved a series of roundtable discussions, which were held in December 2004 with ministerial representatives, educational experts, civil actors and other stakeholders, in their respective countries.

26

The ERRC also facilitated workshops for local players in the fight for desegregation in education. In October 2003 and March 2004, with the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the Government of the United Kingdom, the ERRC held local workshops in Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovakia on integrated education. These workshops were successful in bringing together individuals involved in the education of Romani children in the aforementioned countries and presenting concrete plans for follow-up.

## Advancing the Right to Adequate Housing

Housing rights action moved to the centre of ERRC activities during 2003-2004. The extremely substandard housing arrangements in which large parts of the Romani community live, as well as the dramatic weakening of the housing rights framework in a number of countries of Europe, urged this issue upon the ERRC as a matter of emergency. There has been a dramatic rise in forced evictions of Roma, and Roma are frequently denied access to social housing, and are the victims of other discriminatory practices which compel them to live in segregated slum settlements, which are often characterised by conditions so extreme as to constitute a public health risk.

27

Throughout the period, the ERRC has embarked on several initiatives to combat housing rights violations against Roma. One key action undertaken during 2004 was a Collective Complaint under the Revised European Social Charter against Greece, alleging systematic violations of the right to adequate housing where Roma are concerned. This was submitted simultaneously with the publication of an ERRC Country Report on Greece, which focused on housing rights issues. This is only the 15th such complaint submitted under the mechanism, and the first ever related to Roma rights issues. In October 2004, at the request of the ERRC, the European Committee of Social Rights held a hearing in Strasbourg on the collective complaint against Greece. The hearing was joined by ERRC partners Greek Helsinki Monitor and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions. Based on ERRC submissions, Committee members confronted the Greek government with detailed questions concerning forced evictions, discriminatory legislation, the effectiveness of domestic safeguards against housing rights violations, and the implementation of housing programmes. In the run-up to the hearing the ERRC arranged for a site visit to a number of Athens slums by newly elected Member of the European Parliament Livia Járóka, one of only two current Romani Members of the European Parliament. Following the site visit, which was widely covered by Greek media, MEP Járóka submitted a powerful written statement to the Committee. As a result of the Collective Complaint, Greece was found in violation of the European Social Charter in February 2005.

Following extensive research in Italy on the problem of forced evictions and other housing rights issues, the ERRC submitted a Collective Complaint against Italy, also under the European Social Charter mechanism. The complaint alleges that as a result of the construction and maintenance of substandard and racially segregated camps for Roma, the threatened or actual forced eviction of Roma, systemic destruction of Roma property and the invasion of Romani dwellings without due regard to Italy's international law obligations, Italy is in violation of the Revised European Social Charter.

The misconception that Roma are “nomads” has underpinned the Italian government’s approach to Roma and public housing. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, ten out of twenty regions in Italy adopted laws aimed at the “protection of nomadic cultures” through the construction of substandard segregated camps. Since then, there has been no effective action to combat this segregation. The ERRC Collective Complaint against Italy is currently pending. Materials on ERRC Collective Complaints against Greece and Italy under the European Social Charter mechanism are included in the CD Rom accompanying this Biennial Report.

The ERRC also undertook targeted research into housing rights issues in Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia with UK and Norwegian government support, to produce documentation for advocacy and litigation purposes, and in the case of Bulgaria, for the filing of a Collective Complaint under the Revised European Social Charter. Research on housing rights issues in Hungary focused on forced evictions and the spatial segregation of Roma. The findings were included in two joint ERRC/COHRE submissions to the European Committee of Social Rights, which also included material related to housing rights violations of Roma in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania and Turkey.

In Hungary, the ERRC also took legal action in a number of housing rights cases where the fundamental rights of Roma had been violated. One such action concerned the forced eviction of ten Romani families from their homes, in the absence of a court order or access to alternative accommodation. The ERRC also filed a joint application with NEKI and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg against Hungary in a case involving racially-motivated threats and discrimination in access to housing whereby the City Council blocked the sale of a house to a Hungarian woman of Romani origin. In addition, the ERRC challenged the discriminatory local housing regulations of a number of Hungarian municipalities before the Hungarian Constitutional Court, requesting that they be struck down. Positive rulings in the first such cases were issued in early February 2005.

The ERRC undertook a comprehensive project on housing rights in Slovakia during the period, with the Bratislava-based Milan Šimecka Foundation (MSF) and the Geneva-based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE). The project involved extensive documentation actions by the ERRC with local partners, legal action in a number of test cases, and production of a housing rights manual in the Slovak language for Slovak Romani activists entitled, “Defending Roma Housing Rights in Slovakia: A Training Manual on International Law and the Right to Adequate Housing”.

Cases in which the ERRC was involved under the project include action to contest a large-scale eviction in Košice where owners of two separate housing

blocks threatened and eventually forcibly removed Romani tenants from their apartments without a court order. In addition, the ERRC and local partners filed a joint communication with the United Nations Committee against Racial Discrimination (CERD), asserting violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination in a case of Roma being denied access to social housing based on a petition signed by inhabitants of the village of Dobsina. In February 2005, the CERD found that Slovak officials had violated international law when they undertook actions to segregate Roma in Dobsina. The ruling is the first major successful housing rights case relating to Roma at CERD, and it has been welcomed by Slovak government officials in their work to combat the actions of abusive local officials in Slovakia.

In March 2004, the ERRC, MSF and COHRE held a housing rights training workshop in Košice, which addressed regional and international legislation and provided training in advocacy and housing rights litigation. As a follow up to the workshop, activists initiated a housing rights campaign aimed at pressing the Slovak government to improve the legal and policy frameworks in Slovakia. A comprehensive policy recommendation was sent by ERRC, COHRE and MSF in July 2004.

Importing the project format successfully undertaken in Slovakia, the ERRC in collaboration with Bucharest-based NGO Romani CRISS, engaged four researchers to undertake intensive research into the housing rights situation in Romania. Prior to commencing the research, the ERRC engaged in fund-raising activities to launch a project, which included monitor training, compilation of a training manual, documentation of housing rights violations and litigation activities. A lawyer has been commissioned to conduct an analysis of existing Romanian housing legislation and policy. The first results of field research were expected in early 2005. The ERRC currently plans major new housing rights action for 2005 also in Bulgaria, France and Portugal, as well as continuing advocacy and legal work in those countries where this is ongoing.

## Romani Women's Rights

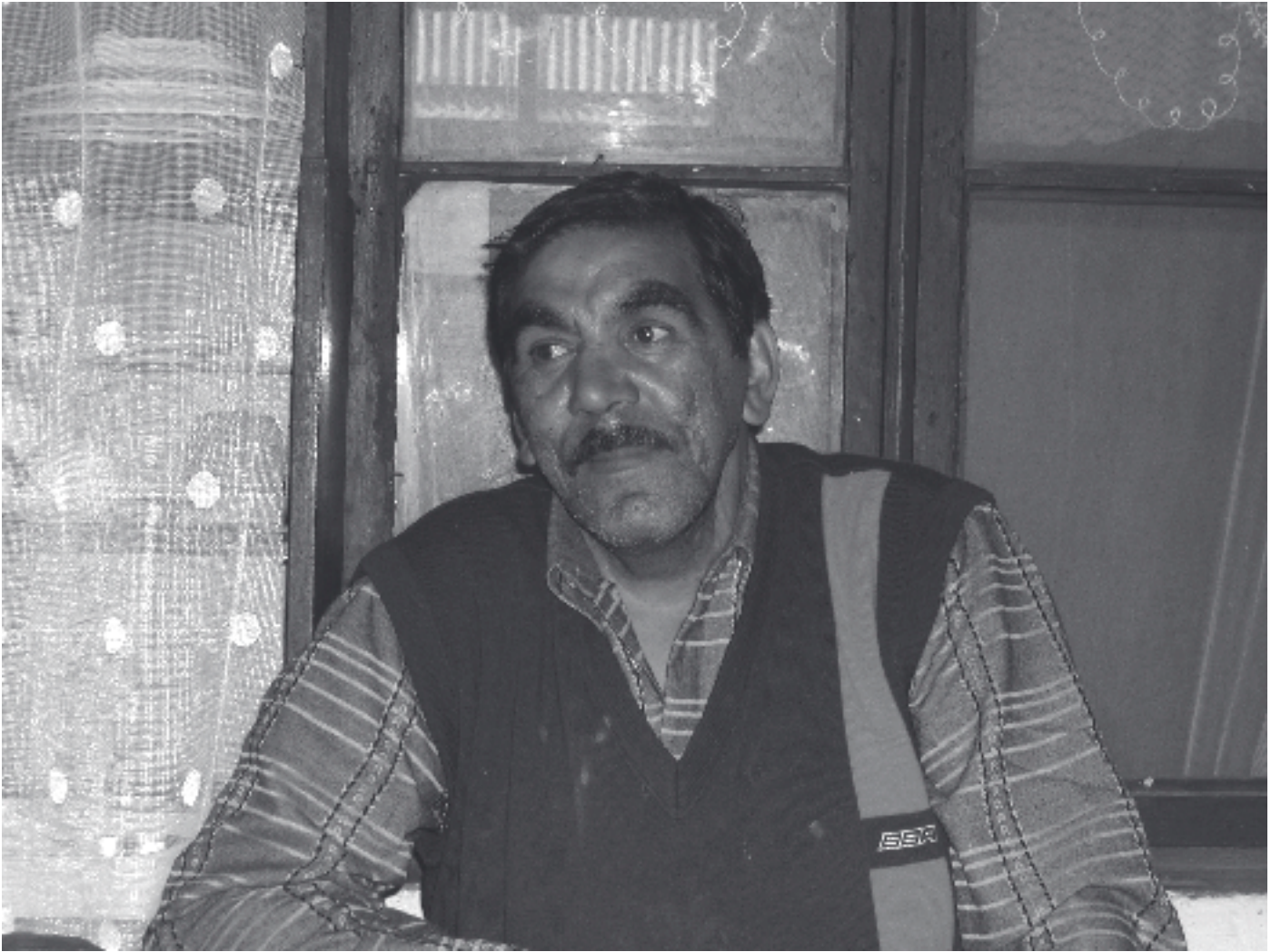
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The ERRC dramatically intensified its work in the area of women's rights in 2003-2004 by engaging in gender-specific advocacy, field research, training workshops, publication and litigation activities. The ERRC undertook submissions to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), detailing concerns of women's rights violations in Croatia, Germany and Spain. In addition, targeted research, advocacy and litigation was conducted in the area of coercive sterilization of Romani women in Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. Also in 2004, the ERRC engaged its first Women's Rights Officer, remedying a long-standing need. ERRC action on women's rights matters undertaken in 2003-2004 follow:

**Croatia:** Throughout 2004, the ERRC worked independently as well as with local partners to undertake independent field research to prepare documentation for a submission to CEDAW. A written submission was sent to the CEDAW in December 2004. The ERRC Women's Rights Officer and a Romani activist from Croatia – a woman involved in the preparation of the ERRC submission – travelled to the New York session of the CEDAW review of Croatia to present oral testimony there. The ERRC written submission to the CEDAW on Romani women's rights in Croatia is available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2124>.

**Czech Republic:** During 2003 and 2004, the ERRC undertook a number of field research missions to document coercive sterilisations of Romani women in the Czech Republic. Findings were presented in a submission to the UN Committee Against Torture in May 2004. Throughout the second half of 2004, the ERRC worked with a coalition of local partners including the League of Human Rights, Life Together and IQ Roma Service, to assist victims in bringing complaints to the Czech Public Defender of Rights ("the Ombudsman"). As of December 2004, more than fifty victims of coercive sterilisations had come forward to press claims for justice. With local partners, the ERRC assisted in the formation of a victim group, which now meets once per month in the city of Ostrava. Details of action for justice in the matter of coercive sterilisations of Romani women, as well as a gallery of photographs of a number of the victims, is available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2228>. The ERRC will continue during the coming period to press, with partners, for a law on compensation for victims of coercive sterilisation in the Czech Republic.

**Germany:** In October and November 2003, the ERRC conducted field research in Germany focusing on the human rights situation of



Romani man in Poti, western Georgia, April 2004. Photo: ERRC

Romani women, in co-operation with the EU Accession Monitoring Program of the OSI (EUMAP). The research results were used to produce a shadow report jointly with EUMAP for CEDAW. The shadow report emphasised the discrimination faced by Roma and Sinti women in Germany in access to health care, education and political participation. The full text of the shadow report on Germany is available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2136>.

**Hungary:** ERRC research missions investigated and documented cases of coercive sterilisation of Romani women, as well as other abuses of Romani women in the health care system. Jointly with local partner the Legal Defence Bureau for National and Ethnic Minorities (NEKI), the ERRC also undertook legal action on coercive sterilisation matters in Hungary, first domestically and subsequently before the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Details of the case, as well as of legal action undertaken, are available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=355&archiv=1>.

**Romania:** In co-operation with the Romanian non-governmental organisation Romani CRISS, the ERRC undertook field research focusing on cases of Romani women's rights violations, including recent cases of extreme malpractice, resulting in emergency hysterectomies. The cases are currently the subject of legal action against medical officials at the hospital in question.

**Russia:** In 2004, the ERRC became involved in its first legal action on domestic violence matters, in a case brought to the attention of the ERRC during field research toward a Country Report on the situation of Roma in Russia. Details of the case are available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2241>.

**Slovakia:** The ERRC undertook extensive research into coercive sterilisation of Romani women in Slovakia, in order to develop criminal and civil litigation to challenge the widespread and endemic nature of this practice. A number of legal actions in connection with this issue were pending at the end of 2004. ERRC research was made public in a submission undertaken jointly with the International Helsinki Federation and the Slovak Helsinki Committee, presented at an OSCE event in 2003. That document is available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2141>.

**Spain:** From March to April 2004, the ERRC engaged two consultants to conduct research on Romani women's rights violations in Spain for the purpose of a submission to CEDAW, on the occasion of its review

of Spain's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in July 2004. The full text of the ERRC submission to the CEDAW on Romani women's rights in Spain is available at: <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2136>.

Human rights education was also a major component of ERRC action on women's rights issues in 2003-2004. This included working jointly with the OSI Network Women's Program (NWP), on a weeklong workshop on Romani women's rights held in Budapest in March 2004. The primary focus of the workshop was to draw attention to the issues affecting women within the Roma rights paradigm, and to create a forum in which these issues could be examined by Romani women activists. The workshop also provided training in international advocacy. The joint organisers, the ERRC and the OSI NWP, invited Romani women activists who had hands-on experience in human rights discourse and action, based on the assumption that experienced activists would return to their local communities and be capable of building upon initiatives begun at the workshop.

ERRC plans for Romani women's rights action in 2005 include the first training of Romani women activists in Russia, to be held in June 2005. Additionally, as part of efforts to bring ERRC international advocacy closer to the grassroots, the ERRC will work with local partners in Macedonia to undertake documentation toward a comprehensive submission for the UN CEDAW on Romani women's rights matters in that country. The ERRC will train a group of grassroots activists in human rights documentation methodologies, and then assist in the preparation of the submission.

# Russia and

**D**URING 2003 and 2004, considerable progress was made by the ERRC in the former Soviet Union – including Russia, Ukraine and the Caucasus, with projects funded by the Ford Foundation, the Global Opportunities Fund of the Government of the United Kingdom, the Dutch Embassy, and the Eurasia Foundation. These projects comprised research, litigation, advocacy, publication, and training initiatives. In addition, the Open Society Institute Media Network Program funded a project to support the development of media publishing and broadcasting of Roma rights issues by Romani Duma (Samara) and Romano Kher (Moscow), an action facilitated by the ERRC. In terms of work in the Ukraine, the ERRC secured funds from the European Commission for a three-year project with long-term partner Romani Yag, based in Uzhgorod. The ERRC also engaged in preliminary fact-finding missions in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia as part of a project funded by the Dutch government.

In Russia, extensive research and monitoring of human rights violations in Russia was accompanied by a series of human rights training workshops. In February 2003, the ERRC received funding from the Eurasia Foundation for a project to collect data on Romani NGOs and provide human rights training for Romani activists from Northwest Russia, Central Russia, Southern Russia and Ural area. This began with a two-week mission to Russia during which time the ERRC met with representatives of Romani organizations and visited Romani communities to identify potential partner NGOs and relevant topics for a series of human rights trainings. In July 2003, the ERRC took part in a roundtable discussion in Ekaterinburg co-organised by the Council of Europe and Roma Ural, to identify the needs of the local Romani community and initiate a dialogue between Roma and the authorities. During 2003 and 2004 the ERRC also undertook a number of human rights trainings for Romani activists, including events in Samara, Saint Petersburg and Yekaterinburg.



**Roundtable with representatives of police, Samara, Central Russia, April 2004.** Photo: ERRC

# Ukraine Work

The ERRC also engaged in exploratory field missions to St. Petersburg, Pskov and Novgorod throughout June 2003, to visit Romani communities and document human rights violations. In 2004 the ERRC returned to St. Petersburg to hold a workshop for Romani activists from Northwest and central Russia, demonstrating methods of advocacy and defence through the submission of collective complaints and litigation activities. Also in 2004 the ERRC held a workshop in Samara, Russia in cooperation with the Samara based NGO, Romani Duma. The workshop focused on monitoring techniques, police conduct and police-Roma relations in the context of anti-drug policies. Two round-tables on "Roma and the Police" were held in Samara and in St. Petersburg. Research accumulated throughout the Russia projects has been incorporated in an ERRC Country Report on Russia, published in early 2005.

In its international advocacy work, the ERRC prepared submissions on Roma rights in Russia for two OSCE events – a conference on racism and xenophobia in Brussels and the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. In addition, the ERRC submitted documentation for a briefing of the US Congress in Washington DC, facilitated by the US Helsinki Commission. During the briefing, the ERRC Executive Director testified, along with two other Roma rights activists, on human rights issues as they relate to Roma in Russia. The advocacy mission to Washington included meetings with US congresspersons, government officials, politicians, donors, and members of the press, and succeeded for the first time, in placing the situation of Roma in Russia on the agenda of key US policy-makers.

As part of a three-year project funded by the European Commission to assist in capacity building of Romani organisations and the creation of a network of Roma rights activists in Ukraine, the ERRC collaborated with chief partner, Uzhgorod-based Romani Yag. With matching funds from Kyiv-based Renaissance Foundation, the ERRC expanded the network from 12 to 15 Romani organisations. The project entitled "Defending the rights of Roma in Ukraine and ensuring their access to justice" began with the training of local monitors in Lviv in May 2004 and two other trainings – for advocacy officers in Odessa in June, and for paralegals in July 2004 in Lutsk (northwestern Ukraine). And, finally, in November 2004, the ERRC held a roundtable discussion in Kremenchug, eastern Ukraine, where three Romani organizations met with high-profile representatives of police, prosecutor's office and city council. The aim of the workshop was to establish a dialogue between Romani organisations and the aforementioned authorities as well as publicise Roma rights issues.

The ERRC also expanded upon its research and training initiatives by engaging in country-specific litigation and legal advocacy. In a case involving discrimination in housing the ERRC and the Moscow Helsinki Group sent a joint letter to the Chair of Lumonosov District Court of Arkhangelsk urging the court to dismiss the threatened demolition of a number of wooden structures temporarily housing Roma as it was potentially in breach of domestic and international law provisions. Other cases filed throughout the period included a death in police custody, discrimination in access to public accommodation and a child custody case involving domestic violence. Through projects funded by the Dutch government and the Global Opportunities Fund of the Government of the United Kingdom, the ERRC hopes to file 10 cases in Russia by March 2005. Under a separate project in Ukraine funded by the European Union, it is anticipated that 60 cases will be filed by December 2006.

## Capacitating Roma Rights Activists

During 2003-2004, the ERRC continued to develop its programmatic work to capacitate Romani activists in the language, discourse, methods and law of human rights. These activities included hosting Romani interns and volunteers, providing scholarships to Romani university students of law and public administration, and holding roundtable training workshops. During the period, the ERRC also for the first time set under one cover its methodologies for undertaking human rights.

Over the course of 2003 and 2004, the ERRC hosted fourteen Romani interns as part of its internships programme. The ERRC also provided financial support to Romani students of law and public administration, programmatic work it has undertaken since 1997. The future of the Romani movement depends on the emergence of a generation of Romani advocates skilled and articulate in Roma rights methodologies. Due to the administrative burden placed on the ERRC by the success of the scholarships programme, during the period, the Open Society Institute (OSI) began taking over part of the programme. This has allowed ERRC to pursue its other strategic goals including undertaking further capacitation and follow-up work with ERRC scholarship grantees. In keeping with its commitment to train activists – including those it has funded in the past – the ERRC continued to proactively seek out its scholarship alumnae for grassroots and community work.

In July 2003 and July 2004, the ERRC held its annual Summer Workshop in Canada with partner organisation the Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF). The primary goal of the workshop, held annually, is to strengthen the monitoring and advocacy skills of Romani activists already involved in advocating and promoting Roma rights. The workshop also trained a new generation of Romani leaders and human rights activists enabling them to identifying the human rights mechanisms available to advance the rights of Roma domestically and internationally. Activists from Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom attended the workshops. The ERRC also co-facilitated a series of integrated education workshops for Romani activists throughout 2003 and 2004, organized jointly with the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI).

The ERRC's programmatic expansion into the former Soviet Union included a series of workshops held in Russia and the Ukraine. These included training for Romani activists throughout Russia as part of a project funded by the Eurasia Foundation. In addition, the ERRC along with local partners held a workshop for Romani activists in St. Petersburg in June 2004, on human rights and

anti-discrimination matters. In February, May and June 2004 the ERRC held training workshops in Ukraine with funding from the European Commission as part of a three-year project to establish a network of Roma rights activists in Ukraine and assist them in Roma rights advocacy work.

The major development of the period was the publication in six languages of a comprehensive training manual for Roma rights activists. “Knowing Your Rights and Fighting for Them: A Guide for Romani Activists” is a 250-plus page manual which encapsulates the extensive experience of ERRC’s work in the field of Roma rights, developed in the course of its nine-year history. This manual is intended as a curriculum resource for Romani and other activists undertaking human rights work. Hungarian, Romani, Romanian, Russian and Serbian versions of the manual were also published and distributed. The ERRC is currently designing workshop activities to follow up on publication of the manual.

In addition to the comprehensive training manual, the ERRC also published a number of other materials aiming to provide key human rights information to grassroots practitioners. For example, the ERRC published Russian-language translations of two ERRC pamphlets “Political Participation and Democracy in Europe: A Short Guide for Romani Activists” and “Recognising and Combating Racial Discrimination”. In addition, in partnership with the Bratislava-based Milan Šimecka Foundation and the Geneva-based Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, the ERRC compiled a training manual for Slovak Romani activists entitled, “Defending Roma Housing Rights in Slovakia: A Training Manual on International Law and the Right to Adequate Housing”. The manual was published in Slovak.

ERRC training work had notable impact during the period. Following the training of Romani activists in December 2003, hosted by Swedish Ethnic Discrimination Ombudsman (DO) and designed and implemented by the ERRC, the DO received an unprecedented 140 complaints for racial discrimination from Roma and Traveller groups, in the first six months of 2004. The ERRC was invited back by the Swedish DO to provide a follow-up course in November 2004 for the newly established entity “Roma Rights Sweden”, comprised of activists from the previous training session.

The ERRC also used training as a forum for involving the Romani grassroots in its international advocacy work. For example, prior to the review of Slovakia by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the ERRC held a meeting with the Bratislava based League of Human Rights Activists in which the ERRC presented the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights in the context of UN Human Rights Committee review of Slovakia’s compliance with the Covenant. Activists were given an opportunity to bring suggestions regarding the ERRC submission and were informed on how to take

advantage of the opportunities provided by UN HRC review and their rights to information regarding their government's actions. Prior to this the ERRC had met with the League of Human Rights Activists to solicit input from Romani activists from around Slovakia regarding the content of the ERRC submission; to provide training in the content of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to call attention to the need for domestic action related to the UN committee review. A number of Romani activists followed up on the meeting, by providing the ERRC with materials for its submission, as well as by sending materials directly to the UN Human Rights Committee.



The Largo da Feira Veiha Romani settlement in the southern Portuguese town of Moura is home to around two hundred Roma. Romani residents living in the settlement lack many basic services including running water, electricity and sanitation. This young girl is carrying water from the single water source in the entire settlement to the shack in which her family lived. The ERRC is currently preparing advocacy action concerning the right to adequate housing of Roma in Portugal.

Photo: ERRC

## Funding and Other Administrative and Management Issues

In 2003-2004, main donors to the ERRC included:

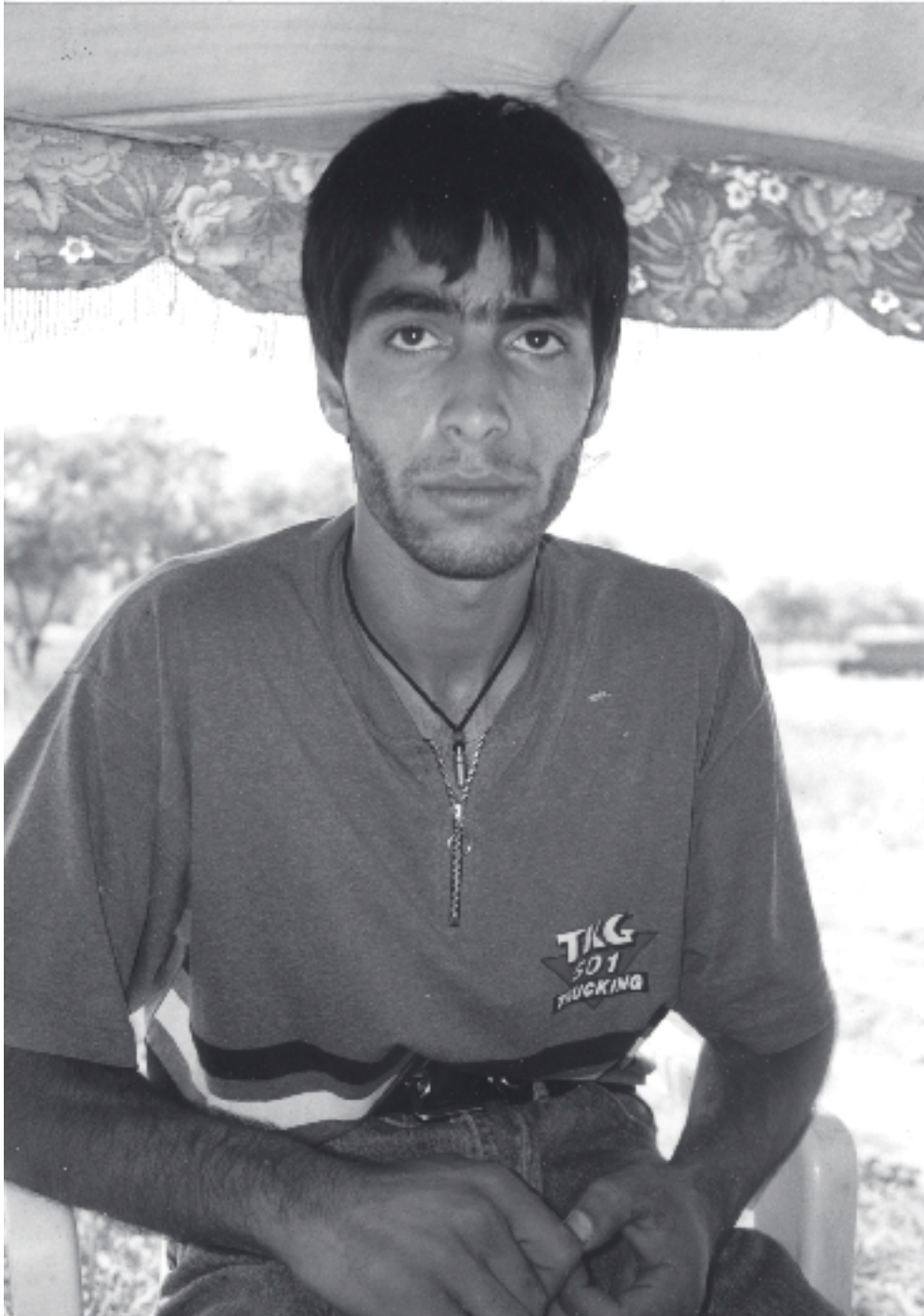
The Council of Europe  
The European Commission  
The Ford Foundation  
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the Government of the  
United Kingdom  
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
The Open Society Institute  
The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
The Sigrid Rausing Trust

Sufficient funding was secured for ERRC core activities and expenditures despite a reduction in grant giving by foundations in the countries of the ERRC region. Because the ERRC's budget and a major part of its income is in US dollars, the significant fall in the dollar's value and the cumulative inflation effects of operations prices in Hungary presented serious challenges to the ERRC during 2003 and 2004.

During the reporting period, the volume of administrative and financial procedures has increased considerably. In order to accommodate project management and accounting, as well as to continue to secure a firm accounting background and timely financial reporting, while meeting the differing requirements of a variety of donors, a new accounting system module (SUN) was purchased and installed in May 2004. Other upgrading of IT equipment and software continued throughout the period.

The high pressure of our work necessitates constant attention to internal policies, procedures and other staff issues. The ERRC undertakes a high degree of internal communication, and also regularly undertakes staff events to maximise the efficiency of its work and address staff and other management concerns.

The ERRC proactively seeks to hire Roma at all levels. During 2003-2004, Roma took up an increasing number of ERRC professional staff positions. Roma now comprise a higher percentage of ERRC staff and governance than at any point in the ERRC's existence. Romani ownership of ERRC work and the taking up of ERRC professional, management and governance positions will remain a top priority for the coming period.



Larisa, Greece. The ERRC published jointly with the Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM), a Country Report on the human rights situation of Roma in Greece in April 2003. Greece was found to have systematically frustrated the rights of Roma to adequate housing under the European Social Charter Mechanism as a result of a collective complaint filed at the same time. Materials on that action are included in the CD-Rom at the back of this Biennial Report.

Photo: ERRC



# Appendix A

## Itemised Expenditures for 2003–2004

43

|                       | USD              |             |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Personnel             | 1,039,796        | <b>2003</b> |
| Capital               | 24,927           |             |
| Administration        | 296,465          |             |
| Educational Materials | 15,084           |             |
| Consultants           | 241,209          |             |
| Grants                | 123,664          |             |
| Special Projects      | 83,564           |             |
| Travel                | 112,477          |             |
| Other                 | 262,209          |             |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>2,199,395</b> |             |

|                       | USD              |             |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Personnel             | 995,852          | <b>2004</b> |
| Capital               | 41,918           |             |
| Administration        | 338,776          |             |
| Educational Materials | 4,111            |             |
| Consultants           | 209,702          |             |
| Grants                | 86,893           |             |
| Special Projects      | 619,044          |             |
| Travel                | 107,221          |             |
| Other                 | 105,563          |             |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>2,509,080</b> |             |

# Appendix B

## Short Summaries of ERRC Cases Pending Before International Tribunals as of December 2004

44

### BULGARIA

CASE: Belchinov

In September 1989, a Romani man was sentenced to death for the murder of his wife, his second murder. He lost all his appeals but has not been executed because of a moratorium on execution. In 1997 he lodged a request for pardon with the president and received no decision as to date. The case challenges the death sentence. The ECtHR found the case to be admissible and the case was pending as of December 2004.

CASE: Tseko Tsekov

On 26 August 1996, Tseko Tsekov, a Bulgarian Romani man, was shot and wounded by a police officer in Ruptsi, Vidin district. After the exhaustion of all domestic remedies application was filed with the ECtHR in December 1998. In September 2003 written observations to the ECtHR in response to the Bulgarian government's written observations were sent. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

CASE: Zahari

On 6 June 1993, Zahari Stefanov, a Bulgarian Roma, died in the District Police Office of the town of Kazanlak. Two police officers and another suspect present at the time of the death claimed that Stefanov had committed suicide. They said that he jumped out of the window when no one was looking with his hands handcuffed behind his back. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

CASE: Iltcho Zoev Christov

In October 1999 Iltcho and his friend, both Romani, were accused of committing theft. The district court scheduled a hearing and in order to ensure the appearance of the defendant issued an order that the two men be detained. During the court hearing, the defendants' attorneys and the

District Prosecutor reached an agreement (by plea bargain) to suspend the hearing. Iltcho received a suspended 9 months sentence. In a separate court act the court declared that the act concerning the detention order was subject to appeal and prosecution protest during a period of 7 days and refused to release the defendant, despite the fact that he had already been sentenced and should have been released immediately. In this case we have two legal acts, which are in conflict and as a result, the defendant spent 7 days in detention unlawfully, waiting for expiration of the period although the underlying criminal matter had been resolved. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

CASE: Petrov

On the evening of 13 January 1999, Vasil Petrov, a Romani man, was in a municipal property in Velingrad in order to use drugs. Policemen patrolling the neighbourhood ran after him and shot at him, injuring him in the stomach. During the subsequent investigation, the police attempted to sabotage evidence and threatened Mr. Petrov and his family if they filed charges against the police. Criminal complaint and civil claim against the police were brought. The case is part of the legal defence program of ERRC and is pending before the European Court of Human Rights.

CASE: Sashov et. al.

On 18 July 2001, three young Roma were arrested by police officers of the VI<sup>th</sup> police station in Sofia, Bulgaria. The three men were beaten during arrest and transported to the police station, where they were beaten again and released the next day. The Roma reported that during the arrest their Roma origin was insulted and they were called “dirty gypsies” and threatened by the police officers. Criminal complaint and civil claim were made. The case is pending before the ECtHR and is part of the legal defence program of ERRC.

## CROATIA

CASE: Semso Sečić

Semso Secic, a Romani man, was attacked by two masked men on 29 April 1999, in Zagreb. Although the local lawyer requested an investigation on 15 July 1999, at the office of the Public Attorney in Zagreb, there has been no investigation by the authorities. The police failed to find the attackers and start legal action after 16 months. The criminal case is still pending with the Public Prosecutor. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

CASE: Sevko Secic

On 24 January 2001, Sevko Secic was attacked on a street in Zagreb by five men dressed like skinheads. They abused Sevko Secic verbally (“we will kill all Gypsies” etc.) and tried to abuse him physically, but he ran away. Sevko Secic’s father was also attacked by skinheads in the same neighbourhood in 1999. The attackers were identified by Sevko Secic as the same ones who had attacked his father, whose case is currently being handled by the ERRC. The case is pending before the ECtHR.

CASE: Croatian education case

A group of 57 Romani children in Medimurje County, Croatia, assisted by local counsel and the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), filed a legal complaint with a Croatian court challenging their segregation into separate Roma-only classes in what are otherwise ‘normal’ primary schools. The evidence documented in the complaint and based on official statistics shows that almost 60% of all Romani primary school students in Medimurje County regularly attend segregated classrooms. As a result of this practice, the plaintiffs, like many other Romani children throughout the county, have suffered, and indeed continue to suffer, severe educational, psychological and emotional harm. After the exhaustion of all domestic remedies application was filed with the ECtHR.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

CASE: Krasniqi

On 14 January 1998, Hasan Krasniqi, a Macedonian citizen, was sentenced to two years imprisonment and expulsion from the Czech Republic for illegal production and possession of drugs. The only evidence against him was the testimony of anonymous witnesses, who during the proceedings used fictional names and gave testimony from behind a curtain. A complaint was lodged with the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic arguing violation of the fair trial provisions of the European Convention and requesting annulment of the verdict. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR (declared admissible on 14 September 2004).

CASE: Ostrava school case

Romani children in Ostrava face systematic racial discrimination through placement in special schools for the mentally retarded. Fourteen clients from five special schools in Ostrava agreed to challenge the racist school system. All of them were placed in special schools because of their Romani ethnicity.



Kerinov grm settlement Krsko, Slovenia.

Photo: Tim Simon Rohardt

Civil suit was launched in 1999 and the case is currently pending before the Grand Chamber of ECtHR.

## DENMARK

CASE: Murat Haliti

48

Mr. Haliti and his family fled their home in Prizren, Kosovo in August 1999, following physical attacks by members of the Kosovo Liberation Army. They applied for refugee status in Denmark but their request was rejected by the Danish Refugee Board on 14 April 2003. On the same date they applied for a humanitarian permit and they had no response yet. On 9 May 2003, the ERRC filed an urgent request to the ECtHR to stop Denmark from expelling the Kosovo Romani family, including their three minor children, back to Kosovo. On 12 May 2003, the application was registered with the ECtHR and is still pending.

## GREECE

CASE: Bekos and Kotropolous

On 8 May 1998, two Romani youths, Lazaros Bekos and Lefteris Koutropoulos were arrested for attempted ice cream theft in the town of Messolonghi. At the police station both Romani youths were beaten with truncheons and were repeatedly slapped and kicked. After having their injuries verified by a doctor, Mr. Bekos and Mr. Koutropoulos to file a criminal complaint against the police. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR. The application was declared admissible.

CASE: Celal

On 1 April 1998 Angelos Celal, a Romani man was shot dead by a Greek police officer during an ambush. Criminal complaint was filed against the police officers involved in the shooting and civil claim for damages. In October 2003, the European Roma Rights Centre and the Greek Helsinki Monitor filed a joint communication with the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

CASE: Tsakiris

In January 2002 Yannula Tsakiris suffered from police brutality. Criminal remedies were sought and after the exhaustion of all domestic remedies

on 2 December 2004, ERRC and the Greek Helsinki Monitor filed a pre-application letter with the European Court of Human Rights. The case is pending internationally.

## HUNGARY

CASE: A.S.

49

A. S. is a 28-year-old Romani woman living in Tisztaberek. Upon arrival at the hospital the doctor determined that the baby in her womb had died and told the woman she would need surgery. The doctor also performed a sterilization procedure without fully informed consent. A civil suit against the hospital was unsuccessful. ERRC and the local project partner, NEKI, submitted a communication to CEDAW concerning the coercive sterilization of Ms. S. in February 2004. This is a joint-litigation project case in conjunction with our Hungarian partner, NEKI.

## MACEDONIA

CASE: Jasar

On 16 April 1998, Jasar Petrusan and Fejmi Demirov, two Romani men, were sitting in a bar when a group of people sitting across the room suddenly pulled out guns and started shooting. Mr. Petrusan and Mr. Demirov hid under the table until the police arrived. A police officer then grabbed Mr. Petrusan by his hair and took him to the police station. Mr. Petrusan was severely beaten with truncheons and fists. As a result, he suffered head concussion and bruises. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

CASE: Sulejmanov

In March 1998, two Romani men, Demir Sulejmanov and Shukri Durmishov, stole two sheep. They couldn't manage to transport the sheep to the market so they decided to return them to the owner. They were caught by the police who began beating the men and even allowed the sheep-owner to participate. Mr. Sulejmanov and Mr. Shukri were taken to the police station where the beatings continued with truncheons and fists. As a result of the beatings, Mr. Sulejmanov's arm was broken and he had to be treated at hospital. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

CASE: Police Raid (Sorov)/Dzeladinova

On 3 August 1998 in Stip, S. Jusinov, a Romani man got into a fight with Mr. Zoran Sorov on his way home from a traditional Roma circumcision party with four members of his family. Mr. Sorov reported the incident and, as a result, 10 policemen came to the restaurant where the circumcision party was still going on and indiscriminately beat up men, women and children at the party. After the exhaustion of all domestic remedies application was filed with the ECtHR.

CASE: Dzeladinov

On 2 August 2001 a group of Roma were returning home from a local restaurant where a Romani celebration had been taking place. An argument broke out between this group and Mr. Zoran Shorov who had been driving by. Mr. Shorov became increasingly aggressive and an altercation ensued. Mr. Shorov then called the police and shortly afterwards ten officers arrived at the restaurant, expecting to find Mr. Shorov's alleged attackers. Without any explanation, the officers immediately and indiscriminately started beating the Romani men, women (including one 7-months pregnant) and children present. After the exhaustion of all domestic remedies application was filed with the ECtHR. The case was pending as of December 2004.

CASE: Berisa

Mr Berisa and his wife Mrs Bojlie Haliti are members of the Egyptian minority of Kosovo, widely regarded as "Gypsies" by ethnic Albanians. Because of the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, they travelled to Macedonia and submitted a claim for asylum. The Macedonian courts failed to recognise Mr Berisa or his wife as refugees and expelled them to Kosovo. On 17 June 2003, the ERRC submitted an interim measure request to the ECtHR but this was rejected. Application to the ECtHR was submitted in February 2004.

## ROMANIA

CASE: Casinul Nou

On 11 August 1990, predominately ethnic Hungarian villagers raided Roma houses, chased out the inhabitants and destroyed or burned the houses. Many of the Roma never returned to the village and no investigation was undertaken by the authorities. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

#### CASE: Plaiesii de Sus

On 6 June 1991, following an argument, an ethnic Hungarian night guard was stabbed by a group of Roma in Plaiesii de Sus, Harghita County. Later that night, a mob of ethnic Hungarians attacked two Roma mistaking them for the stabbers. As a result of his injuries one of them, A. Kalanyos, died in hospital. On the night of 9 June 1991, following a posted announcement that all Roma should leave the village, villagers burned down 27 Roma homes. Most of the Roma fled to the nearby forest and were made homeless. It is unclear whether an investigation was ever started. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

51

#### CASE: Carabulea

On 3 May 1996, Gabriel Carabulea, a Romani man, died in hospital after he had been beaten severely in police custody. He had been arrested and detained in Bucharest on 13 April 1996 following a minor car accident. In hospital he told his wife and relatives that he had been heavily beaten by police officers who wanted him to confess to crimes he didn't commit. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR (declared admissible).

#### CASE: Cobzaru

On 4 July 1997, Belmondo Cobzaru, a 24 year-old Romani man who presented himself voluntarily at the police station of Mangalia to explain an earlier incident, was ill treated by two policemen. After the exhaustion of all domestic remedies application was filed to the ECtHR. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR

#### CASE: Hadareni

On 20 September 1993, as a result of a conflict during which a Romanian was stabbed to death by a Roma, three Roma were lynched, 14 houses were burned and another eight vandalized by a mob, which included police officers. All of the houses belonged to Romani families. After the exhaustion of all domestic remedies an application was filed to the ECtHR. The case is currently pending before the ECtHR.

#### CASE: Dolhasca

On 3 April 2003, Constantin Decebal Stoica, a Romani boy, was stopped on the street by a policemen who started hitting him on the head. Although the boy told the policeman that he had undergone head surgery and his life might be endangered, the officer continued to beat the boy with his fists in the head and kicked him till he lost consciousness. On 12 February 2003,



Kerinov grm settlement Krsko, Slovenia.

Photo: Tim Simon Rohardt

the ERRC filed an application to the ECtHR on his behalf. The case is still pending before the ECtHR.

## **RUSSIA**

CASE: Pskov

53

On 20 May 2003, Fatima Ivanovna Alexandrovskaya, a Romani woman, was arrested on suspicion of having stolen the purse of Ms. Petuhova. She was then taken to the main police station and questioned. Fatima's request to use the toilet was granted and from there she allegedly jumped out of the window. She died as a result of the injuries sustained. In violation of Russian law, no official and comprehensive investigation ensued. The case is currently pending before domestic courts and is part of the FCO project in Russia. The case is being prepared for submission to the ECtHR.

## **SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**

CASE: Dimitrov

In February 1996, Jovica Dimitrov, a Roma man from Novi Sad, was taken to the police station without being shown an arrest warrant. He was severely beaten at the station, then was allowed to go home. Later, as the police continued to accuse him of numerous criminal offences he had not committed, he filed a complaint. However, the authorities have failed to undertake any steps with a view to identifying the police officer concerned. The victim exhausted all domestic criminal remedies and complaint was filed with the United Nations Committee against Torture, where the case is currently pending.

CASE: Durmic

Dragan Durmic, a young Romani man was denied entry into a local discotheque because of his ethnicity. Although the incident occurred over three years ago, Serbian authorities have never conducted an appropriate investigation nor responded to either the criminal complaint or the constitutional court petition lodged by the victim. On 2 April 2003 ERRC and HLC jointly filed an application against Serbia and Montenegro with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on behalf of Dragan Durmic. The application was declared admissible. The case is pending before CERD.

CASE: A.J.

A 10-year-old Romani boy was sexually abused in public by known criminals and the police and the domestic judicial authorities failed to provide a remedy. ERRC, together with local project partners, HLC and MRC, filed a communication with the UN Human Rights Committee against Serbia and Montenegro. The case is part of the FCO project and is pending before the UN HRC.

54

CASE: Antena

Mr. Besim Osmani was treated cruelly by police officers during a forced eviction and demolition operation. In December 2004, ERRC together with HLC and MRC filed a joint communication with the United Nations Committee against Torture. The case is part of the Serbian FCO project and is pending before UN CAT.

## SLOVAKIA

CASE: Sarissky

Two young Roma were detained by local police in Poprad on 12 August 1999, after being accused of stealing the bicycles they were riding. One of the men, Lubomir Sarissky, was taken to a separate room during interrogation. Shortly after, a gunshot was heard and Sarissky was rushed to the hospital with a gunshot wound to the stomach. He died without regaining consciousness. The police claimed that he had committed suicide by grabbing an officer's gun and shooting himself. The officer received a suspended sentence. The criminal case is currently pending before the ECtHR. A civil damages case is pending before Slovak courts. ERRC submitted an amicus brief in cooperation with the local lawyer on moral damages.

CASE: Koky and Others

On 28 February 2002, about 30 non-state actors (most likely skinheads) attacked the Roma settlement in Ganovce, threatening to kill the inhabitants and damaging their property. A subsequent police investigation was twice suspended on the grounds that the authorities were unable to establish the facts of the case despite 29 witness statements and the identification of perpetrators in a line-up and by photographs. The case is pending before the ECtHR.

CASE: Lubomir Gergel

On 19 March 2001, Lubomir Gergel, a Romani man, was violently attacked by Slovak railway police officers in Zvolen police station. Mr Gergel received

serious injuries and spent 42 days in hospital. The Slovak authorities at first refused to treat the incident as anything more than a minor disciplinary matter, then as a minor misdemeanour. Only one officer was sentenced, and was only given a fine for abuse of power. The case is pending before ECtHR.

CASE: Ziga

Matus Ziga, a Romani man was wrongfully detained for over three months and denied non-pecuniary damages subsequently. On 17 November 2004, ERRC, in cooperation with a local Slovak partner (League of Human Rights Advocates), filed an application with the European Court of Human Rights.

55

## UKRAINE

CASE: Kremenchuk

On 28 October 2001, Jurij Fedorchenko, a Romani man, was leaving his house while the rest of the family was sleeping. When he opened the entrance door, he came upon three men, one of whom he immediately recognised as Police Major I. Mr. Fedorchenko stated that the three men then set the house on fire and fled, barring the front door of the house from the outside. Two children and their mother died in hospital and two more people suffered serious burns to their bodies. Mr. Fedorchenko claims that the arson had been organized by the police officer as punishment for the family's failure to pay a monthly bribe. The case is currently pending before ECtHR.

# Prague Airport Case

56

IN July 2001, the United Kingdom stationed immigration officers at the Prague Airport with the intention of screening all passengers travelling to the UK. The objective was to detect people wishing to seek asylum and to prevent them from reaching the UK where their refugee claims would have to be duly considered. This action was the result of an arrangement between the Czech and British governments in which immigration officers were empowered with the right to refuse entry to seven ethnic or national groups solely on the basis of their race or nationality. An overwhelming number of passengers who were refused permission to enter the UK in the course of this operation were Roma. ERRC documentation indicated that Romani Czechs were 400 times more likely to be stopped at the Prague Airport than non-Romani Czechs. The civil rights group Liberty represented six Czech Romani individuals as well as the ERRC in the case. The victims argued that they had been subjected to humiliating, discriminatory, and unlawful treatment by UK immigration officers as a result of the practices of the UK authorities stationed at Prague airport.

In 2002, the High Court determined that the practice did not discriminate against Roma. However, the Court of Appeal said that it almost invariably discriminated against Roma, but that this form of discrimination was in fact justified because Roma were more likely than non-Roma to seek asylum in the UK.

On 9 December 2004, the House of Lords decided that the UK government had discriminated on racial grounds against Czech citizens of Romani origin by preventing them from travelling to the UK and thereby preventing them from claiming asylum upon arrival. The practice was described by the Lords as “inherently and systematically discriminatory” against Roma. This decision is among the most important ever in terms of condemning racial discrimination in the area of border regulation, and it highlights that states do not enjoy unfettered discretion in terms of their border policies, legislation and/or practices.

# Appendix C

## Short Description of Cases Filed in 2003-2004 Under Joint Litigation Projects

### BULGARIA

57

- A civil claim against the 75<sup>th</sup> School Tudor Kableskov in Sofia, which is a segregated Roma-only school. (75<sup>th</sup> School)
- A civil claim against the Special School in Blagoevgrad, which disproportionately places Romani children in this school for the mentally disabled. (Blagoevgrad)
- An anti-discrimination claim against a school which has segregated classes for Romani pupils only and applies an inferior teaching curriculum. (Levski)
- A civil claim against the municipality of Blagoevgrad, which established a separate school within an existing multi-ethnic school, for non-Roma students only. (St Kiril and Methodius)
- Civil case against the 110<sup>th</sup> school in Philipovtzi area of Sofia, concerning a segregated Roma-only school. (Sofia-110<sup>th</sup> school)
- Civil case against the 3<sup>rd</sup> School in Ihtiman, also concerning a segregated Roma-only school. (Ihtiman segregated school)
- Civil claim against a professional high school concerning a racist attack against visiting Romani pupils, filed due to the failure of the prosecuting authorities to act on a criminal complaint filed previously. (Professional Gymnasium)
- Civil claim against the “Marin Drinov” school in Sofia concerning the denial by the school principal to enrol a Romani child on the basis of his ethnicity. (Sofia 3<sup>rd</sup> school)

### HUNGARY

- A health care discrimination case in which a Romani woman lost her uterus and gave birth to a mentally and physically disabled baby due to negligence by hospital staff. (D.)

- A housing discrimination case involving violence against a Roma family who was prevented from moving into their newly purchased house in a small Hungarian village. The notary public and the mayor who first tried to prevent the Roma family from purchasing the house also forced the vendor to cancel the contract. (Kahlik)
- A health care discrimination case in which a prison refused to allow the treatment of a Romani man's kidney disease on cost grounds. His condition deteriorated and the kidney eventually had to be removed. (K.)
- A case involving hate speech by MIEP, a Hungarian far-right political party. The party's newsmagazine carried an article with explicitly racist language with regard to both Roma in general and one Romani family in particular. The Ombudsman's Office, though ultimately unsuccessful, tried to initiate criminal proceedings. A civil case under the "personal dignity" provisions of the Hungarian Civil Code was brought. (Pand)
- An employment discrimination case involving the refusal to interview a Romani woman when she showed up for a job interview, under the pretext that the job was already taken. The following week a job announcement for the same position again appeared in the local newspaper. (Puporka)
- An employment discrimination case concerning wrongful termination. (Rostas)
- A case in which the local government tried to stop the sale of a house to a Romani family, on racial grounds. (Szilagyi)

## SERBIA

- A criminal complaint against two police officers for abusing a Roma man and insulting him on ethnic grounds; the incident occurred on 24 February 2004 at a shopping centre in New Belgrade. (Saini)
- A criminal complaint against six villagers of Luzane, Aleksinac municipality, accusing them of expelling 36 Roma from the village, and against two police officers for failing to take appropriate action during and after the ethnically motivated incident. (Luzane)
- A criminal complaint and a civil action against private security guards and the owners of the Acapulco Club in Belgrade, who denied several Romani youngsters admission to their premises because of their race, while conducting a situational test. (Acapulco)

- A criminal complaint concerning a racially motivated attack against a young Romani woman in Leskovac. (Malicevic)
- A civil complaint for damages in a police brutality case in Backa Topola in which two Romani men were assaulted whilst in police custody. (Brancic and Gojkov)
- A criminal complaint with the Novi Sad Public Prosecutor's Office against 20-30 unknown persons who physically and verbally attacked three Romani men while they were selling second-hand goods at the Novi Sad flea market. (Flea market case)
- A criminal complaint against members of a non-Romani family who threatened and insulted a Romani family in order to intimidate them and prevent them from buying a plot of land next to their own. (Radosavljevic)
- A counter claim against a large-scale eviction of Romani families in Belgrade, together with a claim for alternative accommodation, should the counter claim be unsuccessful. (Zvecanska)
- A complaint with the Serbian Constitutional Court challenging the legality of regulations in the Government's program for the protection against infectious diseases which singles out Roma per se as a high risk group. (Health Care Protection)
- A civil claim against a major Belgrade daily newspaper over a hate speech article. (Kurir)
- A civil claim against the Republic of Montenegro regarding a toxic bomb attack against displaced Roma from Kosovo in the Konik refugee camp in Podgorica. (Konik)
- A civil claim against the owner of a cafe who asked two Romani women to leave his establishment because of their race. (Feketic)
- A criminal case based on racial insults made by a police chief against a Romani police officer under his command. (Tairovic)
- A civil complaint for the moral damages suffered by a sexually abused Romani boy, following a prior conviction of the perpetrators by a criminal court. (P.)
- A criminal complaint against a group of skinheads who attacked and severely injured a group of young Roma in Belgrade. (Zeleni Venac)
- A communication with the UN Human Rights Committee in a case in which a 10-year-old Romani boy was sexually abused in public by known

criminals in Serbia and where the police and the domestic judicial authorities have failed refused to provide a remedy. (A.J)

- A communication with the UN Committee against Torture concerning a large-scale forced eviction/police brutality incident. (Antena)

## SLOVAKIA

60

- Denial of permanent residence to two Romani families who have been long-term residents of a Romani settlement in Svinia. (Svinia)
- The destruction of Romani property, the expulsion of the Romani victims from the village by the Mayor, appropriation of their property by the village council and refusal to grant alternative accommodation to the families that were made homeless by the actions of the local authorities. (Zahorska Ves)
- Discrimination in the process of issuing building permits to Romani applicants wishing to build their own house. (Telgart)
- Large-scale evictions in Kosice in which owners of two separate housing blocks threatened and eventually forcibly removed Romani tenants from their apartments without a court order. (Mlynarska)



Ms. Zumra Ferhatovic Romani settlement in Ohrid street, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.  
Photo: Zlatan Pazarac

## Appendix D

### Brief Description of Cases Funded by ERRC Legal Defence Programme 2003-2004

62

The ERRC continued its programme of providing substantive guidance, as well as financial and technical assistance to local lawyers representing Romani clients before domestic courts. For those cases that are not satisfactorily resolved at the domestic level, the ERRC worked together with local lawyers to bring them before international tribunals. The Legal Defence Programme (LDP) is an important part of ERRC efforts to help train local lawyers on Roma rights issues by providing funding, encouragement, and legal expertise. It also helps us build up and sustain a network of human rights lawyers throughout the region.

- A police brutality case in Romania in which a Romani family was severely beaten by police officers because they refused to be evicted from their shop for which they had a valid legal permit. (Pandele)
- A Romanian case concerning discrimination in the provision of maternity benefits to Romani women. (F)
- A housing discrimination case in Slovakia concerning the refusal of local authorities to issue a building permit to Roma. (Harvan)
- A criminal case in which Roma houses were illegally demolished by a Greek municipality. (Nea Zoe)
- A major racially motivated mob violence/housing case in Slovakia where the Romani victims were first attacked by skinheads, their houses destroyed, and were then coerced into leaving their village by a local mayor. (Zahorska Ves)
- An abstract constitutional court case concerning access to social housing in Hungary and the currently existing legal grounds, which exclude squatters from applying. (Squatters)
- A case involving malicious prosecution and discrimination in the criminal justice system in Russia. (Povpa)
- A child care discrimination case from Russia. (M.)
- A case from Hungary involving discrimination in access to justice. The prosecutor's decision to indict our client was based on racial motives. (Ferenc Burka)

- Another case from Hungary in which a Roma woman was not compensated after a work-related accident leading to the death of her husband. (Krisztina Kanalas)
- Two police violence cases from Greece involving the fatal shooting of a Roma man during a surveillance operation and the beating of a sixteen-year-old Roma boy during interrogation at the police station. (Mouratis case and Stephanou case)
- A case from Bulgaria involving different treatment and discrimination against Roma in relation with access to state supplied electricity. (Rachev, Kochev, Rashkova and Malinov)
- A case from the Czech Republic regarding unremedied third party violence against two Roma men. (Kelemper and Peter)
- A Macedonian police brutality case where two Romani men accused of theft were beaten by police officers first in front of their families and subsequently during their questioning in the police station. Ultimately, both were released because the police established that neither was involved in the commission of the crimes at issue. (Sadikovic and Dalipovski)
- A case from the Czech Republic concerning a Romani man who was initially denied entry into a local discotheque, based on his race alone, and then attacked by the bouncers following a verbal confrontation. (Gazik)
- A Bulgarian case involving foresters taking the law into their own hands and shooting at several Roma who were collecting firewood illegally. (Sabev)
- A case from Croatia regarding unremedied violence against a Romani family whose shed was burned down by a group of non-Roma in circumstances indicating racial motivation. (Masic)
- A police brutality case from Romania involving the harassment of a Romani family by their neighbours and the inadequate reaction on the part of the local police which instead of affording protection itself resorted to victimization and even physical abuse of the Roma concerned. (Stefan)
- A Greek case concerning a petition signed by several non-Romani associations in the municipality of Patras inciting to violence and discrimination against Roma and the lack of subsequent redress before the Greek courts. (Patras)
- A Slovak case involving a Romani man being victimized by the police on account of his human rights activism and prior complaints filed against them. (Dunka)
- A case from Bulgaria involving differential treatment and discrimination against Roma concerning access to state-supplied electricity. (Filipovtci)

- A police brutality case in Macedonia. (Dzavirov)
- A residential segregation case in the Czech Republic. (Usti Wall Case)
- A malicious prosecution case of a Romani man acting in self-defence in Russia. (Orlov)
- Two forced sterilization cases in Romania. (I. & I. respectively)
- A Hungarian case involving discrimination in access to medical services and medical negligence leading to the death of a Romani woman following a surgical procedure. (S.)
- Two cases of repeated denial of residence registration permits to long-term Romani residents of Svinia, Slovakia. (Pestova and Cervenakova respectively)
- A police brutality case in Macedonia. (Trajan)
- Nine cases of sterilisation without fully informed consent in the Czech Republic. (Czech sterilisation cases)
- Additional work by a local lawyer on the ERRC special schools case currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights. (Ostrava)
- A death in police custody case in Russia. (Pskov)
- Further work on two separate cases involving coerced sterilisation in Slovakia. (S. and O. respectively)
- Additional work in a case involving several Romani families whose members had been killed in a major mob violence incident in Romania in 1993. (Hadareni civil case)
- A housing discrimination case in Slovakia. (Sarkoziova)
- A Slovak police brutality case resulting in the death of a Romani man under mysterious circumstances. (Puky)
- A housing eviction case from Slovakia in which the two owners of two housing blocks threatened and eventually forcibly evicted Romani tenants without any court or notary order. (Mlynarska street)
- Further work on a case from Ukraine, in which a group of men, including a police officer, burned down a Romani family's house, killing three members of the family. (Fedorchenko)

- A case from Romania in which 10 Roma women were denied their birth allowances after conceiving. (B. and others)
- A right to adequate housing case from Greece. (Vasileiou and others)
- A case from Bulgaria in which a Romani man was murdered in a racially motivated attack in a disco. (Kanardji)



65

Romani children in camp Plemetina, Obilic, Kosovo. Roma, Ashkaelia, Egyptians and others regarded as "Gypsies" were ethnically cleansed from Kosovo or forcibly displaced within it by ethnic Albanians, beginning in June 1999. To date, no one has been brought to justice for crimes perpetrated on a massive scale, including rape, arson and torture. The ERRC continues to campaign for justice for the Roma of Kosovo.

Photo: Andreea Anca-Strauss

- A case from Croatia in which a 9-year-old pupil was attacked by his school janitor. (Denis Jasarevski)
- A case in which a ten-year old school pupil was severely beaten by a teacher in a racially motivated attack in Macedonia. (Fahreta Ramadanova)
- A police brutality case in Romania in which a farm worker was severely beaten by Police because he dared to question the racial segregation of workers. (Dorel Cismas)

- A police brutality case from Moldova, in which a 14-year-old boy was physically abused by Police Officers during questioning. (Mihai Albina)
- A death in a Hungarian prison in suspicious circumstances case. (Forgacs family)
- A police brutality case in which a Romani man in Bulgaria was beaten in front of his children because he did not know the names of people that had been illegally chopping down trees. (Asen Zarev)
- A Czech case concerning a threat of eviction, substandard housing, and discrimination in the provision of alternative accommodation. (Polak)
- A police brutality case from Macedonia concerning the abuse of two young Romani men in a shop in Kocani. (Arifov and Dzeladinov)
- A case of discrimination in the provision of electricity to a Romani family in Sofia, Bulgaria. (Grigorov)
- An educational segregation case in Romania, where all Romani pupils were placed in separate Roma-only classes for the mentally deficient without having gone through any prior evaluation/testing procedure. (Targu Frumos)
- The case involving death in police custody from Russia. (Yeremenko)
- The case involving malicious prosecution and discrimination in the criminal justice system in Ukraine. (Aladarovich)
- A housing eviction case in Italy. (Serban)
- A case in which four Romani men were denied access to a billiard club in Samara, Russia. (Club 8 case)
- A discrimination in access to emergency healthcare case, in which a Romani man died in Bulgaria. (Stoikova)
- A case involving discrimination in the Russian criminal justice system. (Romaschenko)
- A case concerning discrimination in access to a public swimming pool in Bulgaria. (Angelov)
- A racially motivated attack case perpetrated by state and non-state actors in Macedonia. (Dibranova)
- A Bulgarian case concerning discrimination in the provision of electricity. (Yugov)

# Appendix E

## ERRC Scholarship Recipients 2003-2004

During 2003-2004, the ERRC disbursed scholarships for legal and public administration studies to the following Romani students:

67

### BULGARIA

Simona Krasenova Aleksieva *University Angel Kanchev, Faculty of Law*

Marieta Tihomirova Asparuhova *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*

Borislav Borisov *New Bulgarian University, Faculty of Law*

Viktoria Borisova *New Bulgarian University, Faculty of Public Administration*

Gabriela Dimitrova *Varna Free University, Faculty of Public Administration*

Marko Kirilov Dimitrov *Bourgas Free University, Faculty of Public Administration*

Raia Racheva Dimitrova *South-West University Neofit Rilski, Faculty of Public Administration*

Jordan Draganchev *St. Wyszynskiego University, Faculty of Law*

Angel Ivanov Getsov *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*

Gosho Goshov *University of Sofia, Faculty of Law*

Nikolai Hadrikostov *St. Wyszynskiego University, Faculty of Law*

Biser Ivanov *South-West University Neofit Rilski, Faculty of Law*

Desislava Toshkova Kirilova *New Bulgarian University, Faculty of Law*

Stella Kirilova *University of Veliko Turnovo, Faculty of Law*

Orlin Dimitrov Kolev *South-West University Neofit Rilski, Faculty of Law*

Peter Nedkov Kostadinov *Bourgas Free University, Faculty of Law*

Djevid Sali Mahmud *Chernorizets Hrabar, Faculty of Law*

Peter Ruskov Malinov *Technical University of Varna, Faculty of Public Administration*

Zarko Chankov Ognanov *Technical University of Varna, Faculty of Law*

Diana Panayotova *Technical University of Varna, Faculty of Public Administration*

Martin Alekseev Pinev *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*

Daniela Kirilova Simeonova *University of Sofia, Faculty of Law*

Orhan Tahir *St. Kliment Ohridsky University, Faculty of Law*

Lidia Kostadinova Topischeva *Bourgas Free University, Faculty of Law*

Mariela Emilova Tzankova *South-West University Neofit Rilsky, Faculty of Law*



Ms. Serifa Mujic Romani settlement Svatovc, Bosnia. The ERRC published a comprehensive report on the situation of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 2004.

Photo: T. Peric/ERRC

## CROATIA

**Aleksandar Durdevic** *University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law*

**Alen Tahiri** *University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law*

## FRANCE

**Saimir Mile** *University Paris-Val de Marne, Faculty of Law*

69

## HUNGARY

**Aliz Adler** *Szeged University, Faculty of Law*

**Andrea Balogh** *Budapest University of Economic Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*

**Beata Balogh** *University of Miskolc, Faculty of Law*

**Attila Ban** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Agnes Bedi** *University of Pécs, Faculty of Law*

**Karoly Borovszky** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Zoltan Csatari** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Csilla Felhosi** *University of Debrecen, Faculty of Law*

**Csaba Gomany** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Kalman Horvath** *University of Pécs, Faculty of Law*

**Jozsef Ignacz** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Andrea Juhasz-Miczura** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Sandor Katona** *University of Pécs, Faculty of Law*

**Zsolt Mezei** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Ivan Onodi** *University of Miskolc, Faculty of Law*

**Eva Orsos** *University of Pécs, Faculty of Law*

**Bela Sarkozi** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Ferenc Szabo** *University of Debrecen, Faculty of Law*

**Szilvia Szabo** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Aniko Szelezsan** *Budapest University of Economic Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*

**Gyongyi Sziklai** *University of Pécs, Faculty of Law*

**Krisztian Urmos** *Pázmány Péter University, Faculty of Law*

**Gyorgy Vador** *University of Debrecen, Faculty of Law*

**Karoly Vigh** *University of Debrecen, Faculty of Law*

**Brigitta Zsakai** *University of Szeged, Faculty of Law*

## LATVIA

Anatolij Beresovskij *Baltic Russian Institute, Faculty of Law*  
Kristine Lemesis *Baltic Russian Institute, Faculty of Law*  
Rustam Matulevich *Baltic Russian Institute, Faculty of Law*  
Vanda Zamicka *Institute of International Affairs, Faculty of Law*

70

## MACEDONIA

Erol Ademov *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Enej Alimanov *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Regepali Cupi *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Gjulten Dalipovska *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Erdzan Demir *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Ferki Demirovski *SEE University Tetov, Faculty of Public Administration*  
Enis Ibrahim *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Adriana Ibrahimova *University of Skopje, Faculty of Law*  
Sead Ismail *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Iljaz Ismaili *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Elvida Jumerovska *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Ramco Kundevski *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Senad Memedi *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Idaver Memedov *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Elvis Memeti *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Sandrino Memis *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Selmani Mevlude *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Senad Mustafov *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Alma Mustafovska *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Rahiel Mustafovska *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Elvira Sakipovska *University Cyril and Methodius, Faculty of Law*  
Kenan Sakiri *University Justinijan Privi, Faculty of Law*

## MOLDOVA

Pavel Andreychenko *Slavic University in Chisinau (Moldova State University),  
Faculty of Law*  
Oleg Coleciov *Slavic University in Chisinau (Moldova State University), Faculty  
of Law*  
Dimitriu Radu *Moldova State University, Faculty of Law*  
Grigori Raducan *Institute of International Relations and Political Science*  
Kristina Raducan *University Slavona, Faculty of Law*

## ROMANIA

- Iancu Arun** *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Doru Badea** *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Claudia Cerasela Banica** *Ovidius University, Faculty of Law*  
**Adrian Bostan** *Al. I. Cuza University, Faculty of Law*  
**Adelina Jeni Brozban** *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Daniela Constantina Braia** *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Cristina Bran** *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Sanda (Sarpe) Budescu** *Dunarea de Jos University, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Virginia Budescu** *Dunarea de Jos University, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Monika Margit Buta** *University Dimitrie Cantemir, Faculty of Law*  
**Marina Calin** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Maria Daniela Cimpeanu** *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Gina-Dorina Constantin** *Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Law*  
**Laura-Greta Constantin** *University Dimitrie Cantemir, Faculty of Law*  
**Cristina Mirela Dan** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Nicolae Dinca** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Marinel Dinu** *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Law*  
**Carmen Cristina Dobre** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Ion Daniel Dumitru** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Aurelia Fecheta** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Ionut-Daniel Feraru** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Stefan-Silviu Firu** *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Carmen Gheorghe** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Robert Laurentiu Iapornicu** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Mihai Cristi Ionut** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Gabriela Iordan** *Valachia University, Economic College*  
**Gheorghe Iorga** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*

- Roberta Kovari *Petru Maior University, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Liana Lacatus *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Angela Carina Lapazan *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Nica (Tecaru) Luminitza *Dunarea de Jos University, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Flora Spartacus Mahulea *Dunarea de Jos University, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Verginica-Madalina Mangiru *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Carmen Magdalena Marcu *University of Timisoara, Faculty Public Administration*
- Darius Matache *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Maria Luminita Mihai *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Mitica Mihai *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Virgil-Cristi Mihalache *Central European University, Faculty of Law*
- Valentin Miu *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Anamaria Moldovan *University Avram Iancu, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Daniela Laura Moldovan *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Law*
- Eugen Cassius Moldovan *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Law*
- Florin Claudiu Moldovan *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Law*
- Gelu Moldovan *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Daniel Nicolae Tomita *Ovidius University, Faculty of Law*
- Villiam Gheorghe Oaie *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Adminsitration*
- Jeni Gabriela Panait *Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Law*
- Constantin Popescu Badaeanu *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Law*
- Elena Popescu Badaeanu *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Law*
- Giorgian Bogdan Radu *National School for Political and Managerial Studies, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Viorel Radu *University Dimitrie Cantemir, Faculty of Law*
- Artur Raducanu *University Dimitrie Cantemir, Faculty of Law*
- Stelian Sandu *University Nicolae Titulescu, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Eva Serdean *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Law*
- Nina Simion *Titu Maiorescu University, Faculty of Law*
- Adela Simion *University of Bucharest, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Elena Stan *National School for Political and Managerial Studies, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Ionel Stan Sandu *University of Sibiu, Faculty of Law*
- Georgeta-Olimpia Stanciu *University of Ploiesti, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Gheorghe Stanciu *University Dimitrie Cantemir, Faculty of Law*
- Nicolae Stanciu *University Petrol si Gaze, Faculty of Public Administration*
- Vergica Stanciu *University Nicolae Titulescu, Craiova, Faculty of Public Administration*

**Taba Stanica** *Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Law*  
**Ancuta Mihaela Tarnovetchi** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Ioana-Cristina Toma** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Gabriela Trandafirescu** *University Transilvania, Faculty of Law*  
**Elena Daniela Tudor** *University of Ploiesti, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Maria Ursu** *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Law*  
**Petru Ursu** *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Petru-Stefan Varga** *Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Alexandru Vasile Vasile** *University Dimitrie Cantemir, Faculty of Law*  
**Carmen Felicia Vasile** *University Bioterra, Faculty of Law*  
**Camelia Vasilica** *National School for Political and Administrative Sciences, Faculty of Public Administration*

## RUSSIA

**Igor Nickolajevich Karnilov** *Moscow Academy of Economics and Law, Faculty of Law*  
**Zinaida Igorevna Kudrjashova** *Orlov Public Administration Academy of Smolensk, Faculty of Public Administration*  
**Vladimir Yuryevich Limanskiy** *Saint Petersburg Humanitarian University of Trade Unions, Faculty of Law*  
**Alexey Borisovich Nephedov** *Orlov Public Administration Academy of Smolensk*  
**Jan Sokol** *Urals Humanitarian University, Faculty of Law*  
**Santa Borisovna Vasilevskaja** *Catherine the Great University, Faculty of Law*

## SCOTLAND

**Keri McCormick** *International Advanced Study Program*

## SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

**Alit Amzic** *University of Nis, Faculty of Law*  
**Sanja Balic** *University of Nis, Faculty of Law*  
**Aleksandar Balinovic** *University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Law*  
**Gordan Janceski** *University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law*  
**Maja Jovanovic** *University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Law*  
**Zeljko Jovanovic** *University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law*  
**Jelena Jovanovic** *University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Law*  
**Jelica Lakatos** *University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Law*  
**Dejan Pavlovic** *University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law*

## SLOVAKIA

Edmund Müller *Masarykova University (Brno, Czech Republic), Faculty of Law*

## UKRAINE

74

**Rustam Andreychenko** *Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Faculty of Law*

**Ivan Vladimirovich Arkhipov** *Open International University of Human Development, Faculty of Law*

**Renata Balog** *Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Faculty of Law*

**Sergiy Boroviy** *Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Faculty of Law*

**Mykola Dolokov** *Odessa State Economics and Management Technicum, Faculty of Law*

**Elli Georgiyevna Galamboshi** *Cherkask Consultation Centre of Odessa National Law Academy, Faculty of Law*

**Vladimir Gudimenko** *Institute of Law at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Faculty of Law*

**Ruslan Vama Ivanovich** *Open International University of Human Development, Faculty of Law*

**Brigitta Jonash** *Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Faculty of Law*

**Zemfira Karay** *Kyiv International University, Faculty of Law*

**Ibolya Elemirovna Keselj** *Uzhorod State Institute of Information Sciences, Faculty of Law*

**Vasily Kirichenko** *Kiev University of Tourism, Faculty of Law*

**Oleksandr Kovalenko** *Odessa Institute of Business and Law, Faculty of Law*

**Albina Petrovna Kurochkina** *Kharkov State Pedagogical University, Faculty of Law*

**Malvina Lakatos** *Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Faculty of Law*

**Viktoriya Lozovyyk** *Ukraine National Academy, Faculty of Public Administration*

**Andriy Mikhay** *Odessa State Economics and Management Technicum, Faculty of Law*

**Anatolij Mikhay** *Odessa State Economics and Management Technical University, Faculty of Law*

**Chervonya Mikhay** *Odessa State Economics and Management Technicum, Faculty of Law*

**Nika Mykyta** *Odessa State Economics and Management, Faculty of Law*

**Yuriy Anatolyevich Nemov** *Kiev Mogilansk Academy, Faculty of Law*

**Aladar Aladarovich Pap Jr** *Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Faculty of Law*

**Aladar Aladarovich Pap Sr** *Uzhorod State College of Information Sciences, Faculty of Law*

**Tetyana Payul** *Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Faculty of Public Administration*

**Vama Ruslan** *Odessa Law Institute of National University, Faculty of Law*

Ruslam Stavratiy *Moscow Academy of Economy and Law, Faculty of Law*  
Rustam Stojan *Ukrainian Academy of State Administration, Faculty of Law*  
Stepan Vasiljevich Yeremin *Yaroslav Mudrij National Academy of Law,  
Faculty of Law*  
Oleksandr Yurchenko *Yaroslav Mudrij National Academy of Law, Faculty of Law*

75



Romani family washing their clothes at the only water source in the Largo da Feira Veiha Romani settlement in the southern Portuguese town of Moura. During an interview with the ERRC, representatives of the Moura city council responsible for housing stated that in 1999 - 2003 there was an initiative by the city council to develop infrastructure in the settlement. However, the project was not implemented because of key staff responsible for the project left the council. At the time of the ERRC interview in early 2005, the materials were being held in storage and the council had no plans to use them.

Photo: ERRC

# Appendix F

## Interns and Externs 2003-2004

76

In 2003 and 2004 the *ERRC* hosted the following interns:

### ROMANI INTERNS

- Dessislava Kirilova (Bulgaria)
- Ivailo Krastev (Bulgaria)
- Ilian Patsev (Bulgaria)
- Toni Tashev (Bulgaria)
- Brigita Bajric (Croatia)
- Mirela Kovacevic (Croatia)
- Janette Gronfors (Finland)
- Dzavit Berisha (Macedonia)
- Olga Demian (Moldova)
- Christina Raducan (Moldova)
- Cerasela Banica (Romania)
- David Mark (Romania)
- Lydia Gall (Sweden)
- Domino Kai (Sweden)
- Keri McCormick (UK)

### EXTERNSHIPS FOR ROMANI ACTIVISTS

- Linda Falusi (Hungary)
- Hermina Farkas (Hungary)
- Laura Farkas (Hungary)
- Gyorgyi Kalanyos (Hungary)
- Sandor Katona (Hungary)
- Dzavit Berisha (Macedonia)
- Ferki Demirovski (Macedonia)
- Lea Conkova (Slovakia)

## VOLUNTEERS

- Margaret Hagan (USA)
- Jasmina Pleše (Serbia and Montenegro)
- Amanda M. Riggs (USA)
- Joelle Martin (Canada)
- Anita Erdos (Sweden)
- Cristian Friesz (Denmark)
- Anna Balogi (Hungary)
- Devon Fidler (USA)

77

## NON-ROMANI INTERNS

- Emin Amrullayev (Armenia)
- Paula Martins (Brazil)
- Teri Ann Bryans (Canada)
- Rachel O'Neill (Canada)
- Michele Vernet (Canada)
- Zuzana Janska (Czech Republic)
- Katalin Turai (Hungary)
- Zarine Habeeb (India)
- Yoko Kubota (Japan)
- Natalia Sinaeva (Moldova)
- Anthony Mwapa (Nigeria)
- Muhammad Derfish Ilias (Pakistan)
- Nadia Motraghi (UK)
- C.J. Albertie (USA)
- Mike Burstein (USA)
- Linda Carranza (USA)
- Elaine Conway (USA)
- Monica Eav (USA)
- Dimitrios Efstathiou (USA)
- Patricia Fossas (USA)
- Margaret Hagen (USA)
- Meilinda Huang (USA)
- Yuval Miller (USA)
- Kerry McLean (USA)
- David Randall (USA)
- Sue Silverman (USA)
- Angela Wu (USA)

# Appendix G

## ERRC Publications 2003-2004

78

Individual issues of Roma Rights address a particular theme and provide focus on various aspects of human rights issues as they pertain to Roma. Roma Rights also includes a news section, documents in the Romani language, information on ERRC activities by department, and a chronicle of recent ERRC action. Issues of Roma Rights in 2003 and 2004 were:

### THE ROMA RIGHTS QUARTERLY

- Roma Rights 1 and 2/2003: Anti-Discrimination Law
- Roma Rights 3/2003: Personal Documents and Access to Fundamental Rights
- Roma Rights 4/2003: Political Rights
- Roma Rights 1/2004: What Is Roma Rights?
- Roma Rights 2/2004: Ethnic Statistics
- Roma Rights 3 and 4/2004: Health Care

### COUNTRY REPORTS

The Country Reports published by the ERRC provide a comprehensive overview of human rights situation of Roma in a given country in Europe. During 2003-2004, the ERRC published the following comprehensive Country Reports:

- *The Non-Constituents: Rights Deprivation of Roma in Post-Genocide Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Country Report on the human rights situation of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- *Cleaning Operations: Excluding Roma in Greece, a Country Report on the human rights situation of Roma in Greece*
- *The Limits of Solidarity: Roma in Poland After 1989, Polish-language version of the ERRC Country Report (originally published in English in 2002)*

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

During 2003-2004, the ERRC produced directly or was involved in projects producing a number of other publications for various advocacy, outreach and human rights education purposes, including:

- *The Situation of Roma in an Enlarged European Union, a publication of the European Commission, written by the European Roma Rights Centre as part of a consortium led by Focus Consultancy and also involving the European Roma Information Office (ERIO). The report appeared in English, Romani, French and German.*
- *Knowing Your Rights and Fighting for Them: A Guide for Romani Activists, a manual for Romani activists undertaking human rights work (appearing in English and five local languages).*
- *Stigmata: Segregated Schooling of Roma in Central and Eastern Europe, a survey of patterns of segregation of Roma in education in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.*
- *Strategic Litigation of Race Discrimination in Europe: From Principles to Practice, a manual produced by ERRC/Interights/MPG.*
- *The Protection of Roma Rights in Serbia and Montenegro, a memorandum for the Serbian and Montenegrin government's Strategy for Integration and Empowerment of Roma, and the Poverty Reduction Strategy in Serbia and Montenegro, produced jointly with the Belgrade office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (published in English and Serbian).*

## ADVOCACY LETTERS AND PRESS RELEASES

Press releases and advocacy letters serve the purpose of keeping the public and the decision makers' alert to the situation of Roma in Europe and to influence decision makers to take into consideration the situation of Roma when forming their agendas.

During 2003-2004, the ERRC wrote letters of concern and issued press releases concerning events in Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Russia, Kosovo, Belgium, Denmark, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Albania and Scotland.

## ROMANI LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

The ERRC publishes a Romani-language condensed version of the Roma Rights quarterly, aimed at Romani audiences and distributed primarily to Romani media (such as Romani radio stations and Romani programs on mainstream radio stations – primarily in south eastern Europe) and Romani civic organizations. During 2003-2004, The ERRC published the following editions of the Roma Rights Romani-language audiocassettes and CDs.

- *Segregacia thaj desegregacia, the Romani-language cassette version of the quarterly Roma Rights 3-4/2002*

- *Antidiskriminako Zakono, the Romani-language cassette version of Roma Rights 1-2/2003: Anti-Discrimination Law*
- *Personalno dokumentacia thaj astaripe fundamentale chachipengo/xakajengo, a cassette version of Roma Rights 3/2003, Personal Documents and Access to Fundamental Rights*
- *Politikane Chachipa, a cassette tape version of Roma Rights 4/2003, Political Rights*
- *So Si Romane Hakaja, a CD version of Roma Rights 1/2004*

The ERRC also published in written form “Rromenge Problemura Pala Edukacia Ande Europa”, a Romani-language translation of ERRC position paper “Barriers to the Education of Roma in Europe”.

## PUBLICATIONS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

During 2003-2004, the ERRC also published the following in local European languages:

- *Defending Roma Housing Rights in Slovakia: A Training Manual on International Law and the Right to Adequate Housing, a manual for Slovak Romani Activists, appearing in Slovak*
- *Barriers to the Education of Roma in Europe, translation of an ERRC pamphlet on Roma and the right to education in Bulgarian, Czech and Slovak*
- *Political Participation and Democracy in Europe: A Short Guide for Romani Activists and Recognising and Combating Racial Discrimination: A Short Guide. Russian-language translations of two ERRC pamphlets*
- *The first newsletter Roma Rights in Russian – a collection of selected articles on ERRC Roma rights work in Russia and Central and Eastern Europe*
- *A Serbian-language translation of the ERRC/OHCHR joint memorandum on Roma Rights issues in Serbia and Montenegro*
- *Európai Roma Jogok Központja, a Hungarian-language outreach pamphlet outlining the ERRC work in Hungary and in general.*

## WWW.ERRC.ORG

The ERRC Internet website is a medium of publication as well as an on-line documentation centre. Most ERRC publications appear on the ERRC website. The website expanded to include new thematic indices for “country reports”, “pamphlets”, “Romani language translations”, “position papers”, “fact sheets”, “thematic reports” and “other publications” ([http://www.errc.org/Publications\\_index.php](http://www.errc.org/Publications_index.php)) The website now also provides some basic ERRC texts in Russian. Over 5000 people visit the ERRC website every month and during some months the number is well over 7000. In recent years, the ERRC

website has grown in importance as more and more of the Romani movement takes place on-line. All ERRC publications appear on the ERRC website.



Sixty-seven-year-old Ms Celina Garcia Ximenez lives in a tent settlement in a forest on the side of a highway near the northern Portuguese town of Valongo in desperate conditions. The settlement, which has existed for many years, lacked any form of infrastructure and was littered with garbage; there was no electricity, no running water, no sanitation, no garbage collection. None of the inhabitants were formally employed and reportedly could not afford even food to feed the children in the area at times.

Photo: ERRC

# Appendix H

## ERRC Local and Legal Monitors 2003-2004

82

The ERRC maintains a network of local and legal monitors. Details of local and legal monitoring activities and other field research during 2003 and 2004 follow.

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Among many other activities as local monitor, ERRC partner the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of Republika Srpska engaged in documenting human rights violations against Roma in preparation for the publication of the ERRC Country report “The Non-Constituents: Rights Deprivation of Roma in Post-Genocide Bosnia and Herzegovina” published in February 2004.

### BULGARIA

Local monitor Galina Aslanova conducted research on government Roma policies in the fields of education and health care as well as documented cases of human rights violations against Roma by state and non-state actors. Legal monitors Margarita Ilieva and Hristina Nikolova worked with ERRC staff to file a number of lawsuits under the Bulgarian anti-discrimination law challenging segregation of Roma in education, discrimination in access to social services; discrimination in access to public accommodations; discrimination in employment and denial of access to health care services. In addition, two criminal cases were filed against police brutality and racially motivated violence.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

Legal monitor Jana Kabelacova conducted research on segregated schooling of Roma in the Czech Republic, providing documentation for the lawsuit against the Czech Republic challenging segregation of Romani children in the remedial schools, currently pending before the European Court of Human Rights. The legal monitor also engaged in ERRC action to seek redress for Romani women who have been subjected to coercive sterilisation, assisting in facilitating the filing of complaints by victims with the Ombudsman.

## FRANCE

ERRC consultant Lanna Hollo engaged in field research to document human rights violations against Roma in France and subsequently drafted an ERRC Country Report on France, forthcoming in 2005. In addition, the consultant worked with the ERRC to produce an advocacy submission on the human rights situation of Roma in France before the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

83

## GREECE

ERRC partner the Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM) engaged in field research to document human rights violations against Roma. The GHM documented cases of forced evictions of Roma and developments in government policies to address the housing problems of Roma in the aftermath of the ERRC collective complaint against Greece under the European Social Charter. The documentation was used in the correspondence between the ERRC and the Greek government in relation to the collective complaint. In addition, the GHM worked to develop documentation for two cases of police violence against Roma filed before the European Court of Human Rights, and one case of hate speech prepared to be filed before the UN Human Rights Committee. GHM also worked with ERRC legal staff to file several lawsuits before the domestic courts dealing with forced evictions of Roma and discrimination in access to social services.

## SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Legal monitor Peter Antic engaged in investigation of cases of police violence against Roma, racially motivated violence and abuse by non-state actors and discrimination of Roma in access to public accommodations. He worked with ERRC legal staff to file a number of civil suits and criminal cases before the domestic courts dealing with police brutality, violence by non-state actors and incitement to racial hatred and hate speech. In addition, he assisted the referral of a health care decree to the Constitutional Court of Serbia and Montenegro; the filing of a civil suit for liability of the state for damages; and the submission of a petition before the UN Committee against Torture concerning police violence against Roma.

## SLOVAKIA

Legal monitor Beata Olahova engaged in investigating cases of police violence and racially-motivated violence by non-state actors against Roma;

discrimination in access to housing and social services. She worked together with ERRC legal staff to file a number of criminal cases and civil suits against police violence, racially motivated violence by non-state actors and housing discrimination. In addition the legal monitor assisted the ERRC with legal research for the purposes of filing an amicus brief before the Slovak Constitutional Court on the issue of positive action. Local monitor Kristina Magdolenova compiled daily press briefings on Roma in the Slovak media.

84

## **TURKEY**

Legal monitor Nurcan Kaya engaged in legal research focusing on anti-discrimination provisions in Turkish law as well as discriminatory legislation affecting Roma in Turkey.



Italy – Vicolo Savini Roma protest against the removal of the camp and ask for proper placement in adequate housing.

Photo: Stefano Montesi

# Appendix I

## Founder, Board and Staff (2003–2004)

86

As of December 31, 2004, the *ERRC* had the following profile:

### FOUNDER

**Ferenc Kószeg** (Hungary) is the Founder of the European Roma Rights Centre. He is the Chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, a member of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights. He was a Member of Hungarian Parliament from 1990 to 1998.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS DECEMBER 2004

**Prof. Bob Hepple** (U.K.) is the Chair of the Board of the *ERRC*. He is a Professor of Law and the Master of Clare College, Cambridge University. He served as Commissioner for Racial Equality from 1986 to 1990 and was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct from 1994 to 1999. He has authored 15 books and numerous articles on employment and discrimination law, the law of torts and European social law.

**Nicoleta Bițu** (Romania) holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in socio–psycho pedagogy from the University of Bucharest. She has been involved in Romani issues for close to ten years, mainly in post–conflict situations and youth leadership education. She has worked with organisations such as the Network Women's Program of the Open Society Institute (OSI), Project on Ethnic Relations and is currently the Regional Programmes Coordinator of the Romanian Romani organisation Romani CRISS.

**Prof. Theo van Boven** (Netherlands) is a Professor of International Law at the University of Maastricht. Since December 2001, he has been UN Special Rapporteur against Torture. He has served as the Director of Human Rights of the United Nations and has been a member of the United Nations Sub–Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

**Dr Deborah Harding** (USA) was a program officer for political development in Central and Eastern Europe of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and was one of the most successful Western aid experts in building civil society and human rights culture in Eastern Europe. She has recently retired from the position of Vice-President of the Open Society Institute–OSI.

**Karel Holomek** (Czech Republic) studied mechanical engineering at the Military Academy in Brno. After 1990, he was a Deputy for Civic Forum on the Czech National Council for two years. He is the Chairman of the Society of Roma in Moravia, the Honorary Chairman of the Society of Professionals and Friends of the Museum of Romani Culture, the Director of the International Roma Center attached to the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly, a member of the government's Commission for Human Rights and the Editor-in-Chief of the Romani magazine *Romano Hangos*.

**Dr Jan Hrubala** (Slovakia) works for the Centre for Environmental Public Advocacy, a public interest law firm dealing with environmental issues. He is a former judge and a former local director of Partners for Democratic Change, an alternative dispute resolution NGO in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. He has conducted numerous Street Law training workshops and has authored two texts on Street Law in Slovakia. He has recently joined the Slovak Ministry of Justice's anti-corruption unit.

**Azbija Memedova** (Macedonia) is the Coordinator of the Roma Center of Skopje, Macedonia and has previously been a consultant, trainer and facilitator at national and international meetings. She is also a member of the Roma Women Advisory Board of the Open Society Institute.

**Rumyan Russinov** (Bulgaria) is the Executive Director of the Roma Participation Project of the Open Society Institute. He is also the Chair of the Roma Expert Council at the International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Communications in Sofia and a member of the Roma Advisory Board of the Open Society Institute.

**Dr Joseph Schull** (Canada) is a Managing Director at Warburg Pincus International LLC, managing private equity investment activities in Eastern Europe. He was the Deputy Director of the International Affairs Program of the Ford Foundation until 1998. He received a D.Phil. in Politics from Oxford University and was a University Lecturer in Soviet and East European Studies in 1990 and 1991.

## SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL

**James A. Goldston (USA)** is a graduate of Harvard Law School. He is former Legal Director of the *ERRC* and currently is the Executive Director of the Open Society Institute's Justice Initiative.

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC (UK)** is a leading human rights advocate, and has been instrumental in shaping Britain's equal opportunities legislation and in the campaign for a Bill of Rights in Britain. He has been Queen's Counsellor since 1975 and is president of Interights (International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights). He co-chaired the *ERRC* Board of Directors in 1999–2002.

88

## LEGAL ADVISORY NETWORK DECEMBER 2004

- Professor Sir Bob Hepple QC (UK) (Chair)
- Bea Bodrogi (Hungary)
- Theo Van Boven (Netherlands)
- Luke Clements (UK)
- Andrea Coomber (UK)
- Diego Luiz Fernandez Jimenez (Spain)
- Yonko Grozev (Bulgaria)
- Jan Hrubala (Slovakia)
- Murray Hunt (UK)
- Alexander Kashumov (Bulgaria)
- Lovorka Kusan (Croatia)
- Philip Leach (UK)
- Peter Rodrigues (Netherlands)
- Theodore Shaw (USA)
- David Strupek (Czech Republic)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dimitrina Petrova** (Bulgaria) is the Executive Director of the ERRC. She is a philosopher and human rights advocate. She was chair of the Human Rights Project (Sofia), a Bulgarian group defending the rights of Roma, a Member of Parliament, and a professor of Philosophy of Law and other courses in Bulgaria and other countries. She received the American Bar Association's Human Rights Award in 1994.

89

## STAFF DECEMBER 2004

**Alan Anstead** is Legal Adviser and Project Manager. He also works part-time in Poland on a joint project between the Polish Ministry of Interior and the British Embassy. He has further experience of minority rights from working as a British diplomat in Latvia (Deputy Ambassador) and Slovakia (Head of Technical Assistance Programmes), and has been a representative of the British government in Russia, Liberia and Germany.

**Anita Balog** is Legal Assistant. Previously she worked as the spokesperson for the National Hungarian Minority Self-Government and as a reporter and editor of the social magazine for Radio C. She is currently studying communication and English-Hungarian literature at Janos Kodolanyi College. She joined the ERRC in September 2003.

**Ioana Banu** is a Staff Attorney. She is a graduate of the Institute of Law and International Relations at the University of Bucharest in her native Romania. Before joining the ERRC, she worked for the Romanian Helsinki Committee.

**Azam Bayburdi** is Executive Assistant. She graduated from the St. Petersburg State University, Department of Oriental Studies. Previously she worked for the Hungarian Television as an editor, the Central European University and the Ministry of Education.

**Tara Bedard** is News Editor/Researcher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Development Studies from the University of Toronto, Canada, and completed a post-graduate program at Humber College in Toronto in International Project Management.

**Claude Cahn** is Programmes Director. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College in the United States, and has undertaken post-graduate work in Germany and Hungary. He also has a Masters Degree in History. He is the editor of the book *Roma Rights: Race, Justice and Strategies for Equality* (IDEA Press, 2002).

**Anita Danka** is Paralegal. She holds an MA in English from the University of Debrecen and an MA in Human Rights from the Central European University. Currently she is doing her law degree at the University of Miskolc. She worked for the Canadian Embassy before joining ERRC.

**Patricia Devenyi** is Librarian/Administrative Assistant. She is currently studying Biology at ELTE University in Budapest.

**Andi Dobrush** is a Staff Attorney. He has a degree in Law from the University of Tirana, Albania, and a LL.M. in Law from the Central European University, Budapest.

**Dora Eke** is Programmes Assistant. She has a degree in Computer Programming (Information Systems option) from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Canada. She managed the Freedom Forum Library at the Center for Independent Journalism for seven years.

**Csilla Farkas** is Operations director. She is a communications professional who graduated from Eötvös Lóránd University Budapest, Faculty of Humanities and holds degrees in English and American Studies and Romanian Literature. She has undertaken post-graduate work in film, sociology and communications and worked extensively in areas of public relations, public affairs, as well as media.

**Istvan Fenyvesi** is Research and Publications Officer. He studied Music at the Academy of Music in Lvov, Ukraine, and has a degree in English Language and Literature from ELTE University in Budapest. Before joining the ERRC, he worked for the Constitutional and Legislative Policy Institute in Budapest.

**Tímea Holik** is Financial Manager. She has a degree in Economics from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences, Budapest and an MSc in Entrepreneurial Studies from the Stirling University, Stirling, Scotland. She worked in the Finance Department of Open Society Institute Foundation before joining the ERRC.

**Anna Hornyik** is receptionist and office secretary. She graduated from a secondary school specializing in social sciences. Earlier she worked mainly in commerce.

**Ivan Ivanov** is a Staff Attorney. He studied Medicine and Law in his home country of Bulgaria. Prior to joining the ERRC, he worked at the Sofia-based Roma rights organisation Human Rights Project.

**Rita Izsak** is Legal Monitor. She is currently completing her law studies at the Péter Pázmány Catholic University.

**Joelle Martin** is a Legal Advisor. She holds a Bachelor's of Art degree in French and Spanish and a law degree (LL.B.) from the University of Ottawa, Canada. She is a qualified lawyer in Ontario (Canada) and Jamaica. She has practised law with several law firms, worked as a Delegate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Colombia and has extensive volunteer experience with legal and human rights NGOs.

**Keriewa McCormick** is Women's Rights Officer. She studied Conflict Transformation and Human Rights at the European Peace University, Austria (MA), postgraduate courses in Educational Psychology and also Teaching (T.E.S.O.L) in the U.K and Hungary, and Creative Arts at Sheffield University, U.K (B.A hons.) Prior to joining the ERRC, she had been Co-ordinator and Awareness Trainer for a number of projects concerning Roma and Gypsy/ Traveller women across Europe, and is still involved with the Uckermark/ Ravensbruck Concentration camp Memorial Committee to highlight Roma and Sinti Holocaust issues.

**Cristi Mihalache** is International Advocacy officer. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the National School of Political and Administrative Studies, in Bucharest, Romania and an MA in Human Rights from the Central European University. Previously, he has been part of a team implementing a PHARE programme on Roma in Romania and worked for the Bucharest-based Romani organisation Romani CRISS.

**Larry Olomoofe** is Human Rights Trainer. He studied Social Sciences at Oxford University (University Diploma) and Social and Political Sciences at Cambridge University, England (BA and MA). Upon completion of his studies in the UK, he embarked upon a PhD at the New School University, New York. Prior to joining the ERRC, he was the Project Coordinator of the Civic Education Project – CEP (Hungary).

**Julianna Oros** is Financial Officer. She graduated from the in Budapest University of Technology and Economics and a post-graduate degree in statistics. She also completed a tax-advisory course. She joined the ERRC in June, 2004.

**Branimir Plese** is Legal Director. He graduated law at the University of Belgrade. Prior to working for the ERRC, he worked for the Humanitarian Law Centre in Belgrade.

**Margit Remail** is Accountant. She received her diploma form the College of Finance and Accounting in Budapest. She also has a post-graduate degree in auditing. She joint the ERRC in 2004.

**Savelina Danova Russinova** is Research and Policy Coordinator. She has a Masters degree in English Philology from the Sofia University, Bulgaria, and is an MA candidate in Human Rights from the Central European University in Budapest. Previously, she was the Director of the Sofia-based Roma rights organisation Human Rights Project.



## EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE

The *European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)* is an international public interest law organisation engaging in a range of activities aimed at combating anti-Romani racism and human rights abuse of Roma. The approach of the *ERRC* involves, in particular, strategic litigation, international advocacy, research and policy development, and training of Romani activists. The *ERRC* is a cooperating member of the *International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights* and has consultative status with the Council of Europe, as well as with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.



## EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE

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