

## Census of forced evictions in living areas occupied by Roma (or persons designated as such) in France

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*(Second quarter of 2016)*

### 1. Summary

The number of forced evictions in the second quarter of 2016 seems to indicate a reprieve compared with the very high number observed in the first quarter<sup>1</sup> of the year. However, this lower figure does not take into account the numerous postponed or delayed evictions due to occur during this summer. A number of slums are already being targeted by the authorities for forced eviction in the upcoming period. This concerns the North of France, Marseille and Île de France.

During the second quarter of 2016, 932 people were forcibly evicted by the authorities from 12 living areas. Another 50 people had to leave one site due to a flood.

We continue to observe an increasing number of evictions which are based on the grounds of safety risks or health hazards being adopted by municipalities. There were four evictions resulting from notices of safety risks or health hazards, issued by municipalities or the Prefect. The remaining eight forced evictions were in response to summonses by the landowners for illegal occupation or the establishment of squats on their properties. Of the 12 evictions executed by the authorities, temporary shelter solutions were provided on only four occasions. In the cases of the other eight evictions, families were left on the street by the police. In regards to the evacuation following the flood, emergency shelters were not made easily available. In addition, the situation of one of the families became particularly precarious when after the evacuation, the family was denied access to a gymnasium designated by the authorities as a place of shelter for victims of the flooding.

Since the beginning of the year, 71 % of evictees were based in the Region Île de France followed by Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (15%), Pays de la Loire (7%), and Haut de France (4%). Ten of the forced evictions occurred on publicly owned land, but in only one case was the eviction 'justified' with the upcoming construction of a building

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.errc.org/article/international-roma-day-and-every-other-day-sees-roma-fighting-back-against-forced-evictions-and-theyll-win/4471>

project. We consider that the Circular of 26<sup>th</sup> August 2012, which provided safeguards and provisions for the execution of evictions, has not been respected in the majority of these cases.

We support the statement made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Council of Europe and other international bodies, denouncing the human cost of evictions and calling for the respect of Roma rights: “Evictions have long-term, deeply negative implications on the life situation of those concerned and would violate their human rights if not accompanied by the necessary safeguards recalled in this statement”.<sup>2</sup>

**Note:**

This census is the result of joint work between the League of Human Rights (LDH) and the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC). Due to the lack of available official data, this report does not claim to be exhaustive, but does constitute the most detailed and objective account of the current situation.

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<sup>2</sup> OPRE joint statement on evictions of Roma and Travellers in Europe, 26 June 2016: <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680682b0a>

## 2. Development from previous periods

The following tables detail the identified number of evictees and the trends since the first quarter of 2014. This analysis shows that the number of evicted people during the second quarter of 2016 constituted nearly 1,000 people. Despite the fact that the data shows a lower number of forced evictions, compared to previous periods, the situation has not improved. Generally, the highest number of forced evictions in a given year takes place during the summer. This trend is expected to continue since there are a number of planned evictions for the coming summer period.



	Number of evictions executed by the authorities	Fire/flood (number)	Number of evacuated living areas	Solutions for accommodation (partial)	People evicted by the authorities	Number of people evicted because of fire/flood	Total
1Q2014	27	9	36	17	2904	524	3428
2Q2014	38	2	40	18	3756	51	3807
3Q2014	41	2	43	21	3693	74	3767
4Q2014	32	4	36	15	3130	317	3447
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>13483</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>14449</b>
1Q2015	18	2	20	7	1966	110	2076
2Q2015	25		25	6	2776		2776
3Q2015	47	1	48	11	4972	100	5072
4Q2015	21	2	23	5	1414	200	1614
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11128</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>11538</b>
1Q2016	25	1	26	13	3683	100	3783
2Q2016	12	1	13	4	932	50	932
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4615</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>4715</b>

Note: These estimates **do not include** removals from a territory following an administrative decision or repatriation by charter ordered by the Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration (OFII).

### 3. Geographical representation of the evictees by region

Since the beginning of the year, 71% of evictees were based in the Region Île de France, followed by Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (15%) and Pays de la Loire (7%) and Haut de France (4%). As in previous periods, the highest number of forced evictions were observed in Île de France.

### 4. Harassment, rejections, endangerments, threats, reaction of International bodies

The list below is not exhaustive and provides only a few of the examples of acts of violence, hate speech and discrimination (and also responses to these incidents) which occurred since the beginning of 2016.

#### During the first quarter:

- *"It is apparent that we are witnessing a willingness to terrorize families in order to make them disappear,"* said the Network Education without Borders (RESF in French) in relation to two searches of Roma families in Isère in December 2015.<sup>3</sup>

- The Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland responded to reports that French police have cleared out hundreds of Roma in Paris: *"It is crucial that the French authorities provide all those who have been forced to leave the [...] camp [...] with adequate, alternative accommodation, particularly as they have decided to take this action during winter."*<sup>4</sup>

- The term *"Roma pickpockets"*<sup>5</sup> appeared in some media headlines even though France prohibits the collection of personal data based on ethnic criteria.

- On Thursday 18 February, in Nice, Jean-Marie Le Pen, the ex-chairman of Front National was requested to pay a fine amounting to 25,000 EUR, for describing the presence of Roma people as *"stinging"* and *"odorous"* in a public speech dating back to 2013.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Le Monde, *Etat d'urgence : en Isère, des perquisitions chez les Roms sans-papiers*, Julia Pascual, 12 January 2016 : <http://delinquance.blog.lemonde.fr/2016/01/12/etat-durgence-en-isere-des-perquisitions-chez-les-roms-sans-papiers/>

<sup>4</sup> Council of Europe, press release, 3 February 2016: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/secretary-general-responds-to-reports-that-french-police-have-cleared-hundreds-of-roma-in-paris?inheritRedirect=true>

<sup>5</sup> Le Parisien, *Pickpockets roms : la procureure de Meaux salue la coopération avec la police roumaine*, 12 February 2016 : <http://www.leparisien.fr/chessy-77700/pickpockets-roms-la-procureure-de-meaux-salue-la-cooperation-avec-la-police-roumaine-12-02-2016-5540069.php>

<sup>6</sup> Le Parisien, *Propos sur les Roms : 25 000 € requis contre Jean-Marie Le Pen*, 18 February 2016 : <http://www.leparisien.fr/politique/propos-sur-les-roms-25-000-eur-requis-contre-jean-marie-le-pen-18-02-2016-5558441.php>

- *“The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights expresses his worries about the “climate of anti-gypsyism” which is prevailing within the country. The Minister of Interior replies that property rights should be respected.”*<sup>7</sup>

- After being evicted from their living area in Carquefou on the third of March, and having been chased by the police, Roma resettled in an area which they had previously occupied two years ago.<sup>8</sup>

- *“In an open letter published on 23rd of February, Médecins du Monde denounces the treatment of Roma evicted from Porte des Poissonniers in Paris in the beginning of the month. This eviction was executed despite the legal decision allowing Roma to remain. This humanitarian organisation demanded that doctors providing pro-bono medical care to the inhabitants should be able to complete the medical follow-ups which have already been started.”*<sup>9</sup>

- In a report related to police violence, the NGO *Chrétienne contre la torture et la peine de mort* (ACAT) noted that *“numerous allegations of police violence have been denounced during the dismantling of camps and makeshift shelters. Cases of violence have been denounced during the eviction of Roma in Marseille and Paris region”*.<sup>10</sup>

- A Romani baby died due to a fire in a slum situated in Lille. His parents were remanded in custody<sup>11</sup> even though *“according to the first elements of the investigation”* the fire was due to *“an accident”*.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Libération, *Le Conseil de l'Europe inquiet des évacuations de Roms sans relogement en France*, 16 February 2016 : [http://www.liberation.fr/france/2016/02/16/le-conseil-de-l-europe-inquiet-des-evacuations-de-roms-sans-relogement-en-france\\_1433623](http://www.liberation.fr/france/2016/02/16/le-conseil-de-l-europe-inquiet-des-evacuations-de-roms-sans-relogement-en-france_1433623)

<sup>8</sup> Marion Fersing, *L'errance des Roms de Carquefou*, France Bleu Loire Océan, 4 March 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Laurence Moisson, *Médecins du monde dénonce l'expulsion du plus grand bidonville de Paris*, 26 February 2016 : [http://www.allodocteurs.fr/se-soigner/affaires-justice/medecins-du-monde-denonce-l-expulsion-du-plus-grand-bidonville-de-paris\\_18767.html](http://www.allodocteurs.fr/se-soigner/affaires-justice/medecins-du-monde-denonce-l-expulsion-du-plus-grand-bidonville-de-paris_18767.html)

<sup>10</sup> ACAT, *L'ordre et la force, enquête sur l'usage de la force par les représentants de la loi en France*, report March 2016, p.18.

<sup>11</sup> La Voix du Nord, *Bébé rom décédé dans un incendie à Lille: les parents sont en garde à vue*, 21 March 2016 : <http://www.lavoixdunord.fr/region/bebe-rom-decede-dans-un-incendie-a-lille-les-parents-ia19b0n3400079>

<sup>12</sup> BMF TV, *Lille: un nourrisson meurt dans l'incendie d'un campement rom*, 20 March 2016 : <http://www.bfmtv.com/societe/lille-un-nourrisson-meurt-dans-l-incendie-d-un-campement-rom-960553.html>

During the second quarter:

- JP Lecoq, mayor of the 6<sup>th</sup> district of Paris, made an offensive speech published in the official newsletter of the district: *“Most of the Roma belong to mafia networks which do not hesitate to exploit the weakest (the most vulnerable) of them, reducing them to a sort of modern-day slavery”*.<sup>13</sup>
- On 8 April 2016, on the occasion of the International Roma day, *“the Conference of European Churches and the Council of European Episcopal Conferences called for better integration of this community”*.<sup>14</sup>
- On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Marc-Etienne Lansade, mayor of Cogolin (Var, 11,000 inhabitants) appeared publically in a Roma slum located in his municipality.<sup>15</sup> He used hate speech and proclaimed his pride in the destruction of the Roma slum.
- The mayor of Wissous (Essonne) boasts of the swiftness with which the slum located in his municipality was evicted.<sup>16</sup>
- The mayor of Saint-Ouen (Seine-Saint-Denis) adopted a decree prohibiting the parking of vehicles in order to prevent Roma from seeking shelter in their cars. *“The residents of the neighbourhood are overwrought, explains William Delannoy, the mayor of the municipality (UDI party). For several weeks Roma have lived in trucks or cars which they park on that street. This fact creates serious problems in terms of hygiene and relations with the residents of the neighbourhood. It was necessary to find a solution.”*<sup>17</sup>
- A family of 12 was evicted from the hangar where they lived in Villeneuve-Saint-Georges due to a flood. The family was denied access to a gymnasium sheltering other victims of the floods.<sup>18</sup>
- On Tuesday 14 June, in Lille, many English football supporters humiliated Romani children by throwing coins and bottles at them.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Edito du maire, notre 6eme, n°292 April 2016, p.3

<sup>14</sup> la Croix, *Les Églises européennes veulent « mettre un terme » aux discours de haine contre les Roms*, 8 April 2016

<sup>15</sup> Le Parisien, *Cogolin : le maire FN se filme dans un camp Rom en cours de destruction*, 14 April 2016,

<sup>16</sup> Letter to the inhabitants of Wissous, Municipality of Wissous, April 2016.

<sup>17</sup> Le Parisien, *Saint-Ouen, Le maire barre la rue pour chasser les Roms*, 13 April 2016.

<sup>18</sup> Le Parisien, *Les Roms plantent leur tente devant la mairie de Villeneuve-Saint-Georges*, 5 June 2016.

<sup>19</sup> FR3, *Euro : à Lille, des Anglais humilient des enfants roms en leur jetant des pièces et des bouteilles*, 15 June 2016

- On 20 June, the Ligue des droits de l'homme (LDH) denounced the distribution of OQTF (Obligation to leave the French territory document) to the inhabitants of the slum located in rue Coignet (Saint-Denis). The local section of the LDH denounced the decision of the Prefect of Saint-Denis to distribute collectively OQTFs to the families living in that slum without taking into account their individual situation and this, despite of the efforts for integration of some of the families."<sup>20</sup>

- "A Roma slum was targeted by gunfire in the night from Saturday to Sunday, reported by [Infos-H24](#)."<sup>21</sup>

- On 22 June, Denain, a French official was charged with ordering an arson attack on a Romani grocery store."<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> *Soutien aux familles du terrain Coignet de Saint-Denis*, Press release of the local section of LDH Seine-Saint-Denis Plaine Commune, 22 June 2016.

<sup>21</sup> 20 Minutes, *Montpellier : Un camp rom aurait été la cible de coups de feu*, 23 May 2016.

<sup>22</sup> Le Monde, *Incendie d'une épicerie roumaine à Denain : le directeur de cabinet mis en examen*, 22 June 2016  
[http://www.lemonde.fr/police-justice/article/2016/06/23/incendie-d-une-epicerie-roumaine-a-denain-le-directeur-de-cabinet-mis-en-examen\\_4956846\\_1653578.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/police-justice/article/2016/06/23/incendie-d-une-epicerie-roumaine-a-denain-le-directeur-de-cabinet-mis-en-examen_4956846_1653578.html)

## 5. Results for the first quarter of 2016

Forced evictions of Roma living in France																	
Address	Municipality(es)	Department	Region	Date	Quarter	Total evictees	reason of the eviction				solutions for housing (1 = partial)	decreed of the Mayor/ Prefect (48h flagrancy)	Motive legal decision of TGI or TA	personal initiative taken under pressure	type of the land owner		Source/reaction
							Number of people evicted by the authorities	nbr	Nbr of people evicted because of fire	nbr					Public	building project	
118 rue Elergson	Saint-Etienne	Loire	Auvergne-Rhône-	09/01/2016	1Q2016	40	40	1			1						Le Progrès 9 January
La Feysine	Villeurbanne	Métro Lyon	Auvergne-Rhône-	12/01/2016	1Q2016	100	100	1			1			1			Rue89 Lyon 12 January
Rue Jaouard	Yaulieu-Valin	Métro Lyon	Auvergne-Rhône-	12/01/2016	1Q2016	250	250	1			1						Rue89 Lyon 12 January
Rue du Dauphinée	Saint-Priest	Métro Lyon	Auvergne-Rhône-	12/01/2016	1Q2016	70	70	1			1						Rue89 Lyon 12 January
Boulevard Ney	Paris	Paris	IDF	03/02/2016	1Q2016	400	400	1			1			1			Le Monde 3 February
Usine de la Briche SIAAP	Epinau-sur-Seine	Seine-Saint-Denis	IDF	05/02/2016	1Q2016	100	100	1			1				1		LDH Paris 18
Rue des deux parcs	Noisiel	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	12/02/2016	1Q2016	120	120	1			1						Coll. Val Maubuée
AM 332	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	12/02/2016	1Q2016	200	200	1			1				1		Coll. Val Maubuée
AN016	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	12/02/2016	1Q2016	20	20	1			1				1		Coll. Val Maubuée
AN016	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	18/02/2016	1Q2016	15	15	1			1				1		Coll. Val Maubuée
AN006	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	18/02/2016	1Q2016	10	10	1			1				1		Coll. Val Maubuée
La Forestière	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	17/02/2016	1Q2016	100	100	1			1				1		Coll. Val Maubuée
Squats des Bosquets	Cannes	Alpes-Maritimes	PACA	17/02/2016	1Q2016	7	7	1			1						Nice Matin 17 February
Quai de la société Paprec	Lagny-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	23/02/2016	1Q2016	300	300	1						1			Coll. Val Maubuée
Plouys	Wattrelos	Nord	Hauts de France	24/02/2016	1Q2016	100			100	1							Nord Eclair
420 bvd National	Marchelle	Bouches-du-Rhône	PACA	28/02/2016	1Q2016	48	48	1			1				1		La Provence
Moulin Boisseau	Carquehou	Loire-Atlantique	Pays-de-la-Loire	02/03/2016	1Q2016	300	300	1			1						Breizh-info 2 March
Rue de la Lys	Halluin	Nord	Hauts de France	02/03/2016	1Q2016	12	12	1						1			Nord Eclair
Chemin des Prés	Wissous	Essonne	IDF	03/03/2016	1Q2016	400	400	1			1						Le Républicain
Cité Descartes	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	03/03/2016	1Q2016	100	100	1			1				1		Coll. Val Maubuée
Bvd de Parilly	Lyon	Métro Lyon	Auvergne-Rhône-	04/03/2016	1Q2016	60	60	1			1					1	Rebellion 5 March
Près de la gare du centre	Argenteuil	Val-d'Oise	IDF	09/03/2016	1Q2016	17	17	1			1						Le Parisien 11 March
Chemin de fer et D301	St-Etienne-sous-Forêt	Val-d'Oise	IDF	08/03/2016	1Q2016	300	300	1			1						Le Parisien 8 March
Av Roger-Salengro	Villeurbanne	Métro Lyon	Auvergne-Rhône-	11/03/2016	1Q2016	54	54	1			1				1		Lyoncapitale 11 March
Rue Graham Bell	Bussy-St-Georges	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	29/03/2016	1Q2016	600	600	1						1			Coll. Val Maubuée/LaMame
131 Chemin du Corps de garde	Chelles	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	29/03/2016	1Q2016	60	60	1			1						Promeurope 30 March
<b>1st quarter 2016</b>						<b>3783</b>	<b>3683</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>

## 6. Results for the second quarter of 2016

Address	Municipality(es)	Department	Region	Date	Quarter	Total evictees	reason of the eviction				solutions for housing (1 = partial)	order of the Mayor/ Prefect (48h flagrancy)	legal decision of TGI or TA	personal initiative taken under pressure	type of the land owner		Source/reaction	
							Number of people evicted by the authorities	nbr	Nbr of people evicted because of fire/flood	nbr					Public	building project		Private
Parking ancienne prison	Loos	Nord	Hauts de France	6/04/16	2Q2016	85	85	1					1		1		La voix du Nord 6 April	
Rue du Pont	Faches-Thumesnil	Nord	Hauts de France	6/04/16	2Q2016	15	15	1					1		1	1	La voix du Nord 6 April	
Bois de grâce, AL 017	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	12/04/16	2Q2016	24	24	1				1					Coll. Val Maubuée	
Camp des Aubrettes	Cogolin	Var	PACA	13/04/16	2Q2016	80	80	1				1					Le Parisien 13 April	
Bois de l'Épine	Ris-Orangis	Essonne	IDF	21/04/16	2Q2016	48	48	1			1				1		Essonne Info 21 April	
AK 23, AC 132	Champs-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	9/05/16	2Q2016	35	35	1				1					Coll. Val Maubuée	
113 Cours de la Libération	Grenoble	Isère	Auvergne-Rhône-	26/04/16	2Q2016	80	80	1			1						Police Gre'net 27 April	
Route de Villevaudé	Annet-sur-Marne	Seine-et-Marne	IDF	18/05/16	2Q2016	200	200	1				1					Le Parisien 10 May	
Zone de Vovray	Cran-Gevrier	Haute-Savoie	Auvergne-Rhône-	1/06/16	2Q2016	35	35	1			1				1		Le Dauphiné 2 June	
Parking ancienne prison	Loos	Nord	Hauts de France	8/06/16	2Q2016	20	20	1			1						La voix du Nord 8 June	
Près de la gare du centre	Villeneuve-St-Georges	Val-de-Marne	IDF	9/06/16	2Q2016				50	1							Le Parisien 9 June	
Rue de Soubise	Roubaix	Nord	Hauts de France	22/06/16	2Q2016	60	60	1					1				La Voix du Nord 22 June	
Av du Président Wilson	Saint-Denis	Seine-Saint-Denis	IDF	28/06/16	2Q2016	250	250	1				1			1		ERRC	
<b>2nd quarter 2016</b>						<b>932</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

## Annex

### Description of the data used in the study

The study identified the name of the living site, the municipality, the number of evictees, the causes of the forced evacuation, rehousing proposals, the legal basis for the eviction (leaving proceedings initiated by the owner of the site, or notice issued by the mayor or the prefect) and the sources of information in each case.

Each evacuation is described in the most comprehensive manner and only verifiable information obtained from reliable sources, listed below, is recorded.

#### Definitions and Vocabulary:

In France, land is evacuated and the person is evicted. In terms of law, land is evacuated as well as buildings when these measures are taken in the area; an eviction is a process in which these measures concern the person. On the other hand, the term "living area" defines the place where people live, which could be a slum, a squat, a disused hangar ... or a functional or not functional caravan. The name of the living area is mentioned in the source of information, for instance "le Hanul". The exact address is also noted when this information is available.

The municipality refers to where the living area is situated. Cases are frequent when the area overlaps several municipalities, for example: Noisy-le-Grand/Bry-sur-Marne. These cases often lead to confusion: many different reports appear regarding what is in fact the same living area. Particular attention has been paid to this fact in order to guarantee that the information is accurate and not duplicated.

The dates mentioned in the study refer to the day on which the forced eviction took place.

The number of evicted persons is always mentioned in the source of information.

The forced eviction might result from expulsion for illegal occupation or health hazards or an accident (fire). Many cases can be cumulative. For instance in Massy (Essonne) in 2010, there was a distribution of OQTF (Obligation to leave the French territory document), fire, an eviction order, confinement, voluntary returns (ARV in French), forced returns and destruction of what remained of the living area by the municipal authorities.

When solutions for housing are mentioned in the source of information, it is mentioned also in the figures. They are usually partial, because in most of the cases, they separate families, and concern only mothers with young children whom are given emergency accommodation for a few days. For this reason, they are often refused by those concerned.

The nature of the decision certifying the evacuations is recorded. It can be taken by the Court (Magistrate' Court, Regional Court, Administrative Court, Court of appeal), or can be provoked by a notice for health hazards or other dangers ordered by a municipality or a Prefect.

The number of unforced departures is recorded as well. In general they are provoked by police harassment or threats.

The owner of the land might be either a private person or public body. The category "public" includes municipalities, departments, local or national authorities, as well as any other body under the State authority (for example Réseau Ferré de France). The category "private" includes private legal entities or physical persons.

The "source" is the origin of the information. The same case can be present in many sources. Each source is recorded. Only the most reliable and the most accurate were selected: press and media articles, press releases, and direct testimonies transmitted and broadcast by an NGO.