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Brussels, 2nd March 2026

## **Freedom of information request concerning the disappearance and death of Manuel Ametov**

To Whom it May Concern,

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)<sup>1</sup> is a Roma-led international public interest law organisation which monitors and protects the human rights of Roma in Europe and provides legal defence in cases of human rights violations.

We are writing regarding the tragic outcome of the search for **Manuel Ametov**, a 19-year-old Romani boy with developmental disabilities, in Zrenjanin. The family and public reporting have raised serious concerns regarding the circumstances of the search and the police response. Accordingly, we submit this request for access to information pursuant to Article 15, paragraph 1 of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance (“Official Gazette of RS”, Nos. 120/04, 54/07, 104/09, 36/10, and 105/21).

According to public reporting,<sup>2</sup> Manuel Ametov went missing on the night of 14th–15th February 2026. Public reports also noted community concerns that the response may not have fully mobilised all available resources. Additionally, Manuel’s known developmental disabilities, which required urgent attention and support, raise questions about whether his specific risk factors were adequately considered in the search procedures.

This request concerns compliance with Serbia’s obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):

- **Article 5 – Equality and Non-Discrimination:**  
States Parties must prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and

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<sup>1</sup> [www.errc.org](http://www.errc.org).

<sup>2</sup> <https://n1.info.rs/vesti/policija-o-smrti-nestalog-mladica-u-zrenjaninu-neistinite-spekulacije-javnosti-poceli-smo-da-ga-trazimo-cim-je-prijavljeno/>.

guarantee equal and effective legal protection, including reasonable accommodation. Failure to adapt procedures to known disability-related risk factors may constitute a lack of reasonable accommodation.

- **Article 11 – Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies:** States Parties must take all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk. Strict adherence to standard procedures despite known risks may indicate non-compliance.

In light of the serious concerns raised by public reports and the family, we hereby submit this request for access to information pursuant to Article 15, paragraph 1 of the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance (“Official Gazette of RS”, Nos. 120/04, 54/07, 104/09, 36/10, and 105/21).

**To assess compliance, we request the following information:**

1. A detailed timeline of police actions from the moment the disappearance was reported, including:
  - Time of report.
  - Time of initial police response.
  - Time of formal search initiation.
  - Details of resources deployed.
  - Details of any cooperation or coordination with specialised services, medical professionals, civil protection authorities, or volunteer search teams, and the timing of such coordination.
2. Copies of all internal regulations, protocols, or standard operating procedures applicable at the time of the disappearance concerning reports of missing adults, including any provisions relating to waiting periods prior to initiating a search.
3. Any specific provisions, guidelines, or training materials addressing the disappearance of persons with disabilities.
4. Clarification as to whether police officers were informed at the time of reporting that Manuel was a person with autism, and if so:
  - a. How this information was recorded.
  - b. Any documentation showing that known disability-related risk factors were considered in deciding when and how to initiate the search.
5. Any internal assessment, review, or disciplinary inquiry conducted into the handling of this case, including consideration of disability-related obligations.
6. Any data held from the past five years pertaining to response times in cases of missing adults, disaggregated where possible by disability status.

This request is made in the public interest. The case has prompted public protest and significant concern regarding equal protection, non-discrimination, and the safety of persons with disabilities. We request that the above information be provided in electronic form within the statutory deadlines. If any part of this request is denied, we ask that you provide a written explanation specifying the legal basis for refusal.

We remain available for dialogue and would welcome the opportunity to discuss how policing procedures can be strengthened to ensure full compliance with the CRPD and the effective protection of persons with disabilities.

We look forward to your response by email to [jonathan.lee@errc.org](mailto:jonathan.lee@errc.org) or by post to the European Roma Rights Centre, Avenue de Cortenbergh 71, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Brussels 1000, Belgium.

Yours sincerely,

Dorđe Jovanović  
President  
ERRC