

Mr V. A. interviewed in Ineu, Romania, 24 September 2010

I lived in France from 2 March until 27 August 2010 with my father, mother, two brothers and my sister in law and one neice. We lived in a camp in Grenoble, in a shack made of wood. There were around 50 other families from Ineu, Bihor, in total around 100 people. I earned money by begging until I was expelled. On 20 August I went by car with two other people to look for food thrown away by shops in garbage containers. In the parking of a food shop I was spotted by the owner before I reached the bin. The owner ran to us, grabbed me very violently and called the police. The police arrested all three of us and detained us for 24 hours. I was kept in the police station where police officers questioned me. There was a translator during the questioning. I was told I should leave the country in 30 days. I signed a document in which it was stated that I had to leave the country. I was not given a copy of the document. After I was released I found that the police (who had my car keys) had sprayed my car with a paralyzing spray. The police told me to go to OFI to get an appointment to return home. I went on the 21 August. At OFI, they took my photo and I signed a document that I was going home by plane. I was not given any other information. I was given a plane ticket and 300 EUR to return to Romania because I had been in France for more than three months. I had to sign three documents and I was not given a copy of any: the document I signed at the police station saying that I would leave the country in 30 days; a document confirming that I was leaving by plane at OFI; and another document at the airport in France upon receiving the 300 EUR. I flew to Timisoara where someone was waiting to take my boarding pass and a bus took me home for free.