

## **Attacks against Roma in Bulgaria: September 2011- July 2012**

The following is a list of 14 attacks against Roma and/or their property in the Bulgaria between September 2011 and July 2012. It was last updated: 31 July 2012.

This list of attacks is not exhaustive and does not address the State response to the attacks.

**This information is compiled from media reports. The ERRC has not independently verified all of the information contained in these reports and does not take any position as to the potential bias motivation of these attacks.**

Important Facts:

- at least three Romani individuals died following a violent incident;
- the attacks left at least 22 people, including a pregnant woman and two minors, with injuries;
- at least five Romani individuals had to be hospitalised after the attacks;
- in at least six cases Romani individuals were stabbed;
- in at least 17 cases Roma were beaten, including two minors;
- in one case shots were fired;
- in one case a bomb was used;

#### 14. Bomb kills Romani man

**Location:** Sandanski

**Date:** 29 June 2012

**Source:** [http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007\\_3517](http://www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3517)  
<http://www.monitor.bg/article?id=344664>

On the morning of 29 June 2012 a bomb exploded in front of the local headquarters of a Romani political party, Euroroma, fatally injuring 59-year-old Malin Iliev. On the day in question, Mr Iliev found a suspicious package and went to move it, when it blew up in his hands. He was hospitalised, but died a couple of days later. Investigations led to the arrest of four men who belong to local nationalist groups. According to media reports, they left letters at the party headquarters before the attack, expressing their hatred of Roma.

#### 13. Romani man shot dead by forest guard

**Location:** Edrevo

**Date:** 1 March 2012

<http://stznews.bg/romi-naletiaha-na-gorski-edin-e-zastrelian-6221.html>

**Source:** <http://www.dennews.bg/news/2012/3/2/6077-gorski-ubi-pri-samozashtita-ciganin-po-vreme-na-krajba>

A Romani man was shot and killed by a forest guard on 1 March 2012. According to media reports the forest guard stopped a group of Roma to check a cart of wood they had collected. The next events are unclear and there is limited information about what happened. Media reports suggest the group attacked the guard, who fired his weapon. The Romani individual died.

#### 12. Man assumed to be Romani killed with knife

**Location:** Krum (Dimitrovgrad region)

**Date:** 21 February 2012

**Source:** <http://www.hsmaritsa.com/haskovo/kasapint-ot-krum-ostava-v-aresta.html>  
<http://www.monitor.bg/article?id=328707>

On 21 February 2012, 21-year-old Stanimir Kolev fatally stabbed a 67-year-old vagrant of Bulgarian ethnic origin whom he believed to be Romani. Media reports suggest that Mr Kolev subscribes to Nazi ideology and that for some time before the incident he actively sought to locate and assault Romani individuals. He told police that he regretted not having served in the army because he would have had access to a military assault rifle and would have killed more Roma.

#### 11. Romani poet beaten

**Location:** Sofia

**Date:** 14 February 2012

**Source:** <http://www.blitz.bg/news/article/130807>  
[novanews.bg/news/view/2012/02/17/27080/Пребитият-поет-Христо-Христов-не-изпитва-омраза-зове-към-приятелство/](http://novanews.bg/news/view/2012/02/17/27080/Пребитият-поет-Христо-Христов-не-изпитва-омраза-зове-към-приятелство/)

On the evening of 14 February 2012 a 40-year-old Romani man, Hristo Hristov, was attacked outside the headquarters of a right wing Bulgarian extremist party. Mr Hristov is a well-known Romani poet and TV broadcaster. The victim was on the way home from a shop when three young men started to chase him. Mr Hristov was not able to escape and was knocked down by his attackers, who kicked and punched him. According to media reports, the attackers were wearing black jackets and boots and may have been skinheads. Later, a passing car sounded its horn, scaring the perpetrators away. After the attack, Mr Hristov managed to get home, where he lost consciousness and was hospitalised with several injuries.

#### 10. Three Romani men stabbed with pocket knife

**Location:** Gorna Oriahovitsa **Date:** 5 February 2012

**Source:** <http://regnews.net/newss/bg/2816>  
<http://www.bnews.bg/article-43555>

A 22-year-old man stabbed three Romani men on 5 February 2012. Before the incident, there had been a verbal conflict between a Romani customer and Bulgarian shopkeepers in a local butcher's shop. The shopkeeper's son later passed a venue where 50-60 Roma were celebrating a child's birthday. Here, the attacker tried to enter, but the partygoers did not allow him to come in. Other people became involved in the incident, and as a result three Romani men were stabbed with a pocket knife.

#### 9. Young Romani Man stabbed to death

**Location:** Velingrad **Date:** 15 January 2012

**Source:** <http://www.24chasa.bg/Article.asp?ArticleId=1190585>

On the night of 15 January 2012, Ivan Ivanov, a 22-year-old Romani man, was fatally stabbed. The murderer and the victim were having drinks with friends at tables next to each other at a local bar. One of the attacker's friends provoked a conflict, pointing to Mr Ivanov and his friends, insulting their ethnicity. Mr Barabankov is reported to have attacked Mr Ivanov, stabbing him in the chest. Mr Ivanov died shortly after. His friends fled and the attacker ran after them. According to news reports, the perpetrator accidentally stabbed himself during the pursuit and died before an ambulance arrived.

#### 8. Students attack Roma in front of a school

**Location:** Varna, Shishkova gradina area **Date:** 7 November 2011

**Source:** [http://dariknews.bg/view\\_article.php?article\\_id=786260](http://dariknews.bg/view_article.php?article_id=786260)

On 7 November 2011, in the Shishkova gradina area of Varna, four persons including two minors verbally and physically assaulted a 27-year-old Romani man, Angel Stanev Neychev. Mr Neychev was hospitalised for two days as a result of the attack.

## 7. Romani man attacked while walking home

**Location:** Sofia, Lyulin neighbourhood **Date:** 7 November 2011

**Source:** <http://www.blitz.bg/news/article/122122>  
<http://19min.bg/news/8/36093.html>

On the night of 7 November 2011, a 50-year-old Romani man, Nikolay Kolev, was attacked while walking home from work. A group of six or seven men are reported to have physically assaulted him.

## 6. Romani sanitation worker stabbed

**Location:** Sofia, Knyazhevo neighbourhood **Date:** 7 November 2011

**Source:** <http://bit.ly/J8cQXC>

On 7 November 2011, a man insulted and stabbed a 32-year-old Romani sanitation worker, Trayan Vasilev Stefanov, was insulted and stabbed. Mr Stefanov and his colleague were working when the attack happened. The perpetrator stopped his car in the front of their garbage truck and insulted the two workers, claiming that they blocked his way. Later, the attacker pulled a large knife from his car and stabbed Mr Stefanov, seriously injuring him. Mr Stefanov was hospitalised for three days and declared unfit for work for a period of 34 days.

## 5. Romani man and women attacked on bus

**Location:** Sofia, near Georgi Asparuhov stadium **Date:** 1 November 2011

**Source:** <http://bit.ly/KMRDOU>  
<http://www.vesti.bg/index.phtml?tid=40&oid=4272551>

At around 8:00 PM in on 1 November 2011, a dozen young men attacked a 27-year-old Romani student, Angel Nikolov, and a Romani woman of approximately 40 years of age on Sofia's bus no. 79. The perpetrators singled out the two victims and brutally beat them. Mr Nikolov tried to protect the woman and received most of the injuries. He was taken to hospital in critical condition. According to reports, the bus driver did not call the police and opened the doors at a red light giving the perpetrators an opportunity to escape.

## 4. Attack on group of Romani individuals

**Location:** Sofia, Mladost district **Date:** 19 October 2011

**Source:** <http://bit.ly/ITQDcV>

On 19 October 2011, four young men brutally attacked two Romani women and two Romani men on Sofia's bus no. 72 in the Mladost district. The attackers wore brass knuckles and hoods, shouting "dirty Gypsies" before the attack.

### 3. Romani father and son beaten

**Location:** Blagoevgrad

**Date:** 28 September 2011

**Source:** <http://bit.ly/KD4BNq>  
[http://bnt.bg/bg/news/view/61179/naprejenie\\_v\\_blagoevgrad\\_mejdu\\_romi\\_i\\_bylgari](http://bnt.bg/bg/news/view/61179/naprejenie_v_blagoevgrad_mejdu_romi_i_bylgari)

Following an anti-Roma demonstration on the evening of 28 September 2011, a dozen youth attacked two individuals of Romani origin, 36-year-old Kostadin Todorov and his 20-year-old son Tsvetan Todorov, while they were posting posters in the city centre. The attackers hit them in the head with brass knuckles. The victims managed to escape and rushed back to a Romani settlement in the Predel neighbourhood.

### 2. Romani minors attacked

**Location:** Burgas

**Date:** 26 September 2011

**Source:** [chernomorskifar.com/704/двама-задържани-за-„циганите-на-сапун](http://chernomorskifar.com/704/двама-задържани-за-„циганите-на-сапун)

On 26 September 2011, two Romani minors studying in the ninth grade were beaten on their way home from school in Burgas. Following a series of incidents involving anti-Roma protesters, Romani families did not allow their children to go to school and were afraid to go to work.

### 1. Group of five Roma, including a pregnant woman, attacked

**Location:** Burgas

**Date:** 25 September 2011

**Source:** <http://www.24chasa.bg/Article.asp?ArticleId=1053339>  
<http://www.burgasnews.com/burgas/intzidenti/47676-naprezhenie-v-kvpobeda-romite-stoyat-v-kashtite-si-vaorazheni-s-bradvi-i-nozhove>  
<http://www.blitz.bg/news/article/118929>

On 25 September 2011, a group of 30 to 40 persons, allegedly belonging to a skinhead group, assaulted a group of five Roma, one of whom was pregnant. The attack took place following an anti-Roma rally organised on Facebook.