

ROMA RIGHTS FORUM “ARKA”

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The Balkan Trust for
Democracy

FORUMI ROMANE NIJAMENGO“ARKA”



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Monthly Report for the situation of the Roma Rights in Macedonia (February 2010)

The Roma Rights Forum “ ARKA” with the help of Balkan Trust Democracy started with permanent following of the situation of the Roma in Macedonia , making monthly reports distributed to all relevant institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations which take care for the protection of the human rights. The project will be in touch with the Institutions and will inform them and the medias about cases with elements of offending the human rights.

1. POLICE CASES

1.1 Police Abuse

2. Roma Decade

2.1. Is Roma Decade implemented in Macedonia?



1. Police cases

1.1 - Police abuse of official capacity

This month an unpleasant event occurred in Kriva Palanka . On 26 February 2010 at 4:30 am in the home of the person with initials M.K (44) “Edinstvo “ street in Kriva Palanka a group of policemen in civil uniforms and people from the special unit Alfi searched the entire house and the houses of his brothers.

First they attempted to enter into the apartment of his son who lived on the first floor with his wife. He told the policemen that he would not open the door before he asked his father if he could open the door because his father is the owner of the house. The police told him that they had a warrant to search the house and then they entered the house by force. First they searched the house of the son of M. K (44) who lived with his wife and she was pregnant. She was sleeping when the police broke into their apartment and the other group of policemen searched the upper floor where his other son lived.

At the door inspector appeared with armed police officers with a warrant to search the house issued by the judge A.D who was acting on the request from the person P.S from Kriva Palanka with the charge and suspicion of Smuggling and Custom Fraud and compelled him to sign. He had no other choice but to sign it and to let them into his apartment .They woke up and upset his wife, son and daughter in law and made a mess in the apartment they continued in the neighboring houses of his brothers.

His daughter in law got sick and because she was pregnant they took her to the hospital. The situation was very shocking and stressful. Then the police entered in the house of his brother M.K (37). When M.K heard the noise he went out to see what was happening and he saw his brother with a group of policemen. He asked what the problem was and they told him that they had a warrant to search his house. They entered his house and were very loud made a mess.

M.K (37) asked them not to enter into the child's room because the children were sleeping, but they entered the room hitting hard the door. The youngest child woke up and started crying. Then the child fainted.

After the police searched the house and found nothing they ordered M.K to open his car. M.K left with the policemen and his nephew took his child to the doctor because he fainted two times and his condition worsened. The doctor said that the child was under strong stress and was very frightened and pale. This condition lasted about 2 hours.

After the police finished with the search of the houses at 8:00 am, M.K asked them to give him minute book for the inspection done. But they refused to give him a minute book and told him to go to the police station and ask the minute book from the Inspector.

Who should be responsible for this act, who should be blamed and punished for the damaged, the stress that the family suffered?

The victims of this violence asked our organization "ARKA" for help, so we submitted complaints to SVKP and the Public Prosecution and asked them to solved the case properly.

2. Roma Decade

2.1. Is Roma Decade implemented in Macedonia?

Macedonia must be seriously committed to solving the problems of the Roma as its citizens and residents, in almost all areas under the National Strategy for Roma and Action Plans from the Decade of including Roma from 2005-2015.

Education is the only area where serious efforts are made and Roma feel the results. These efforts should continue until Roma become equal to other people. Poverty should be a priority and it affects all other areas.

Republic of Macedonia in 1999 adopted the Strategy for Poverty Reduction, but the results of its implementation are not felt throughout the country including the Roma Community. Thus, this Strategy must be reviewed and implemented, and including the target groups in its implementation could improve the results. Housing and employment should be the next priorities, again because of the position of the Roma and it links these areas to areas like education, access to justice, the achievement of human rights etc...

Although Roma people are not considered priority, preventing discrimination and reducing the prejudices against Roma can have a big influence in improving the

situation of Roma. Preventing discrimination is an area in which according to the research the situation has worsened or stayed the same on local level.

At the same time there is a lack of systematic solutions for prevention and protection from discrimination and promoting equality. The state should establish a framework for combating discrimination, and furthermore, municipalities and other actors to take measures in accordance with the established mechanisms and instruments. Education, in which there are improvements, must remain priority because the educational difference between Roma and non-Roma has not yet been overcome.

Roma health also remains a priority. At the municipal level, major results can be noticed in education, and priorities are similar to those at the national level.

Much more work outdoor is needed, so that Roma can be informed of how public policies are implemented for their benefit and for the specific activities that could be included. Not being informed is problematic in relation to the National Strategy for Roma. In this area it is mostly expected from the Roma Information Centers set up precisely for this purpose, as well as municipalities, civil society and political parties.

Generally, within the policies and actions of the state and municipalities to improve the situation of Roma, especially in the Roma Decade 2005-2015, more effective system of information, consultation with the Roma community and monitoring of changes is needed.