

ROMA RIGHTS FORUM "ARKA"

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FORUMI ROMANE NIJAMENGORO"ARKA"



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Monthly Report for the situation of the Roma Rights in Macedonia (July 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

Death under suspicious circumstances

A 19 year old boy Ramis Amet from Kavadarci died under very strange and mysterious circumstances in the prison in Gevgelija.

The boy was detained by police on July 30 after he reported to the police station and voluntarily consented to serve the projected prison sentence of three months for theft.

Several days earlier, on Thursday, before Amet was arrested by police officers, as evident from his friends, witnesses, the boy was brutally beaten by two policemen in the yard of the kinder garden in Vatasa. With stalls, kicks and batons the child had been serious injured to body and head. The older brother claims that Ramis was all swollen from physical abuse, and traces of police violence can be seen from the photo taken the day before the arrest, on which Ramis face is bleeding and his body is all in bruises.

The Police center in Veles stated that Ramis Amet was detained properly on July 30 with charge of serious theft, sentenced to prison terms of 3 months he had to serve in prison in Gevgelija. The boy was in prison at 13:00 and immediately was determined that he was addicted to methadone and he was taken the Center for Prevention and Treatment of Drug Abuse in Gevgelija where he was prescribed methadone therapy.

The commander of the jail claims that first morning of August he went to wake Amet up, because it was time for breakfast and then he found the boy in bed fainted with significant

respiratory distress. Immediately the boy was taken to hospital in Gevgelija, and from there forwarded to Emergency Center in Skopje and there he died. The dead body of Ramis was taken to an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

Late that day on Sunday his parents and his family went to visit his son in the prison Institution and there they were told that the boy is not there and that he was taken in the Emergency Center in Skopje. After a while the elder son was informed Ramis died. The parents were shocked and in tears said that Ramis was detained in a proper psychophysical health, but suspect that during the road to prison was physically beaten brutally by the police and then he complained of pains and they gave him methadone. The family denied that he was addicted to drugs.

Parents say that the dead body of their son was all covered with bruises and traces of physical violence.

On 08.02.2010 on Monday a protest was organized before the police station in Kavdarci as a reaction to the police action and the Macedonian public about the case of Ramis Amet who died on 01.08.2010 on Sunday under extremely mysterious circumstances in prison in Gevgelija.

We call on all relevant institutions, the Ministry of Interior, the sector for internal control standards and police to carefully and seriously investigate the case and take all necessary measures to highlight in detail the circumstances under which the young boy Ramis Amet died on August 1 in the prison in Gevgelija

2. HOUSING

Life Outdoors

Government with all its institutions are committed to overcoming the problems with the neighbors for the integration of state in the euro-Atlantic structures, forgetting that first it should be provided basic living conditions of its citizens.

Despite signing a contract for implementation of the Decade of Roma in which four main segments are listed, the main priority was the needs of the Roma families who live throughout the state under the open sky.

Such is the case in New Lisice, a settlement in Skopje where a group of Roma with their families remained in the open with their children after the demolition of their tents in which they lived in miserable conditions without the basic living conditions.

The council without providing any accommodation of Roma families destroyed their tents without taking any care for their minor children who were left outdoors in conditions of high temperatures and other weather conditions with the possibility of danger from infectious diseases. The only thing the government cares for is the implementation of urban planning and construction of facilities which will lead to new cash money and filling their coffers.

After the reaction of a Roma NGO the case was publicized in several private media about the problem of Roma families and the Ministry of Labor and Social policy announced that they will take actions in solving this problem.

Much of the younger members of these families are not registered in the registry of births and there is a problem for the identification of those persons. We have informed many times before the representatives of relevant institutions to overcome this problem with registration which a long time is a reality in our country and should be solved as soon as possible.

To overcome such problems in state, the government should act through its institutions to solve such problems of the Roma and to find ways to overcome them through providing any financial and other support to families which are left on their own to fight poverty in the country and with a lack of basic living conditions there.