

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 (June 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. Health

A woman gave birth and escaped from the hospital because she didn't have money to pay

In pajamas with the newborn son in her arms a woman in childbed of Delcevo escaped from the hospital with no documents and health insurance, fearing that she would have to pay about 10,000 Euros for delivery. She escaped from the maternity hospital without the necessary checks and dismissal list of the doctors.

The Fear of payment was greater than her own health care and the healthy of her baby. Thus, the woman in childbed risked her live and they live of the newborn, but fortunately, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy hard 3 kg and 400 grams and immediately after the birth the baby has received all required vaccines, according to the Health House Delcevo. The problem with health insurance, among the Roma population is one of the biggest problems, many Roma have no health insurance because they have no additional documents for identification. They do not possess birth certificates, the marriage certificate, have no permanent housing and can not overcome administrative barriers to reach them.

Such cases are not rare throughout the state, especially in cities where there is a greater concentration of Roma (Skopje, Kumanovo, Prilep, Stip) as a result of lack of personal

documents they lack a health insurance.

There are many such cases of women in childbed who escape from the hospital as well as cases of childbirth with a health card of another person and after that there are complications to prove motherhood later when the real mother should be entered in the birth certificates of the child.

With our efforts over the past five years to solve this problem of personal documentation we encountered an insufficient cooperation by the competent institutions about the personal documents of citizens. These institutions want to solve these problems, but nothing is actually taken seriously to find such persons who do not have documentation or are not enrolled in the registry of births.

The extremely poor social situation of many Roma led to such phenomena that many times it resulted in certain legal sanctions and additional aggravating the situation of such persons.

We appeal to the competent state institutions to take serious measures to registries such persons and to provide them with documentation as soon as possible, so that they can acquire rights for treatment, social protection and other rights as belonging to all citizens.

2. Housing

Life under the bridge

Half of the period has passed which was provided for the implementation of the Roma Decade when the government signed an agreement to implement it, but nothing really happened after that. The expectations of Roma that something will change in their lives, thinking that their conditions will be improved, they will be employed and that the state will meet their needs and will solve problems in everyday life are destroyed. Nothing really changed and Roma are still on the same level; everywhere can be seen Roma begging on the streets and living in the ruined and abandoned buildings.

One such case is an example of Rakipovski Demir and his sister, who have long lived under a bridge near the railway station in Skopje. Conditions for life of these people were disastrous, none of the state institutions helped these people. The health of Demir was very bad, his leg was all in wounds and it was bleeding, he had no bread to eat and he didn't have money to see a doctor to treat his leg. Because of the lack of hygienic conditions there was a danger that the leg of Demir will be infected and also many other complications can occur.

But with the help of Macedonian Roma NGOs and media organizations, the case of Demir was published and the Macedonian public heard about the case. It was requested an assistance from the Centre for Social Affairs to take appropriate measures for care of these two Roma in some of the centers of accommodation and to give them the necessary Health Protection. For this activity to be realized it needs to take several days for observing the procedure, and

after several days they were located and were provided with health care.

There are many Roma who are in this situation and have no roof on their heads, but the institutions in the state do not taken any actions to improve this state of the Roma. Despite having the opportunity twice in the provision of public housing, some of them could have be given to Roma who are under social care but this didn't happen. .

The troubles of Roma continue who are facing the difficult and painstaking life for survival of their families, but we hope that finally the state will take their obligations and living conditions of Roma will be improved.