

ROMA RIGHTS FORUM “ARKA”

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The Balkan Trust for
Democracy

FORUMI ROMANE NIJAMENGORO”ARKA”



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Monthly Report for the situation of the Roma Rights in Macedonia (March 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 Violent entry of the Alfa (mobile police team)

1.2. Three year old boy disappeared



1. Police cases

1.1 Violent entry of the Alfa (mobile police team)

Another accident happened in the region of Kriva Palanka at the end of February. On February 26, in the early morning at about 4:30 on “Edinstvo” street in Kriva Palanka a group of police officers in camouflaged uniforms and civilian persons and special units of Alfie , did a search in

the houses of a few citizens by the order of PC from Kriva Palanka on charges about criminal smuggling and customs fraud.

First, the police broke into the house of people with initials M.K (44) on the first floor where his son lives with his pregnant wife, and later did a search on the top floor and continued in the neighboring houses.

After Sh.K, the son of M.K refused to let them in, they threatened that they had a charge to search the house and if he does not let them in they will break in the house. Then they entered by force and made a mess in the house. Another group searched the top floor. From this violent turmoil his wife got sick and she was taken to hospital. After they found nothing they left the house and they visited the house of his brother M.K (37) and although M.K told them that the kids were sleeping they broke in the house and make a violent turmoil so one of the kids woke up and started crying. The kid even fainted and was taken to hospital because he survived a shock.

After they searched the house and found nothing they took M .K with them to open his car. After the search was finished, which lasted about 3 hours, they left. The people shaken by this incident they asked our organization for legal help. After interviewing the victims Arka filled complaints and sent them to appropriate legal institutions to review the case and to warn the responsible officials about their violent and careless relation towards the persons while performing their duty.

1.2. Three year old boy disappeared

Two weeks have past and still there are not any traces or information about the little boy Dani Memedi who disappeared the last month from his house in the settlement Sredorek. According to the initial information on Saturday, 27 March 2010 the little boy was lost off the coast of the river Kumanovka. The disappearance was reported by his father on 27 March at 8:00 pm. Last, the child was seen playing in the yard of the house of his grandmother who lived in the neighborhood near the river Kumanovka.

Neighbors said that the kid was playing with the cart of his grandmother who is disabled. The parents of the kid reported to the police that the kid might have fallen in the river. The family and the neighbors immediately searched the village but there was no trace of the boy. The family rejected the speculations that the kid might have been kidnapped and they asked relevant institutions to intensify the search. The search involved several teams of police but until now the search seems unsuccessful. Now the parents fear that the kid has drowned in the river in the same way when a child from their neighborhood drowned several years ago.

The family is bitterly unhappy of the indifferent attitude and the delayed reaction of the police who did not immediately hire a special diving team to search the river. The police justification was that the dispatch of the special teams on the ground depended upon the decision of the Department of searching in the Ministry of Interior.

The question is why waiting so long for a decision in such an important situation like this? This is another case when the police remains deaf and does not care to help people in situations like this one.