

Monthly Report for the situation of the Roma Rights in Macedonia (September 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. Occurrence

Mass departure of Roma in the EU countries

Economic situation in Macedonia each day becomes worse and the citizens are found in a difficult economic situation so they forced themselves to provide a livelihood that many find it difficult to provide.

As a vulnerable group of citizens, the Roma population and their sole existence is that they are paid minimum cash funds by the social affairs, and this small amount of money can not meet their basic needs.

Relief from poverty which reigns among this population is the option of leaving the country in the EU countries and seeking of economic asylum.

To achieve this goal, they are forced to sell their modest household, to provide the means for their departure from Macedonia.

A good part of the Roma families that consist of more members are forced to sell their decrepit houses to buy bus tickets that give them hope that after their departure they will find better living conditions for their families.

Day by day the number of Roma who leave the country is increasing and Government and its institutions should ask themselves what to do with this phenomenon and take steps to help the Roma in the country to reduce poverty.

The hope that something will be done is very small but the government and its institutions under the urgent need should take the necessary measures to improve the state's economy if they want to keep their people in the country.

2. Police cases

Protest of the parents of drowned Zemail Iseni

On 09.05.2010 in Kocani happened a tragedy in which life loses a nineteen years old Zemail Iseni, a Roma boy from the same town in the channel of the lake Kalimanci that passes through the city and which is near the high school.

After the official statement of the police and investigating judge the case is locked as accident, which due to slipping of the boy it resulted in falling in the swift waters of the channel.

But parents do not accept this report because they suspect at his comrades who were present at the event and had deliberately pushed him because there was a fight earlier in the school yard with one of them.

Parents say that the police did not lead a thorough investigation of the case nor questioned all witnesses of the event which raised suspicion among them that their child is killed and someone hides it.

At the request of the parents ARKA was involved in the case and started using all the appeal mechanisms which the law allows such a procedure in order to back the whole procedure and to take a broader investigation into the case, which will contribute the parents no longer to have a doubt in the matter.

