

Roma minority in Belarus

When we are talking about Roma rights in Belarus, we can't separate Roma population from other Belarusian citizens. Roma community exposing all human rights violations.

The biggest problem for Roma people in Belarus is unemployment. Committee of nations and religions affairs gives number of unemployment Roma people in 93% from total capacity for work Roma people. Last year we prepared letter to Ministry of Employer in which we ask to pay attention for this colossal problem. We received answer that Ministry of Employ didn't see anything strange. We see situation even Roma people with higher education looking for job they received only refusals from government.

The second problems for Roma people are education problems. More than 80% didn't finish secondary school. In school Roma kids exposed with discrimination and intolerant relations from other kids and from teachers. Mostly discrimination in secondary school is crucial reason why Roma kids decided to stop studies in school. Education program which prepared and approved by Ministry of education didn't adopt for kids from national and religion minorities. This program didn't taking into account specifics of national and religion traditions. Higher education is popular between Roma youth but there is a big discrimination against Roma in education rights. Often examination committees didn't want to accept applications from Roma youngsters, a lot of events when Roma youth was disallowed to pass exams for study free of charge. But when same Roma youngsters graduate to university on commercial conditions (when young men will pay for study) they pass exams and graduate successfully.

Last year we send letter to Ministry of Education and ask Belarusian government to open Roma School or Roma classes. We were very wondered because Belarusian politic and a lot of Non government organization support this idea. Belarusian Public Front addressed special supporting letter to Ministry of Education. We received a lot letters from Belarusian opposition political movement, from international organizations, but until now we didn't received answer on our own Belarusian government.

There is a problem with conservation of Roma culture and Roma heritage. In Belarus absenting any exhibition which dedicated for Roma culture, Roma history. When Belarusian's want to know more about Roma they haven't possibility to received information because there are no information about Roma. We send proposal to Belarusian Ministry of Culture and ask Belarusian government to open first exhibition dedicated Roma culture. We didn't received answer until now. Committee of nations and religions affairs ignoring Roma problems, turn they eye's blind for Roma requests.

Last year Belarusian government demonstrates film which consist only negative information against Roma people. I right complain on it but Belarusian government didn't want to punish author of this film. Prosecutor officer didn't find in this film violation against Roma dignity. I try to remained entitle of this film. The name of this film was "Gypsy caravan going to jail". I think everything is clear about contents which emanating from entitle.

A lot of newspapers and government TV calumniating on Roma and extort facts for biggest circulation. It's a root of prejudice and delusions against Roma. But Ministry of Information never initiated cases when in concerning Roma questions.

Right now is big activity of nationalists and fascists. The main target for them is Roma. The longest street in Minsk is in fascist's stickers which appeal to expel Roma people, Muslims from Belarus. But government didn't pay attention on it. Right now I send letter to Belarusian government to prevent fascist expansion.

Last year I with activists from national minorities right letter to President Lukashenko in which we ask him to prevent violation against Anshelika Boris, elected chief of stuff of Polish Union, and discrimination against Polish community. As a result I and 4 activists from national minorities received official warnings from prosecutor offices. In this case our government hearing us.

In august 2005 leaders and national minorities activists assemble together to discuss about daily problems. As a result I was detected by police and I spend not very pleasant 3 hours in police station. During this detection police print my fingers, made pictures without premises.

After 3 hours I was free and nobody apologized. In this situation Belarusian government have excellent hearing but when we looking for someone from Belarusian government when we asking to solve our problems we hearing silence.

As a conclusion I want to say that Roma in Belarus have same problems as Roma in EU but in EU local government doing a lot to solve Roma problems because EU government respect human rights. Concerning Belarus, when you ignoring ache it doesn't mean that you have excellent health.

I want to ask more attention from international community for national minorities right in Belarus. Without yours attention nothing can happens.

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