

**ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, Poland
2-11 October 2006
Questions for the session 15**

**Tolerance and non discrimination II
Roma/Sinti; Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for Roma and Sinti Issues**

Romani CRISS¹ address the following questions to the Romanian Delegation:

1. Police

In 2006, an increased number of Police abuse actions within Roma community have been signaled by non governmental organization working in the field of human rights in Romania. Romani CRISS considered that incidents of police brutality in Roma communities are becoming phenomena: January 2006- Chitila, Bucharest, May 2006 –Gepiu, Oradea, August 2006- Bontida, Cluj Napoca.

On 7th September 2006, in the afternoon, a 54 old woman was sweeping in the front yard of her house when a Special Force policeman shot her in the back. As result of Police and Special Forces' intervention in Reghin, Apalina neighborhood inhabited mainly by Roma, there are 36 Roma and 1 non-Roma victims. **Seventeen (17)** of them are women and **five (5)** minors. Twenty-two (22) persons have been shot and 15 hit or gun threatened.

Mr. Vasile Blaga, the Minister of Administration and Interior declared in the newsletter no. 613/19.09.2006 that the policemen "*defended themselves in order to avoid being seriously injured or even lynched*".

Question:

Considering the articles no 16, 27 and 29 of the OSCE Action Plan on improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area and the art 31 of the OSCE Istanbul Summit Declaration, 1999 and

Noting the denial at top level of the abuses committed by some of the police forces can constitute an important barrier in acknowledging the illegality of such behaviors:

We are kindly asking the Romanian Government to provide information about the involvement of the state representatives, especially the representatives of the Ministry of Administration and Interior in raising awareness at all levels about the illegality of police forces interventions in Roma communities, from criminal and administrative point of view.

¹ As an organization that militates for the defense and promotion of human rights, Romani CRISS has documented and intervened in cases of torture, violence and abuse committed by law enforcement officials, as well as cases of discrimination and abuse in the field of education, health or housing in Romania.

We would like to draw your attention to the States Delegations present at the HD Meeting on the situation of Roma, especially in South Eastern Europe countries.

2. Housing

Romani CRISS expresses its concern regarding the existence of certain patterns of discrimination or abuse on housing and living conditions of Roma population in Romania like the Miercurea Ciuc, Zalau, Plugarilor street in Tulcea, and Mangalia, cases which affected almost 800 Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity.

International human rights bodies such as European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and the European Commission recommended to Romanian authorities, to take necessary steps to ensure that members of the Roma community have access to decent housing.

Noting that the OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area has no recommendations addressing the evictions of Roma,

Question:

We are kindly asking the Romania Government to provide information about the penalties imposed on local government officials who engage in discriminatory practices against Roma in the area of housing.