

**SPEECH OF DIRECTOR OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION “INSTITUTE OF LEGAL POLICY AND SOCIAL  
PROTECTION NAMED AFTER IRINA BEREZHNYAYA” ELENA  
BEREZHNYAYA**

**AT THE PLENARY MEETING**

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 (10 am -13 am)**

**(TOPIC: ROMA AND SINTI PEOPLE)**

Our Institute monitors facts of violations and infringement of rights and freedoms in Ukraine since 2014 (in particular, incidents associated with crimes committed against the Roma and Sinti people).

In 2018-2019, number of various right-wing organizations attacks on Roma and representatives of other nationalities significantly increased.

On April 21, 2018, the neo-Nazis from “C14” group destroyed and burned down a Roma camp located on Lysaya Gora in Kiev.

On May 9, 2018, nationalists burned a Roma camp in Rudnoye village near city of Lviv.

In the evening of May 22, 2018, right-wing radicals attacked a tent Roma camp near the city of Ternopol. Right-wing radicals used firearms in course of the attack.

On May 27, 2018, in Kiev, activists representing various ultra-right organizations in staged a beating of Caucasian and Turkish delis at one of Kiev markets located near Lesnaya subway station.

On June 7, 2018, young men from the “National Militia” not only destroyed Roma homes in the Goloseevsky Park in Kiev, but invited Kiev’s mass media outlets to witness this action.

On the night of June 23-24, 2018, a group of Nazis attacked a Roma village located at the outskirts of Lviv: one of its residents, a 23-year-old native of the Transcarpathian region – stabbed to death, another 4-year-old boy, two 19-year-old boys and a 30-year-old woman hospitalized with severe injuries.

In August 2019, the Peremyshlyansky District Court of Lviv region found guilty, but waived punishment and released two detainees who took part in attack on Transcarpathian Roma camp in the city of Lviv in June 2018.

On October 23, 2018, nationalists dispersed Roma camp located near Kiev railway station.

The year of 2019 witnesses continuation of similar unlawful acts against Roma and representatives of other nationalities. The law enforcement officers frequently do not interfere or prevent such crimes.

Based on the foregoing, I ask the organizers of this meeting add data on numerous hate crimes in Ukraine against Roma and Sinti people to the General Resolution.

All participants who wish to receive the monitoring report on violations of rights and freedoms in Ukraine and on infringement on access to justice in 2014-2019 can contact me after conclusion of the Plenary Meeting.