

For immediate press release

Hunger strike caused by non-observance of ECHR judgments

By the friendly settlement in the case of Moldovan and others v. Romania (5 July 2005), Kalanyos and others v. Romania (26 April 2007) and Gergely v. Romania (26 April 2007), the European Court of Human Right took notice of Romanian Government's declaration according to which the Government committed itself to adopting general measures with the purpose of combating discrimination, following that the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to monitor the observance of this commitment.

In the first case, there was a project elaborated at level of Hadareni village, but not finalized, as the Government repeatedly blocked the funds allocated to this purpose (thus, so far, the main objective of the project, namely the reconstruction of the destroyed houses and creation of job offers was not accomplished by the Government of Romania); in the second and third case the Romanian Government abandoned the projects claiming that the mayor of Plaiesii de Jos locality would oppose them.

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, although informed by the situation, did not undertake any measure.

As I was involved in solving these cases and I saw that the Governments of Romania since 1993 till present have repeatedly lied the Roma people in Hadareni and the Romanian and international public opinion, I decided to go on hunger strike in order to obtain the observance of ECHR's judgments. My action does not concern only the victims in these cases, but all the persons on Romanian soil which may become victims of authorities' abuses and which need the protection provided by the European Convention on Human Rights. If the European Council allows Romania not to respect the ECHR's judgments, our rights are not really protected.

I shall go off the hunger strike if:

1. Government of Romania

a) allocates the entire amount of money remained unspent in Hadareni project for the reconstruction of houses and creation of job offers for the victims, with the firm promise that these funds would not be blocked again and could be of use until the mid of year 2009, when the project is completely finalized;

b) allocates a fund four times larger than the one in Hadareni project for the two projects in Plaiesii de Jos locality ((Caşinul Nou and Plăieşii de Sus),

or

2. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe takes concrete measures to sanction Romania for not observing the ECHR judgments.

Comitetul de Miniştri al Consiliul Europei ia măsuri concrete de sancţionare a României pentru nerespectarea hotărârilor CEDO.

I please note that in order to protect my health, I shall take one tablet of multivitamins per day and ½ liter of yoghourt or buttermilk.

Also note that this action, of which I will inform the press and some embassies periodically, has no connection with my current status of member in the Steering Committee of the National Council for Combating Discrimination, as Secretary of State.

Haller István