

TIME RECEIVED	REMOTE CSID	DURATION	PAGES	STATUS
October 8, 2015 3:42:27 PM GMT+02:00	0041227980302	71	3	Received
08/10/2015 16:11	0041227980302	MISSION DE BULGARIE		PAGE 01/03

ПОСТОЯННО ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛСТВО НА  
РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ ПРИ СЛУЖБАТА НА ООН И  
ДРУГИТЕ МЕЖДУНАРОДНИ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ В ЖЕНЕВА



MISSION PERMANENTE DE  
LA REPUBLIQUE DE BULGARIE AUPRES DE L'ONU ET  
LES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE

№ 452

**Ms. Rita Izsak,**  
**UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues**  
**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**Geneva**

8 October, 2015

Dear Ms. Rita Izsak,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the information provided by the Bulgarian authorities in response to your request, dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015, regarding eviction orders against sixty-one romani householders from the Maksuda Roma settlement in Mladost sub-municipality of Varna.

We would like to underline, regarding the housing situation of Roma in Bulgaria, that there has been certain progress, but challenges remain. Hardly an overall success story could be reported in any country addressing the incremental Roma inclusion, as the search for solid solution is a long-term process. However, efforts would persist and Bulgaria is committed to pursue a better perspective for its Roma population based on the rule of law, democracy and human rights.

At the same time, the situation of Roma is not an issue that could be solved in the framework of bilateral or even intra-European relations. It is a matter of enhancing social inclusion and the fair distribution of the burden of responsibilities.

*Annex: in accordance with the text – 2 pages*

Please accept, Ms. Izsak, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Ivan Piperkov**

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative**



**INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES IN RESPONSE TO  
THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY MRS. RITA IZSAK, UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON  
MINORITY ISSUES, REGARDING EVICTION ORDERS AGAINST SIXTY-ONE ROMANI  
HOUSEHOLDS FROM THE MAKSUDA ROMA SETTLEMENT IN MLADOST SUB-  
MUNICIPALITY OF VARNA**

As stated in our previous communication, the Constitution and the legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria prohibit racial discrimination in the most categorical manner. Bulgaria has proven to be a reliable and responsible partner, upholding its international obligations.

In reference to the specific inquiry, we would like to inform you of the following:

Fifty-eight orders to remove illegal constructions within the Municipality of Varna were issued, out of which 46 are executed, whereas **all legal requirements have been met**. The orders were issued on the basis of the Spatial Planning Act, to be put into practice by the Mayor of Varna Municipality and the Mayor of Mladost sub-municipality.

**All interested parties have been informed, but none of them appealed within the legally established time limit and the orders entered in force.**

Concerning child protection and placement of adults with disabilities and those in vulnerable positions who inhabit the buildings up for demolition, a letter has been sent to the Director of Directorate "Social support" Varna with a request to undertake relevant actions.

Mladost sub-municipality **notified** all persons concerned, including the legal representatives of minors, for the upcoming demolition.

Teams of social workers, psychologists and mediators have been on the ground, advising on the possibilities for accommodation in social institutions. **All affected persons were proposed accommodation in social institutions of the municipality of Varna.**

Temporary shelters are currently housing 77 children and 58 adults. The main goal is for children not to be separated from their parents. Bedding, hygiene products, food and clothing are available. The Municipality of Varna has the capacity to accommodate more people, if needed.

Experts, social and health workers, psychologists, mediators, and representatives of the Bulgarian Red Cross have been dispatched to the grounds and have worked extensively to offer **suitable accommodation possibilities** for everyone and inform about the possibilities for one-time **financial assistance** from Varna Municipality. Numerous consultations have been held to help the persons in the Maksuda settlement with **papers, employment, accommodation, access to education and municipal facilities**, etc.

Under the Bulgarian legislation, places for relocation of evicted persons are not envisaged.

It should also be taken into account that most of these buildings were set up on **public municipal property**, which is against the law.

Finally, the issue with the implementation of eviction orders is on a local level and thus cannot be taken as an example for the Government's policy on a central level. Bulgaria's efforts in the area of integration of the Roma minority have been consistent and are constantly evolving. Our efforts will continue, in line with the national legislation, the international obligations and the highest human rights standards.