

URGENT ACTION

STOP IMMINENT FORCED EVICTION IN FRANCE

More than 200 Roma, including around 50 children, living in an informal settlement near Bobigny in the north eastern suburbs of Paris, are at high risk of being evicted in the next 48 hours despite the High Court in Bobigny declaring in July that there was no urgent need to carry out the eviction.

According to available information, the forced eviction will be carried out in the next 48 hours. To date, only one third of the settlement's occupants have been provided with alternative housing solutions. Those most adversely affected include families with children who attend school in Bobigny. The forced eviction will render many occupants homeless, including families with very young children as well as elderly or sick members.

According to the authorities, the eviction is justified on the basis of safety concerns, in particular regarding the electrical supply. In February 2014, a fire destroyed part of the informal settlement and killed a child. However, the authorities failed to address or improve the safety of the settlement.

On 5 August a social assessment was carried out. However, many families who currently live in the settlement were away when it was carried out, as it was during the school holidays. As a result, many of the families were not consulted prior to the eviction and their needs have not been taken into account. In addition, most of the alternative housing solutions proposed by authorities are inadequate, as they rely on accommodating families in residences designed for single migrant workers and are located hundreds of kilometres away from Bobigny, making it impossible for the children to pursue their education in the schools where they are currently enrolled.

The lack of adequate consultation and adequate alternative housing solutions fails to meet international human rights standards on the rights to adequate housing and the prohibition of forced evictions. Any eviction of the settlement will result in further human rights violations, and undermine the positive progress made over the last months to integrate these families into the community.

Please write immediately in French, English or your own language:

- Urging the Prefect to stop the forced eviction of all the families living in the settlement who have not received or accepted alternative housing solutions;
- Urging them to carry out a new social assessment in genuine consultation with all the affected families, in order to establish adequate alternative housing solutions;
- Improving the material conditions of the settlement, including by improving the safety of the electric supply, to guarantee the safety of the settlement's occupants until they can be resettled in adequate housing, under an agreed resettlement action plan.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 DECEMBER 2014 TO:

Préfet de la Seine Saint Denis

M. Philippe Galli

Préfet de Seine Saint Denis

1, Esplanade Jean Moulin

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Fax: +33 1 48 30 2288 Email:

prefecture@seine-saint-denis.gouv.fr

philippe.galli@seine-saint-denis.gouv.fr

Salutation: Monsieur le Préfet

Madame la Déléguée du Préfet

Mme Khadija David

1 esplanade Jean Moulin

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Salutation: Madame la Déléguée du

Préfet

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 2 July 2014 the High Court of Bobigny highlighted that the eviction would violate the right to family life of the occupants of the informal settlement, considering that no alternative housing solutions had been devised and concluded that there was no urgency in carrying out the eviction.

Name: 200 Roma inhabitants, including around 50 children

Gender m/f: Both

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