

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
3-5-11 ROPPONGI MINATO-KU
TOKYO 106-0032 JAPAN
TEL: +81-3-3586-7447 FAX: +81-3-3586-7462
EMAIL: imadris@imadr.org <http://www.imadr.org>



UN OFFICE
150 ROUTE DE FERNEY, C.P. 2100,
CH-1211 GENEVA 2, SWITZERLAND
TEL: +41-22-791-6263 FAX: +41-22-791-6480
EMAIL: imadr@imadr.org

THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

IMADR Oral Statement, Human Rights Council 15th Session

Item 9: Interactive Dialogue with SR racism

28 September 2010

Mr. President,

IMADR, on behalf of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, welcomes the reports of the SR on racism and express its support to Mr. Muigai's efforts in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In recognition of the seriousness of the issues and challenges posed by extremist political parties, movements and groups, as documented in his report on the implementation of GA resolutions 63/162 and 64/147, we are highly concerned about growing trends of discrimination, discriminatory acts and incitement thereof in different regions of the world. These incidents in most cases target specific groups such as migrants or minority groups who are improperly blamed for existing problems such as unemployment and/or insecurity. The situation becomes even more alarming, when derogatory statements are made by public figures, especially politicians, who, as the Special Rapporteur notes, attract the attention of large audiences and have greater influence on the public debate, hence can encourage discrimination and violence creating a climate of fear.

In this context we are particularly concerned by the situation of Roma people in France, where careless public pronouncements have incorrectly ascribed "crimes" to them. The systematic dismantling of their camps and their collective deportation have been often carried out in a particularly inhumane and discriminatory fashion. Labelling the Roma as "security risks" stigmatises the entire Sinti and Roma community and follows the common practice of extremist racist political parties in some other European Countries. Such a discriminatory approach especially initiated by head of a State is particularly irresponsible as it makes extreme right-wing positions acceptable to the general public and, as history has shown, presents a serious danger of right wing violence.

Many Roma people came to Western Europe, including France, to escape exclusion, discrimination, extreme poverty and violence in their home countries. Their deportation merely drives them back into the conditions and hardships they had left behind.

Against this backdrop, we urge the French government to stop their counter productive policies of collective deportation of Roma and, in collaboration with other EU members, to seek lasting solutions in full respect of the dignity and rights of all people.

Finally, with regard to his recommendations in paras 29 and 31 of the report, we would like to ask the SR whether he can suggest more concrete steps concerning 1) states' engagement with vulnerable communities and 2) fair representation of all minorities at national and regional levels.

In conclusion, we urge all states present here to consider seriously the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur to take concrete actions and provide practical solutions to all those whose human rights are actually violated.

Thank you Mr. President.

IMADR is an NGO in consultative status (Special) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations