

**CHILDREN'S RIGHTS NETWORK**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
Aotearoa New Zealand



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**Special Newsletter - September 2009**

**Co-ordinators - Joan and Peter Sutton, Jan Marsh**

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## **URGENT ACTION: ROMA COMMUNITY FACING FORCED EVICTION**

**City authorities in Milan, northern Italy, are preparing to forcibly evict a community of about 200 Roma people living in Rubattino area in the east of the city. According to local NGOs and media, they have announced that they will carry out the evictions at some point before 21 September.**



According to the information received by Amnesty International, It is not clear what alternative accommodation will be offered to the community living in the Rubattino area. They have not been consulted on the proposed evictions, and the authorities have made no attempt to identify with them any feasible alternatives to the evictions. When the city authorities have previously evicted Roma communities, they have offered some form of shelter in the short term (weeks or a few months), and only to women and small children, in the city's dormitories for homeless people. Without alternative accommodation, the families face living in harsh conditions at another makeshift camp, or they may be left without basic shelter, meaning that they would be living outdoors including in harsh weather conditions.

The community includes around 70 children, 40 of whom attend schools nearby. The eviction threatens to interrupt their schooling and seriously disrupt their education

Under domestic law, the authorities should notify each individual, or publish an order or notice, but, according to the information available to Amnesty International, they have not done so. Because the order has not been formalized in this way, the community cannot challenge it through the courts, and stop or postpone the eviction.

Most of those living in the Rubattino camp have previously experienced at least one forced eviction.

Previous forced evictions involved the destruction of shelters, clothes, mattresses, and sometimes, medicines and documents. All these evictions are believed to have been carried out without the procedural safeguards required under regional and international human rights standards.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Italian, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities not to forcibly evict the Roma families now living in Rubattino area;
- Reminding the authorities that forced evictions, carried out without legal and other protections, are prohibited under international law as a gross violation of a range of human rights; in particular, the right to adequate housing;
- Highlighting particular concern about the children at risk and reminding the authorities that the Convention on the Rights of the Child requires them to prioritise the best interests of children, and that the eviction will deprive them of the educational access they currently have;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that evictions are carried out only as last resort, and only in full compliance with the guarantees required under regional and international human rights standards, including through genuine consultation with residents of the areas affected and to explore feasible alternatives; providing to them adequate and reasonable prior notification; guaranteeing the right to legal redress, including to challenge the order in court and legal aid; providing adequate alternative housing and compensation for all losses; and ensuring no ill-treatment of Roma.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 SEPTEMBER 2009 TO:

**Milan Prefetto**

Dott. Valerio Lombardi

Prefetto di Milano

Palazzo Diotti

Corso Monforte, 31- 20122 Milano

Italy

**Email:** [prefettura.milano@interno.it](mailto:prefettura.milano@interno.it)

**Salutation:** Egregio sig. Prefetto

*And copies to*

**Deputy Mayor of Milan**

ViceSindaco Riccardo De Corato,

Piazza Scala, 2 – 20121 Milano

Italy

**Email:** [vicesindaco.decorato@comune.milano.it](mailto:vicesindaco.decorato@comune.milano.it)

**Salutation:** Egregio Vicesindaco

And

**Italian Ambassador to New Zealand**

Gioacchino C Trizzino

Embassy of Italy, Wellington

PO Box 463, Wellington 6140

**Facsimile:** (04) 472 7255

**Email:** [ambasciata.wellington@esteri.it](mailto:ambasciata.wellington@esteri.it)

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

*Image above: A Roma settlement in Sesto San Giovanni near Milan, 3 March 2009. Romani communities and settlements in Italy have been subjected to ongoing discrimination.*

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**This newsletter prepared for Amnesty International  
by Joan and Peter Sutton and Jan Marsh.**

**Contact us by email - [childrensrightsnetwork@amnesty.org.nz](mailto:childrensrightsnetwork@amnesty.org.nz)**



For more information about all our campaigns please visit [our website](#)

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