

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**6 June 2013  
Check against delivery**UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-third session, 27 May – 14 June 2013****Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports****ROMANIA**

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes that Romania has accepted ten recommendations regarding access by marginalized groups, especially Roma, to adequate housing.<sup>1</sup> These include calls on Romania to adopt legislation to protect the right of Roma people to adequate housing. We urge Romania to ensure their early and full implementation. We also call on the government to adopt a legislative ban on forced evictions as a matter of urgency.

Amnesty International is concerned that gaps in current legislation may allow local authorities to sweep away entire long-established Romani communities and to relocate them to inadequate housing in segregated areas. Such relocation often leads to further marginalization and increased poverty of Roma.

Despite assurances – made during the UPR and also in meetings with NGOs<sup>2</sup> – that access to housing for marginalized individuals and communities is a government priority, Amnesty International continues to document cases of forced eviction, including of people living in informal settlements. Amnesty International will shortly publish a report documenting evictions in Cluj-Napoca, Baia Mare and Piatra Neam and the devastating impact of such evictions on people's lives.

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/23/5, recommendations 109.48 (Costa Rica), 109.60 (Chile), 109.61 (France), 109.62 (Austria), 109.63 (State of Palestine), 109.64 (Switzerland), 109.108 (Malaysia), 109.135 (United Kingdom & Northern Ireland), 109.136 (China), 109.137 (USA).

<sup>2</sup> Meeting between a delegation of Amnesty International, European Roma Rights Centre, Fundația Desire and the Romanian Minister of Regional Development, 13 February 2013, Bucharest.

Mr. President,

We note that a number of states have called for an independent, impartial, thorough, and effective investigation into Romania's involvement in the CIA rendition and secret detention programmes.<sup>3</sup> We are very disappointed, however, that Romania has not accepted these recommendations.

Amnesty International is dismayed by the continuing failure of many European governments to undertake independent investigations of their involvement in these U.S. operations, under which individuals were apprehended without due process and interrogated using methods amounting to torture. Some of them still languish in Guantanamo. Last September, the European Parliament denounced European governments, including Romania, for failing to carry out or obstructing parliamentary and judicial inquiries into these violations.

Mr President,

Mr Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, a Saudi national, has filed an application with the European Court of Human Rights arguing that Romania has failed to effectively investigate his claim that he was held in secret CIA detention in Romania. In September 2012, the European Court communicated the case to the Romanian authorities asking the government to present its observations to it.

Amnesty International again calls again on Romania to open and undertake an independent investigation into state and foreign actors' roles in these operations as a first vital step towards accountability.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/23/5, recommendations 109.155-157 (Switzerland, France, Belarus).