

URGENT ACTION

ROMA FAMILIES TO BE RELOCATED TO BARE FIELD

Around 300 Roma people living in the Masseria del Pozzo camp in Naples, in southern Italy, are at imminent risk of being moved to poor and inadequate housing. The camp has been deemed hazardous for human habitation by judicial authorities and will be closed. The municipal authorities have so far failed to offer adequate alternative housing to the Roma families.

Around **300 Roma people**, including children, currently living in Masseria del Pozzo camp, in the Giuliano municipality of Naples, in southern Italy, are at imminent risk of being moved to highly inadequate housing on 23 June. The Roma camp, which was built by the Giugliano municipality in 2013, will be closed following a judicial decision. Judicial authorities ordered the seizure of the land in October 2015, as the area is next to a landfill stocking toxic industrial waste and is deemed potentially dangerous for the health and safety of inhabitants and unsuitable for human habitation.

Faced with the judicial decision to seize the camp, the municipality of Giugliano is required to urgently relocate the inhabitants. The municipality has announced that it plans to relocate the Romani families to a new camp which will be built over the next months with funds provided by the national and regional authorities.

Until the new camp is built and as an interim solution, the Giugliano municipality informed the Roma community on 13 June that they would be relocated from Masseria del Pozzo on 23 June. The alternative presented by authorities is a plot of land, in the middle of fields and far away from the nearby town. The plot of land currently lacks any housing structures or access to essential services including water and sanitation, and has poor transport links. The authorities told the community that they will be allowed to take their caravans with them, and that chemical toilets and a water tank would be installed on the land. These arrangements fall far short of the criteria for adequacy of housing as articulated in international human rights standards. Amnesty International is also concerned that those Roma who do not own a caravan will be rendered homeless.

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

- Urging authorities to ensure that nobody will be rendered homeless as a result of the closure of Masseria del Pozzo camp, and that the Romani families are provided immediately with adequate alternative housing in accordance with international human rights standards which the current proposal falls short of;
- Ensure that both short and long terms plans for rehousing the Romani families do not result in the creation of new segregated camps and that any new housing arrangement for the people affected complies with the standards of adequate housing as outlined in international and regional human rights law and standards and Italy's National Integration Strategy for Roma Inclusion.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 JULY 2016 TO:

Mayor of Giugliano in Campania

Antonio Poziello
Comune di Giugliano in Campania
Corso Campano, 200
80014 Giugliano in Campania (NA), Italia
Fax: +39 0813 301 542
Email:
segreteria.sindaco@comune.giugliano.na.it
Salutation: Dear Mayor

Prime Minister

Matteo Renzi
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Palazzo Chigi, Piazza Colonna 370
Roma, Italia
Fax: +39 0667 797 743
Email: matteo@governo.it
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

Angelino Alfano
Ministero degli Interni
Via Quattro Novembre 119/A
00187 Roma, Italy
Fax: +39 0647 417 17 / +39 0646 549
467
Email:
segreteria.technica.ministro@interno.it

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY PASQUALE Q. TERRACCIANO, Embassy of Italy, 14 Three Kings' Yard Davies Street W1K 4EH, 020 7312 2200, Fax 020 7312 2230, Salutation: Your Excellency

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In December 2012 – 10 months after the adoption of Italy's National Strategy for Roma Inclusion – the municipality of Giugliano decided to build a new camp, in the Masseria del Pozzo locality, for the temporary relocation of people of Romani ethnicity. In 2013, the construction works were completed and Roma were transferred to the camp, situated near a landfill, in the area known as Terra dei Fuochi, asserted by several police investigations as used for unlawful disposal of toxic industrial waste coming from various parts of Italy.

At the time of the establishment of the camp, no housing had been provided by local authorities and the Romani families were authorised to build their shacks and a few containers were placed on the plot with basic sanitary facilities, including showers and toilets. At the time of Amnesty International's visit in February 2016, the overall living conditions in the camp were substandard and unsuitable for human habitation, had serious problems with the sewage infrastructure, proximity to toxic waste, and housing conditions which barely meet basic shelter requirements. The residents of the camp spoke to Amnesty International's researchers about the unbearable smell present in the area reportedly due to biogas and other unidentified fumes being released periodically in the air from the nearby covered landfill.

Recently, a court ordered the seizure of the land and the removal by the municipality of the families away from the perilous conditions. Faced with the confiscation of the camp, the municipality of Giugliano, the Region of Campania, the Prefecture of Naples and the Minister of Interior approved the construction of a new segregated camp. NGOs criticised the plan as it raises concerns in terms of potential segregation, lack of minimum security of tenure, and lack of necessary integration measures. The project refers to "adequate housing and integration of Romani families", however in practice it only offers 44 pre-fabricated units for 236 people. While the project envisages other measures aiming to guarantee "a process of social inclusion and legality" of the inhabitants such as pre-school child care activities, orientation to enrolment at school, awareness campaigns of the Romani community to engage in behaviour that foster positive relationships with the inhabitants of the surrounding neighbourhood, job training actions for youth, etc – such measures have yet to be accompanied by designated funds.

Until the new camp is built and as an interim solution, on 13 June, the Giugliano municipality informed the Roma community that they would be relocated from Masseria del Pozzo on 23 June. The alternative presented by authorities is a plot of land, in the middle of fields and far away from the nearby town, and currently lacking any housing structures or access to essential services including water and sanitation, and have poor transport links. The authorities told the community that they will be allowed to take their roulottes with them, and that chemical toilets and a water tank would be installed on the land. These arrangements fall far short of the criteria for adequacy of housing as articulated in international human rights standards. Amnesty International is also concerned that those Roma who do not own a caravan will be rendered homeless.

The evidence collected by Amnesty International confirms that Romani families need to be urgently relocated elsewhere from Masseria del Pozzo, however the municipality must ensure that people's human rights are not violated in the context of addressing such emergency situation.

Italy is a party to a range of international and regional human rights treaties which prohibit forced evictions which are evictions carried out without adequate notice and genuine consultation with those affected, without appropriate legal safeguards and without assurances of adequate alternative accommodation. Italy is obliged to ensure that the affected families are provided with adequate alternative accommodation, and are not rendered homeless or made vulnerable to other human rights violations as a consequence of an eviction. Victims of violations must be provided with effective remedies including compensation for all losses and provision of adequate alternative housing to those who cannot provide for themselves. These obligations extend to all tiers of government including city authorities.