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18.06.2010

Italian Roma security measures allegedly violate European Social Charter

Date: 21 June (15h00)

Location: European Court of Human Rights (Hearing Room II)

Event: The European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) will hold a public hearing in the complaint [Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions \(COHRE\) v. Italy \(No. 58/2009\)](#).

Description: An estimated 160,000 Roma reside in Italy, approximately 70,000 hold Italian citizenship. COHRE claims that :

- The adoption of « Pacts for Security » (as of November 2006) and of so called « Nomad » State of Emergency Decrees (as of May 2008) violates the right to housing of Roma and Sinti in Italy (article 31).
- The policy and practice of segregating them in « ghettos » denies them access to the legal status required to be entitled to social and family assistance (article 16).
- Reference to « nomads » as a threat to national security has contributed to the racist and xenophobic propaganda relating to emigration and immigration of Roma and Sinti, depriving them of protection and assistance regarding access to housing in case of forced eviction and expulsion (article 19).
- Segregation has worsened Roma and Sinti living conditions whereas the Revised Charter requires a co-ordinated approach to combat poverty and social exclusion (article 30).

Background information: The [European Social Charter](#) is a Council of Europe treaty which guarantees social and economic human rights. It was adopted in 1961 and revised in 1996. The European Committee of Social Rights is the body responsible for monitoring compliance with this treaty in States Parties.

After the hearing, the European Committee of Social Rights will deliberate *in camera*, adopting its decision on the merits and send it to the parties and to the Committee of Ministers.

More info : All case documents relevant to this complaint, as well as information on the collective complaint procedure, are available on the [Collective Complaint webpage](#).

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