

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis on an anti-Roma video on Czech television

Strasbourg, 22.05.2009 - "I share the distress of many people in the Czech Republic after the broadcast of an anti-Roma advertisement on Czech public television, calling for "a final solution to the Gypsy issue". I understand the Czech Government is determined to take action against the political party which produced the video for the purpose of their election campaign for the European Parliament. "The final solution" was a Nazi euphemism for a premeditated murder of millions of Jews, Roma, homosexuals and people with disabilities. This is the background against which the courts should assess this incident. The European Convention on Human Rights guarantees the right to the freedom of expression, but the Convention also sets limits. Personally, I believe that a call for "a final solution to the Gypsy issue" falls well outside these limits."

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