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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

ANNEX I and ANNEX II

to the Draft Report of the LIBE delegation to Italy on September 18th and 19th ("nomads camps" emergency)

RAPPORTEUR: Gérard DEPREZ

! Please note that:

- In annex I, the translations of public documents of the Italian authorities are official;
- In annex II, the documents published are under the sole responsibilities of their authors and do not reflect the official position of the European Parliament or its internal bodies;

ANNEX I. Public Texts

Prime Ministerial Order 30 May 2008 (Order No 3676)[1]
Urgent civil protection measures to address the state of emergency in relation to nomad settlements in the Lazio region

THE PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY,

Having regard to Article 5 of Law No 225 of 24 February 1992;

Having regard to Article 107 of Legislative Decree No 112 of 31 March 1998;

Having regard to Decree-Law No 343 of 7 September 2001, converted, with amendments, by Law No 401 of 9 November 2001;

Having regard to the Prime Ministerial Decree of 21 May 2008 declaring a state of emergency until 31 May 2009 in relation to nomad settlements in the regions of Campania, Lazio and Lombardy.

In view of the extremely critical situation that has arisen in the Lazio region, with particular reference to the urban areas of the Municipality of Rome and surrounding areas, due to the presence of numerous illegal non-Community nomads who have settled in these areas;

Whereas said settlements, on account of their extremely precarious nature, have caused widespread public alarm, with potentially serious repercussions in terms of public order and security for the local populace;

Recognising the need to proceed with the adoption of extraordinary measures for derogation aimed at bringing about a swift resolution to the emergency and requiring the competent bodies to implement their own measures;

Recognising the need to take all appropriate action to guarantee respect for fundamental rights and human dignity, ensuring accurate means of identification, partly for the purposes of implementing the humanitarian and immigration provisions in force, and instruments that allow access to essential social, welfare and health services, and having regard to the protection of minors from criminals or criminals organisations that use the uncertainty surrounding identity or origin to engage in illegal trafficking and serious forms of exploitation;

Having regard to the Pact for a safe Rome (‘*Patto per Roma Sicura’*), signed on 18 May 2007 by the Prefect of Rome, by the President of the Lazio Region, by the President of the Provincial Authority and by the Mayor of Rome;

[1] Website: http://www.interno.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/sezioni/servizi/legislazione/protezione_civile/0987_2008_06_03_OPCM_30_05_08.html

Having regard to the Prime Ministerial directive of 22 October 2004 establishing 'Civil protection guidelines in relation to contractual procedures for public works, supply and service contracts of Community relevance';

Having obtained the agreement of the Lazio Regional Authority;

On the proposal of the Head of the Department of Civil Protection within the Prime Minister's Office;

Orders:

Article 1

1. The Prefect of Rome is appointed as Commissioner to implement all measures necessary to end the state of emergency described in the Prime Ministerial decree of 21 May 2008, as referred to in the recitals, in the Lazio region, with particular reference to the urban areas of the Municipality of Rome and the surrounding areas.

2. The Commissioner, if necessary by way of derogation from current provisions concerning the environment, rural planning, health and safety, regional planning, local police, and roads and highways, and without prejudice to the obligation to maintain essential measures for the protection of health and the environment, shall take the following initiatives in the Lazio region:
(a) drawing up action plans to end the emergency;
(b) monitoring authorised camps in which nomad communities are living and identifying illegal settlements;
(c) identifying and carrying out a census of persons, including minors, and families living in the places referred to in subparagraph (b), through the recording of particulars;
(d) adopting the necessary measures, with the assistance of the police, for those persons referred to in subparagraph (c) who are or may be the subject of administrative or judicial deportation or expulsion measures;
(e) where existing plans are unable to satisfy housing requirements, identifying other sites suitable for authorised camps;
(f) adopting measures aimed at the clearance and restoration of areas occupied by illegal settlements;
(g) implementing preliminary measures aimed at restoring minimum levels of social and health services;
(h) adopting measures aimed at encouraging the social inclusion and integration of persons transferred to authorised camps, with particular reference to support measures and integrated projects for minors, as well as initiatives aimed at tackling the phenomena of illegal trade, begging and prostitution;
(i) monitoring and encouraging schemes introduced at authorised camps to promote schooling and vocational training and involvement in housing construction or regeneration projects;
(l) adopting any useful and necessary measures to end the emergency.

3. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 4, the approval of the schemes by the Commissioner to all intents and purposes replaces the approval, opinions, permits and concessions issued by central, regional, provincial and municipal bodies, and, where

necessary, constitutes a variant to the master plan in respect of town planning and entails a declaration that the works are in the public interest, urgent and cannot be delayed, by way of derogation from Article 98(2) of Legislative Decree No 163 of 12 April 2006, notwithstanding the application of Article 11 of Presidential Decree No 327/2001, as subsequently amended and supplemented, if necessary before the expropriation procedures are carried out, for which the usual statutory time limits will be reduced by half.

4. If under current legislation the approval of the projects and schemes is subject to an environmental impact assessment carried out by central or regional government, or if the plans affect listed property within the meaning of Law No 42/2004, this procedure shall be completed by and no later than 45 days from the announcement of the conference of services (Conferenza di servizi). To this end, the time limits indicated in Title III of Legislative Decree No 152 of 3 April 2006 and by the aforementioned Law No 42/2004 shall be reduced by half.

5. The Commissioner shall be responsible for arranging the transfer of installations and works carried out on the basis of this order to the municipal authorities or to other competent institutions in accordance with the procedure specific to each measure.

Article 2

1. In order for the measures under his competence to be as effective as possible, the Commissioner may initiate the necessary forms of collaboration with the regional authority, with other public bodies and, regarding humanitarian and welfare aspects, with the Italian Red Cross.

2. To ensure that the measures and initiatives described in this order are as effective as possible, the Commissioner shall be assisted by the forces of law and order. To this end, prefects from other provinces affected by the emergency in question, quaestors and other relevant authorities shall cooperate fully to implement the measures determined by the Commissioner.

3. To satisfy requirements resulting from the initiatives to be carried out in accordance with this order, the Commissioner shall use civil and military personnel employed by government agencies and by regional and non-regional public bodies, who will be assigned by the agency concerned and at its expense within 10 days of a request to this effect.

Article 3

1. In order to carry out the initiatives described in this order, the Commissioner, if considered absolutely necessary, may, without prejudice to the general principles of the Italian legal system, Community directives and the Prime Ministerial directive of 22 October 2004, derogate from the following legislative provisions:
- Royal Decree No 2440 of 18 November 1923, Article 3 and Articles 8, 11 and 19;
- Royal Decree No 827 of 23 May 1924, Articles 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 117 and 119;
- Royal Decree No 773 of 18 June 1931, Article 4;
- Royal Decree No 635 of 6 May 1940, Article 7;
- Legislative Decree No 267 of 18 August 2000, Articles 13, 54(1)(b) and (c), (2), (3) and (4);
- Law No 241 of 7 August 1990, Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, 10a, 12, 14, 14a, 14b, 14c and 14d, as subsequently amended and supplemented;

- Presidential Decree No 327 of 8 June 2001, Articles 11, 15(2), (3) and (8) (limited to the terms provided therein, which are reduced by half); Article 19; Article 22a; Articles 32, 34, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 47 and 50;
- Legislative Decree No 163 of 12 April 2006, Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 33, 37, 42, 55, 56, 57, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68, 70, 75, 76, 77, 80, 81, 98(2), 111, 118, 128, 130, 132, 141 and 241;
- Legislative Decree No 42 of 22 January 2004, Articles 21(4) and (5), 22, 25, 26, 28, 45, 46, 151 and 153, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- Royal Decree No 1265 of 27 July 1934, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- Legislative Decree No 285 of 30 April 1992, Articles 11, 12(3)(b), 5, 13, 45(6), 159, 195, 200 and 215, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- Legislative Decree No 152 of 3 April 2006, as subsequently amended and supplemented, Articles 101, 105, 106 and 107 – Title I – Section II – Part III; Articles 118, 120, 121, 124, 125 and 126 – Title IV – Section II – Part III; Articles 199, 208, 210 and 211 – Title I – Part IV; Articles 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253 – Title V – Part IV;
- Legislative Decree No 76 of 28 March 2000, Articles 16 and 17;
Law No 833 of 23 December 1978, as subsequently amended and supplemented.
- other regional laws and provisions strictly connected with the measures provided for by this order.

Article 4

1. To commence the preliminary measures referred to in this order, the Commissioner is allocated an initial budget of EUR 1 000 000, to be transferred into a special account set up for this purpose in the Commissioner's name.

2. The amount of EUR 1 000 000 referred to in paragraph 1 will come from the Prime Minister's budget.

3. With subsequent civil protection orders, based on the preliminary work carried out by the Commissioner and the projects identified as being necessary, the additional financial resources to be allocated for the implementation of this order and the corresponding appropriations will be quantified.

Article 5

1. The Department of Civil Protection within the Prime Minister's Office will remain a third party to any contract entered into in pursuance of this order.

This order will be published in the Official Journal of the Italian Republic.

Rome, 30 May 2008

The Prime Minister: Silvio Berlusconi

Italian Ministry of the Interior

GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIME MINISTERIAL ORDERS NOS 3676, 3677 AND 3678 OF 30 MAY 2008 RELATING TO NOMAD SETTLEMENTS IN THE REGIONS OF CAMPANIA, LAZIO AND LOMBARDY

Background and purpose of the activities

The adoption of civil protection orders implementing the declaration of a state of emergency due to the critical situation relating to nomad settlements in the regions of Campania, Lazio and Lombardy, was brought about, as we know, by the serious deterioration in health, sanitation and social and environmental conditions in both illegal and authorised settlements. The situation has been deteriorating for some time. On several occasions, international human rights organisations have called on Italy to resolve these problems. Specifically, the European Parliament resolution of 31 January 2008 on a European strategy on the Roma urged the Member States to solve the problem of slums and illegal camps, where there are no hygiene or safety standards and where a large number of children die in domestic accidents, particularly fires, caused by the lack of such standards.
In this context, the orders in question should be considered primarily to be aimed at establishing measures to tackle the situation and foster decent, legal living conditions for the communities in question, providing access to social, welfare and health services, as well as education, particularly with regard to minors, who are at risk of abuse and exploitation.
The aim is also to protect the public and the very people living in such settlements, recently the victims of episodes of intolerance and xenophobia in the three regional capitals (Naples, Rome and Milan).

Fundamental principles

The orders should be implemented in full respect for fundamental rights and human dignity, in accordance with the general principles of the Italian legal system and Community directives, as expressly referred to in Article 3 of the orders.
In this respect, the operations assigned to the Commissioners should not concern specific groups, individuals or ethnic groups, but all those who are living in the settlements, whether legal or illegal, irrespective of their nationality or religious beliefs. The Commissioners will be responsible for eliminating any effects that might be considered direct or indirect discrimination.

Monitoring the settlements and census of individuals and families

The census referred to in Article 1(2)(c) of the orders should be considered central to the achievement of social, welfare and integration objectives. It will also help define the extent and type of measures necessary and enable initiatives to be proposed as a result, expediting these whenever possible. These activities will commence with the monitoring and identification of the locations of legal and illegal settlements. In addition to monitoring the composition and number of settlements, it will also be necessary to carry out a survey of those living there, if necessary by means of special forms which, taking account of the different local factors, will only contain the information necessary in view of the aforementioned

purposes, respecting fundamental rights and human dignity and omitting any irrelevant information, particularly concerning ethnic origin and religion. Although answers are optional, medical information may be collected if this is considered necessary for prevention and healthcare reasons.
In terms of processing the data collected, it is stressed that no database will be created, and that in any event national and international privacy rules will be respected. The information gathered will eventually be archived and stored in the same way as data for all citizens, under the responsibility of the organisations authorised to keep this information (e.g. public records offices, police, social security, health authority, etc.).

Identification

For identification purposes – safeguarding the right to an identity – the orders stipulate that particulars may be recorded, even for minors, in relation to the aforementioned requirements. This procedure is already known to include various identification techniques (e.g. descriptive, photographic, fingerprinting, anthropometric).
While it is at the Commissioners' discretion to decide what identification techniques should be used with a view to establishing the person's true identity, it should be added that fingerprinting must be carried out – according to the standard procedures provided under current legislation – in cases where 100% identification is not otherwise possible based on the documents available or is not reliable, according to the provisions of the Consolidated Law on Public Security and the relevant implementing regulations.
Once again, please note that all procedures must be carried out in respect for the person and in a confidential manner.
Given the sensitive nature of this operation, special attention must be paid to the identification of minors, who will be identified using such collection of data where necessary for their own protection and in situations of abuse by parents or those purporting to be parents. In particular, children over the age of 14 may be fingerprinted unless identification by other means is possible. For children under the age of 14 but older than 6, fingerprints may be taken solely for the purposes of issuing a residence permit, where requested by an authorised person, in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 380/2008, or, where necessary, by liaising with the competent public prosecutor at the juvenile court and with the assistance of the criminal investigation department. Below this age bracket, fingerprinting may be ordered only in exceptional cases, by the criminal investigation department acting in conjunction with the public prosecutor at the juvenile court, for minors who are suffering from neglect or are suspected of being the victims of crime.
The data collected must not be contained in a separate register but will be kept in the archives already provided for by law, for example in the register of foreign nationals kept at police headquarters, or at the Prefecture, for persons applying for a residence permit, or the citizenship archive, for persons applying for citizenship.

Data previously collected

Finally, it is noted that with regard to data previously collected, this may no longer be used and/or kept if processed in violation of the aforementioned guidelines.

Prevention, deportation and expulsion measures

The data available relating to nomad settlements in specific parts of the country show that these do not have a uniform composition and result from a gradual convergence of individuals belonging to various ethnic groups and nationalities, including Italians. These are mainly persons with no fixed abode who move around the country setting up illegal temporary settlements.
The recognition, identification and census measures may also lead to the identification of persons who are the subject of measures restricting personal liberty, non-Community nationals who are in the country illegally and/or Community nationals who, in the overriding interests of public security or other circumstances provided for by law, must be deported, for whom the necessary measures must be taken immediately as provided for by current legislation.
All of these activities are intended to identify those persons who might lawfully reside in the authorised settlements and at the same time remove any illegal settlements.
With regard to specific data processing, since ordinary crime prevention measures are used to maintain security, the information gathered will be sent to the customary police and judicial channels provided for by the existing legal provisions.

Italian Red Cross

The Prime Ministerial orders state that, for their actions to be as effective as possible, Commissioners may initiate the necessary forms of collaboration, including with the Italian Red Cross.
In view of the underlying reasons for these orders, which are mainly intended to solve problems of a humanitarian and welfare nature, this form of collaboration should be encouraged on account of the contribution that this organisation can make in terms of monitoring health, particularly for the most vulnerable groups such as young children, pregnant women and the elderly, as well as introducing the appropriate prophylactic measures where necessary.
Commissioners will entrust the Italian Red Cross with the responsibility for processing the data gathered during their collaboration, which should ensure that sensitive data remains confidential and is used exclusively for the intended purpose in accordance with the legislation in force.

Reinstatement of health and social services, social inclusion and integration, integrated projects for minors, schooling and vocational training

Support measures for the reinstatement of health and social services and for inclusion and integration in general, through schooling and vocational training projects, are of great importance, particularly in order to find a lasting solution to the problems that have emerged.
In this respect, the Commissioners' role is particularly important when it comes to establishing more profitable relations with local councils and other regional bodies, as well as with educational institutions and other entities, including voluntary and non-profit organisations. This forms part of the Commissioners' mandate and will help achieve the goals set.
Accordingly, the Commissioners will also keep government informed of the need for additional measures to be taken, if necessary, with the participation of government agencies.
Rome, 17 July 2008.

ANNEX II. Statements submitted by the Italian ONGs

Intervento di Paolo Artini, Responsabile per la Protezione dell'UNHCR Roma, in occasione della visita in Italia della delegazione della Commissione Libertà civili, Giustizia e Affari Interni (LIBE) del Parlamento Europeo
per valutare la situazione dei campi nomadi.

Per molti Rom da anni in Italia, l'esperienza della fuga e della paura non è nuova. Anche se nel dibattito pubblico questo aspetto viene completamente omesso, in Italia vi sono Rom rifugiati, scappati da un passato di guerra e persecuzione nei Balcani, che hanno chiesto e ottenuto protezione in Italia.

Quando in maggio ho visto in TV le immagini di Ponticelli a Napoli in cui famiglie Rom impaurite sono state costrette a fuggire tra fiamme e insulti, non ho potuto non ricordare gli scenari balcanici in cui ho lavorato per diversi anni per conto dell'Alto Commissariato delle Nazioni Unite per i Rifugiati (UNHCR). Non avrei mai immaginato di vedere queste scene in Italia.

I Rom in Bosnia come in Kosovo possedevano spesso belle case ed un lavoro sicuro, ed in molti casi hanno perso tutto. Quindi non erano nomadi ma stanziali. Da dopo la guerra la situazione dei Rom in Kosovo continua ad essere incerta e, come per le altre minoranze presenti sul quel territorio, soggetta a discriminazione ed abusi.

Il fatto che molti Rom in Italia siano rifugiati o godano di una protezione umanitaria - si stima che circa il 20% dei 160mila Rom in Italia provenga dai Balcani - è un aspetto importante sia dal punto di vista giuridico che della percezione di questa minoranza presso l'opinione pubblica. Ambito che invece viene costantemente oscurato dalla politica e dai media a vantaggio di considerazioni prevalentemente legate all'ordine pubblico e alla criminalità. Quando si parla di Rom, di regolarizzazioni o di espulsioni, va quindi tenuto presente che tra loro vi sono rifugiati titolari di diritti così come previsto sia dalla legislazione nazionale che dalla Convenzione di Ginevra del 1951.

In occasione della giornata mondiale del rifugiato di quest'anno, l 'UNHCR ha invitato un giovane rifugiato Rom del Kosovo che frequenta un scuola superiore di Milano e che dal 1998 vive tuttora in un "campo Rom". Un ragazzo italiano come tanti, che va all'oratorio e gioca a calcio. Ho visitato questo campo e mi ha colpito la differenza di standard abitativi rispetto ad un centro d'accoglienza per rifugiati, che con questo confinava, quasi vi fossero anche in questo caso rifugiati di serie A e rifugiati di serie B.

A Palermo, per fare un altro esempio, gli appartenenti alla comunità Rom del Kosovo devono tuttora affrontare periodiche difficoltà riguardo all'accesso alla procedura di asilo ed al rinnovo dei loro permessi di soggiorno per motivi umanitari, nel far comprendere alle autorità competenti i motivi per cui non possono tornare nel loro paese di origine.

Che siano rifugiati provenienti dai Balcani o cittadini italiani, in questo momento i Rom in Italia soffrono in modo particolare di un clima generale di intolleranza e di xenofobia, che rischia di farne dei capri espiatori, in quanto soggetti spesso più indifesi e più refrattari alla globalizzazione e sui quali è quindi più facile alimentare i pregiudizi e diffondere leggende metropolitane infondate.

D'altra parte, già nel 2006 lo Special Rapporteur delle Nazioni Unite sulle attuali forme di razzismo, discriminazione razziale, xenofobia ed intolleranza, Doudou Diène, aveva notato che in Italia esisteva un forte rischio di xenofobia, e faceva nel suo rapporto particolare riferimento alla situazione di Rom e Sinti. Il trattamento dei Rom rappresenta quindi una sorta di termometro di un problema più vasto, che riguarda la percezione dell'immigrazione in Italia.

Il repertorio italiano di episodi di fastidio e di intolleranza nei confronti dei Rom è sempre più vasto. Ricordiamo l'indifferenza per i corpi delle bambine Rom Violeta e Cristina abbandonate su una spiaggia "come cani", come ha raccontato la madre, dopo essere annegate nei pressi di Napoli. "Zingaro al forno", diceva una scritta cancellata solo pochi giorni fa qui a Roma vicino a Monte Mario.

Ma non sono solo atteggiamenti o parole, sono fatti, come il gravissimo episodio del 5 settembre a Bussolengo, in provincia di Verona. Ho parlato con chi ha visitato in carcere i tre Rom che sono stati vittima di percosse e, se confermati, di veri e propri trattamenti inumani e degradanti messi in atto, secondo quanto da loro riportato, dalle stesse forze dell'ordine. Occupandoci di rifugiati, ascoltiamo tante storie di torture ed abusi, ma devo dire che sono rimasto impressionato dal racconto di tanta brutalità esercitata contro persone che mi sono state descritte come estremamente miti, violenza che non si è fermata neppure di fronte ad una donna e a dei bambini.

Colpisce di fronte ad episodi di minacce e violenze, la mancanza di condanne ferme, incondizionate e non ambigue da parte delle istituzioni e delle autorità preposte alla sicurezza di cittadini e non cittadini, rispetto ad un'escalation di violenza che non riguarda solo i Rom. In Agosto, a Genova, uno studente angolano veniva picchiato per essere nero. A Milano, pochi giorni fa, Abdoul, un ragazzo italiano 19enne originario del Burkina Faso, veniva ucciso a sprangate tra insulti che facevano riferimento al colore della sua pelle.

E' chiaro che negare la radice di razzismo alla base di questi comportamenti, significa non voler prendere atto di un problema che invece andrebbe affrontato seriamente, attraverso politiche attive per l'inclusione sociale e attraverso una campagna capillare contro l'intolleranza.

In questo contesto scivoloso, dove immigrazione e criminalità vengono talvolta usate come sinonimi, politica e media svolgono un ruolo fondamentale, un ruolo che può diventare pericoloso se, come nel caso dei Rom, può fare facile appello a pregiudizi radicati. "Nati per rubare", questo per fare solo un esempio, è stato il titolo scelto qualche tempo fa da un noto settimanale per un reportage su bambini Rom ed impronte digitali.

Per questo, l'UNHCR ha promosso la Carta di Roma, un protocollo deontologico approvato nel giugno di quest'anno dall'Ordine dei Giornalisti e dalla Federazione Nazionale delle Stampa, su come trattare i temi legati all'immigrazione ed all'asilo in modo equilibrato e rispettoso della dignità della persona. E' chiaro tuttavia che è principalmente della politica la responsabilità di dare risposte concrete a possibili problemi di convivenza, promuovendo una società interculturale e evitando di proporre il fenomeno migratorio solo in termini di sicurezza e ordine pubblico.

Per eliminare equivoci e strumentalizzazioni, sarà opportuno che le misure intraprese riguardo alla cosidetta ”emergenza nomadi” vengano valutate in modo oggettivo e sulla base dei risultati ottenuti specialmente in materia di scolarizzazione, soluzioni abitative dignitose, salute materno infantile, lavoro, protezione delle minoranze, valorizzazione delle culture di origine, rilascio di documenti, prevenzione dell’apolidia, integrazione, relazioni armoniose con le comunità locali, ecc. In tal modo, si potranno evitare quelle strane illusioni ottiche che fanno sì che gli stessi provvedimenti possano essere visti ed interpretati in modo diverso, a seconda delle convenienze o delle paure.

For the rights of Roma, Sinti and Traveller children

UNICEF Italy advocates for the rights of all children in Italy, on the basis the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Worldwide, UNICEF gives particular attention to the most vulnerable groups of children, which in Italy – as in many other European countries - includes Roma, Sinti and Travellers, in particular when they don't have a residence permit.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child obliges Italy to respect and ensure the rights of each child within Italian jurisdiction, without discrimination of any kind, and in particular, to take all appropriate measures to ensure that children are protected against all forms of discrimination.
The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed its concern for the situation of Roma children in Italy, both in relation to instances of discrimination and racist incidents, as well as to the overall disparity in the enjoyment of economic and social rights, especially in the sectors of health, social assistance, education and in housing conditions. It has called on the Italian Government in particular:
a) **Anti-Discrimination:** to take all necessary measures, including through awareness-raising campaigns and adequate training of the personnel involved, to prevent and eliminate discrimination against children of foreign origin and Roma children[1];
b) **Social inclusion and access to services:** to develop, in cooperation with Roma NGOs, comprehensive proactive policies and programmes to prevent social exclusion and discrimination and to allow Roma children to enjoy fully their rights, including access to education and health care;[2]
c) **Attention to vulnerable children & information exchange:** to pay particular attention to the situation of vulnerable groups of children who are at risk of being abused and exploited and to ensure that good practices are shared among cities[3].

In the light of these recommendations by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as the recommendations the UN Committee for the elimination of racial discrimination has made to the Italian Government, UNICEF Italy calls on the Government to adopt specific measures in order to safeguard the rights of Roma, Sinti and Traveller children in Italy.

UNCEF suggests for these measures to be included in the framework of the "National Plan on Childhood and Adolescence".

UNICEF further proposes that a forum is created to enable local councils to exchange good practices on how to ensure access to services and protection at local level for children and adolescents from Roma, Sinti and Traveller communities.
UNICEF further believes that it is fundamental for Roma, Sinti and Traveller to be recognized as a linguistic and cultural minority – a modality foreseen by the Italian legislation – in order to achieve full inclusion of children from these communities. This should include the promotion of their language and culture, and should be coupled with social inclusion programmes, implemented in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and representatives of the concerned communities.
Overall, the goal must be to eliminate discrimination and disparities so that children and adolescents can enjoy their rights fully, in particular their rights to accessing education

services, health services, as well as an appropriate housing infrastructure that prevents the risks of segregation.
In order to meet the task of rendering such policies effective, it is fundamental to provide professionals who work with and for Roma, Sinti and Traveller children with appropriate training, in particular also with a view to building their capacity to listen to children and adolescents, and to involve them in all decisions that affect them.

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1 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Italy, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.198 (2003), paragraph 53 (a)
2 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Italy, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.198 (2003), paragraph 55
3 Concluding Observations on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography CRC/C/OPSC/ITA/CO/1, paragraph 23)

On this background, UNICEF Italy therefore recommends to the Italian Government:

1. To create a national Ombudsperson for children and adolescents
2. To adopt at national level an integrated policy for Roma, Sinti and Traveller children, and to include this policy in the next "National Plan on Childhood and Adolescence" a dedicated section.
3. To recognize Roma, Sinti and travellers as a linguistic minority
4. To support, in active cooperation with Roma parents, associations and local communities, the inclusion in the school system of all children of Roma origin and to address the causes of drop-out, in particular for children of mandatory school age.
5. To guarantee access to health services for all children, starting with compulsory immunization.
6. To guarantee access to social services for all children and adolescents, including Roma, Sinti and Travellers, promoting when necessary, the presence of linguistic and cultural mediators.
7. To develop and implement policies and projects aimed at avoiding segregation of Roma communities in housing, involving Roma communities and associations as partners.
8. To prevent and eliminate discrimination against Roma, Sinti and Travellers children, including in the administration of juvenile justice
9. To carry out continuous training activities of all actors who, in different capacities, come in contact with Roma, Sinti and Travellers children, in particular representatives of law-enforcing bodies, with special emphasis on the capacity to listen to children and take their views into account.
10. To involve in the development and implementation of all measures Roma, Sinti and Travellers children, their families, as well as associations representing their communities.
11. To increase efforts for raising awareness on children's rights and disseminating the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The activities of UNICEF Italy in favour of Roma, Sinti and Traveller children and adolescents

UNICEF Italy is advocating with the Government to ensure that the rights of Roma, Sinti and Traveller children are respected, protected and fulfilled.
As part of this advocacy work, UNICEF is – together with NGO partners of the National Child Rights Coalition – engaging the Government in a dialogue on best practices.

UNICEF Italy is not providing any services for Roma, Sinti and Traveller children and is in no way involved in any operational capacity in the implementation of measures taken by the Italian government, in particular in connection with the proposed identification measures.

As part of its advocacy work, UNICEF Italy is undertaking the following activities in 2008:

1) UNICEF suggests in its Document "A commitment for the rights of children and adolescents", proposed to he XVIth legislature, recommendations specifically devoted to Roma, Sinti and Traveller children;

2) As part of the work of the National Observatory on Childhood, UNICEF participates in an advisory capacity in the drafting of the "National Plan on Childhood and Adolescence",;

3) As part of the NGO working Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is participating in the drafting of the updated alternative Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the situation of children's rights in Italy;

4) UNICEF advocates with the ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipalities) to realize a best practice manual on the rights of Roma, Sinti and Traveller children and adolescents for the use in local councils;

5) UNICEF, together with NGOs providing services for Roma, Sinti and Traveller children and adolescents, is realizing a study on the state of the rights of Roma, Sinti and Traveller children, capturing the perspective of children and adolescents themselves.

6) UNICEF will in November 2008 organize a symposium to provide a forum for exchanging best practices in relation to policies and projects aimed at the implementation of the right to education, health, social inclusion, play and leisure time of the Roma, Sinti and Traveller children. Depending on the perceived need, UNICEF is ready to organize such a symposium on an annual basis.

Federation "Rom and Sinti together"
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Rome, April 18, 2008 - Meeting with the Civil Liberties Commission of the European Parliament

Policies for Roma and Sinti in Italy have highlighted a persistent lack of knowledge of our minorities, perceived in the definition of the tools used to translate into concrete actions and policy choices in the total absence of active participation of Roma / Sinti, leading to failure most of the policies.

The policy choices "differentiated", "cultural dall'assistenzialismo" to "cultural segregation", with ugly housing nomadic camps, incurred with the intent to promote and enhance the culture Roma and Sinti and implemented on the basis of a cultural interpretation world of Roma and Sinti, have led the people of these minorities to:
1. exclusion from the social, cultural and political context of the country,
2. the development of a "welfare mentality"
3. the instrumental use of active participation,
4. a violent racial discrimination,

It makes one wonder: who does not agree normalcy for Roma and Sinti?

An analysis of the realities and needs of our minorities, only interpretation for the absence of an active role in Roma and Sinti, the absence of sound data on the presence of Roma and Sinti, have not helped to plan appropriate policies for cultural interaction with Roma and Sinti, who are wrongly conceived by society as distant time and place, treated by politics and the media as human waste, relegated from the extreme periphery of the city, where the urban community ideally placed physically and waste.

They are the modern monuments of segregation, which for several decades the policy Italiana, without distinction of color, achieved without trying a different solution.
Yet the Roma and Sinti minorities are an example of "cultural interaction" that fails to take the "intercultural" to a "cultural exchange" suffocated by the "social compromise" for survival, and the presence of "filters" cultural.

Why did not end the work of "filters" cultural?
I do not understand why not promote the active participation of Roma and Sinti.

It 'requires a radical change of method to exit policies "differentiated" and planning policies "normal" of cultural interaction, recognition of cultural, professional empowerment of Roma and Sinti, to actively involve minorities in our planning and sharing of policy choices .
Radical change of method that leads across the country to greater and greater understanding of culture Roma and Sinti, to eliminate all forms of discrimination, to build a direct dialogue.

The constitution of the federation Roma and Sinti Together proposes the idea to react in a uniform and purposeful dialogue to build a direct relationship with the Government and the

institutions, to say the culture of legality and contrast abuse of power, for promote an open and multicultural society.

Change of method or useful to all citizens in Italy and ports across the country to greater and greater understanding of culture Roma and Sinti, to eliminate all forms of discrimination.
What can the EU's largest ethnic minority in Europe?

Between 2000 and 2006 far 275 million euros from the European Structural Funds (ESF) was allocated to Member States for specific projects Roma and Sinti**, but the living conditions of our minorities have not improved.**
Because these projects did not produce the required benefits?
What can Europe do so this does not happen again?

The risk that the wrong policies of the past in the Member States be repeated at European level is very real, **if you continue to ignore the causes of the failure of many policies of the past are to be charged to the absence of active participation of Roma and Sinti in all levels.**
The real issue on which Europe must act urgently is the active participation at all levels of Roma and Sinti.
E 'therefore essential that Europe urgently adopt **a "radical change of method"** in implementing and specify the active role, and proactive decision-making of the Roma and Sinti at all levels.

Il Presidente
Nazzareno Guarnieri

To the kind attention of
Committee on civil liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
European Parliament
BY EMAIL on 1 October 2008
From: Amnesty International Italy
Subject: ***AI Italy statement to LIBE committee regarding measures targeting Roma in Italy***

Amnesty International (AI) would like to thank the LIBE delegation for hearing our organization during its visit to Italy, to which we attribute a great importance for the assessment of the situation on the ground.

AI would firstly like to raise the attention over the general context surrounding measures targeting Roma adopted and/or currently being implemented in the country. We believe indeed that the issue of fingerprinting is only the tip of the iceberg, a dangerous iceberg now visible from long distances, which should be considered as a whole. The real impact of measures indirectly or directly affecting Roma rights (including but not limited to fingerprinting) can be hardly evaluated if isolated from the climate spread in the country, marked by hate speech, threats and repeated attacks against the Roma community.

During the last months, AI has often raised the alarm about the language stigmatizing foreign citizens and particularly Romanian citizens and Roma, used by Italian media, government representatives and political leaders from various political stances. There is a shared responsibility of several actors about the anti-Roma sentiment spread among the general public and it would be unrealistic to hold that the current overheated climate could have been built up by a small group of politicians in a short time.

Going back to 2007, we would like to recall what happened at the end of October after the killing of a woman in Rome – a crime a Romanian citizen, believed by some commentators to be of Roma origin, was suspected of, and is currently charged with. A few hours after the killing, the then Mayor of Rome Walter Veltroni1 was quoted by major Italian media to have so commented: "before the accession of Romania to Europe, Rome was one of the safest cities in the world"2. He concurrently asked for emergency legislation on immigration. Some days afterwards, in an interview to a prominent Italian newspaper, Gianfranco Fini, then President of *Alleanza Nazionale* party3, referred to Roma stating that their integration is not possible due to their "culture", as they "deem not immoral to steal and (…) do not scruple about kidnapping children or giving birth to babies in order to destine them to begging"4.

Relating to the climate spread around those events, René van der Linden, President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) stated that "the arrest of a Romanian suspect in this murder should not (…) lead to a witch-hunt of Romanians".

In this climate of hostility there has been an increase of violence against Romanian citizens and particularly against Roma settlements and individuals. These include the well-known attacks of May 2008 in Ponticelli (Naples), following which the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) warned: "the current stigmatization of Roma and immigrant groups in Italy is dangerous as it contributes to fuelling tensions and increases the potential for violence"5.

The last 12 months were also marked by several legislative provisions directly or indirectly targeting Roma, which are part of the context – and some of them are also the legal grounds – of the measures subject to LIBE assessment.

A few hours after the mentioned killing in Rome in Oct. 2007, the already ongoing process of reviewing national transposition rules of European Directive n. 2004/38/CE was subject to a sudden acceleration. That process, after going through the enactment of two subsequent decree laws, finally brought to the adoption of legislative decree 32/08, significantly amending national rules on EU citizens free circulation, including facilitating removals.

During the first meeting of the new Cabinet (Berlusconi Government) on 21 May 2008, this trend culminated into a draft legislative decree part of the "security package", that proposes amendments to legislative decree 32/08, adding further automatisms in the removal of EU citizens based on "public order" and "public security". This draft decree is presently subject to the attention of the European Commission and we understand that Vice President Barrot recently referred to his role in backtracking the most controversial parts of the measures in the "security package", including that proposal6.

Regarding legal measures specifically targeting Roma which are the legal grounds of the so-called "census", we would like to mention our concerns about the concept of "emergency" they rely upon. As also referred to in the EP Resolution of 10 July 20077, on 21 May 2008 the Italian Government issued a decree declaring a state of emergency in relation to "nomad settlements" in the regions of Campania, Lazio and Lombardy, based on Law 225/1992 – this law empowers the government to declare a state of emergency in the event of "natural disasters, catastrophes or other events that, on account of their intensity and extent, have to be tackled using extraordinary powers and means". The decree of 21 May gave ground to further orders ("ordinanze di protezione civile") which in turn granted extraordinary powers to the Prefects of Rome, Milan and Naples, allowing them to derogate (albeit without prejudice to the rule of law and EU law) to a series of national laws.

We recommend the LIBE committee to take into account the mentioned elements of the context within which the measures relating to "census" have been adopted and are being implemented.

Also based on monitoring this context, we believe it is important to recall that measures of control *de facto* targeting one ethnic groups, such as those allowed by the mentioned orders (as the population in "nomad settlements" are almost entirely Roma) constitute ethnic profiling and a discriminatory measure *per se*.

More generally, AI believes that measures based on security concerns are inadequate to address the critical human rights situation of Roma in Italy and that this approach should not be extended to other countries as the "European" approach to Roma.

Footnotes

[1] Walter Veltroni is currently the leader of the main opposition party, the *Partito Democratico*.

[2] www.repubblica.it/2007/10/sezioni/cronaca/tor-di-quinto/reazioni-uccisa/reazioni-uccisa.html

[3] Gianfranco Fini is now President of the Chamber of Deputies (*Camera dei Deputati*).

[4] www.corriere.it/politica/07_novembre_04/intervista_fini_impossibile_integrazione_rom.shtml

[5] www.osce.org/item/31147.html

[6] On 23 September 2008 Vice President Jacques Barrot explicitly stated that this proposal "poses problems of compatibility with Community law".

[7] P6_TA(2008)0361

Human Rights Crisis in Italy: Collection of evidences Open Society Institute, the Center on Housing Rights and Evictions, the European Roma Rights Centre, Romani Criss and the Roma Civic Alliance in Romania.

(Document submitted to President Deprez by Mrs Mohacsi)

Brief Introduction

Since 2007, Romani communities and settlements in Italy have been subjected to ongoing discrimination. The Italian authorities have taken several disproportionate and discriminatory "security" measures singling out *de facto* the Roma minority, and have embarked on a recent initiative to collect fingerprints from all residents, both adults and children, of Romani settlements in the country. These measures have too often been accompanied by strong anti-Roma rhetoric from local and national politicians and the defamation of Roma in the local and national media. The ongoing fear-mongering and stigmatization have created a climate in which attacks on individuals are becoming more and more acceptable. Romani people have been victims of several mob attacks by members of the public in which individuals were physically and verbally attacked and settlements were set on fire.

Most of the examples of the human rights violation listed below have been taken from the report entitled "Security a la Italiana: Fingerprinting, Extreme Violence and Harassment of Roma in Italy" prepared by a coalition of non-governmental organisations.[1] The listed cases constitute just a fraction of the large number of incidents of physical violence and beatings by police agents, verbal harassment, arbitrary data-basing, fingerprinting and surveillance that have taken place and continue to happen to Roma in Italy today.

Cases of human rights violation

- On October 7, 2008, at about 3 a.m., municipal police patrols arrived in Piazza Adua in Florence where Roma set up their makeshift beds with some trucks owned by Quadrifoglio - the company that deals with the disposal of waste material from the city of Florence. After waking them with a start, the Municipal police ordered them to hand over all their blankets. All fifty blankets were confiscated and the Roma looked on as the blankets were thrown into the Quadrifoglio truck and taken away to be destroyed.
- 6 October, 2008, Rome: A group of 45 Roma families were expelled for the third time from their camp by Italian police. The 'Via Salamanca' camp located in the Tor Vergata area on the southeastern outskirts of Rome, was set-up in June after its inhabitants were expelled from the central Campo Boario and northern Saxa Rubra camps. The camp housed 120 people, approximately 40 of them children.
- On September 23, in Milan, in the ex Falck steelworks of Sesto San Giovanni (Milan) Ciprian, a young Roma boy of 13 died in a fire accident. He lived with his family in conditions of intolerable marginalization and poverty. A candle fell on the makeshift bed where the boy slept and he perished in the flames. The Roma families in Sesto

[1] Open Society Institute, the Center on Housing Rights and Evictions, the European Roma Rights Centre, Romani Criss and the Roma Civic Alliance in Romania.

San Giovanni have no electricity, therefore no safe heating and lighting. They do the best they can to avoid freezing to death.

- According to press agencies, on the 11th of September, 2008, before the visit of the LIBE delegation to Rome, a special control that seemed more like a "combing operation" was carried out in camp Casilino 900 (Rome-Italy). The police (70 people) checked over 150 homes/700 people. Several witness stated that the police arrived at 6.30 a.m. Some of the people in the camp were put on a bus and taken away. The policemen took away from them generators (power units). They also took away a number of private belongings such as jewellery, kitchenware, TV and DVD sets, etc.
- On August 31, 2008, during the filming of a documentary on the situation of Roma in Italy, the staff of Mundi Romani, television crew, were arrested by the Italian police as they were leaving the Casilino 900 Roma camp in Rome. The police patrol on duty aggressively asked for their identification papers and confiscated all of their filming material: two cameras and the sound material on which the audiovisual testimony of the situation in Casilino 900 was recorded.
- On the 4th of September, 2008, police and armed forces collaborated in a control operation aimed at the expulsions from three "illegal" settlements: in via Candoni, via Morselli and via Dasti, where a number of families live in incredibly poor conditions and marginalization, many of them from Romania.
- August 20, 2008, Pesaro: a 17-year-old Romani boy from Romania was beaten while he was begging and a citizen of Pesaro yelled at him "Go away or I burn you alive!".
- According to witnesses, in Monza there is a police officer who goes around forcing young Roma boys to polish his boots, in sign of submission. In light of this, the suggestion made by Carlo Mosca, Prefect of Rome, to use young teenagers from the Roma ethnic group as shoeshine boys comes as no surprise. He suggests employing the “sciuscià”, as he called them, in front of supermarkets, the symbol of Italian wealth and purchasing power.
- In June 2008, Roma camps in Naples were set on fire in arson attacks after a Roma girl was accused of trying to steal a baby.
- A Romani woman from the Tor di Quinto Roma camp was beaten by Italian police officers in Milan on 17th and 20th of June, 2008, together with her father Stelian and younger brother without any reason**.**
- Many of the Romani individuals reported an increased level of police violence and abuse, particularly following the November 2007 death of Ms Giovana Grenga, an Italian woman, for which Italy media initially and without evidence accused a Romani man. Romani individuals who engaged in informal economic activities, such as washing car windshields at traffic lights or begging, reported being targeted by police for violence and abuse in recent months.
- A Roma singer who sings against racism and his pregnant wife (as reported in the press) were physically abused in Rimini by day in front of dozens of indifferent people.
- Piero Terracina**,** a survivor of Auschwitz, testified to members of the LIBE delegation that the treatment the Roma people are receiving in Italy today is similar to the treatment reserved by the Jews in the years of the racial laws and the Holocaust.
- A Romanian Romani man who had been living in Italy for 3 years reported that police officers had severely beaten him. The interviewee stated, “Last night I was begging in a district in the outskirts of Rome. Police came and took me to the police station. I showed them my Romanian passport, but they claimed that my passport is a fake and

that I should be from Morocco. They took my money and told me not to go back there again to beg. Then they started beating me, they kicked me and slapped me. The beating went on for 15-20 minutes."

- In early May 2008, a 20-year-old man from the an informal camp close to Cave di Piatralata was cleaning car windshields at a traffic light when several police officers grabbed him and took him to a police station. There, police officers reportedly severely beat the young man. After the incident, the young man was very scared and left Italy with his family and returned to Romania.
- Another Romani man from the former Yugoslavia living in Rome's Camp Salviati said the following: "Police brutality has increased in the last months. Climate has changed. Police feel more at ease to be more violent […]."
- In Milan, forced evictions from housing were documented by the coalition of NGOs in a number of areas in recent months. The Bacula Camp was originally settled by about 600 Roma living in barracks and tents under the railway bridges. The camp was forcibly evicted and the dwellings destroyed by the police reportedly at the beginning of 2008. During the police intervention, all personal belongings of the inhabitants were destroyed as well. The inhabitants moved to Bovisa – a site of a former industrial zone closed 20 years ago. Meanwhile the site was used by the inhabitants of Milan as a waste disposal area. The land is polluted with arsenic, thallium and asbestos.
- In another case from Milan, in March 2008, the police evicted the inhabitants of the newly established camp in Bovisa and about 80 persons (ten families) fled to the Bacula settlement; the rest either returned to Romania or dispersed to other settlements. According to witnesses, the openly declared motivation of the evictions was to force the Roma to return to Romania.
- Until mid-April 2008, about 400 Romanian Roma lived in abandoned buildings and in barracks built by the Roma in Romanian Roma from a settlement in the Piazza Tirana in Milan. In April 2008, the police presented an administrative order of the Prefect of Milan, stipulating that the Roma concerned would have to leave the building and surrounding informal dwellings immediately. During this intervention, police officers reportedly assaulted several Roma.
- On 6 June 2008, Italian authorities destroyed the Testaccio Romani camp in Rome which housed some 120 Romani individuals, including 40 children. According to media reports, many of the inhabitants of the camp had reportedly been transferred from a previously destroyed camp in Rome's Saxa Rubra area. The persons concerned are reportedly Italian citizens; no adequate alternative housing has been provided.
- In May 2008, Romani interviewees noted that police officers often conduct arbitrary raids on their camps and homes. During such raids, police officers often enter their homes, without legal authorisation/search warrants, in the middle of the night, and the demolition of homes and other buildings often takes place without any court order. During such destructions of property, police officers often refuse to allow the Roma concerned to remove their personal belongings.
- Similarly, Italian Roma living in Rome's Via Salviati camp reported to NGOs that police officers conducted regular checks of the camp, at least every week or two. During such checks, Italian and non-Italian Roma are forced to endure relentless checks of their personal documents, a degrading form of treatment to which non-Roma Italians and invisible immigrants are not subjected.
- One Romani woman living in a Rome's semi-formal Camp Casilino 900 testified that in early April 2008, police officers entered the camp and destroyed 36 shacks. The

woman testified, "I had a depot where I store things that I sell at the market. Approximately 6 weeks ago the police came and destroyed the depot together with 36 shacks. I was not allowed to remove my belongings though I begged them to allow me. In response they screamed at me, 'Go away!'

- One Romani individual living in Camp Casilino 900 camp with whom the Coalition spoke stated, "The police sometimes arrive at 2:00-3:00 AM. They even break the doors of the shacks. They order people to go out in a very hostile and violent way. The police are full of prejudices against Roma."
- Another person living in Rome's semi-formal Camp Martora reported that, "They [the police] enter the houses very violently. They destroy things! During one of the night raids, my son peed in his pants because of fear. When they come at night, they do not respect privacy. Women may be naked!"
- One Romani man with whom the Coalition spoke in Rome stated, "The police feel that they can behave as they wish when they come to the camp. Almost three months ago, immediately after we moved to our camp, the police came and they put everybody in line in front of a wall to count us. They were very uncouth. They were pushing people around."
- NGOs investigating the situation in the camps were struck by the seemingly endless list of derogatory statements recalled by Romani interviewees during discussions about their interactions with Italian police officers. Amongst the most common phrases cited as used by the police during interactions with Roma were: "Dirty Gypsies!", "Zingari del Cazzo! "Zingari di Merda! (Gypsies of Shit)", "Sei un pezzo di merda! (You are a piece of shit)", "You stink!", "You live like rats!" and "Go back to your own country!".
- On 11 May 2008, Milan's Via Navora Romani camp was burned to the ground by an unknown number of assailants who threw Molotov cocktails into the camp. As a result, the Romani inhabitants, including women and children, were left homeless, with their personal possessions destroyed.
- 2 days later, on 13 May, the most publicised of these attacks took place against a Romani camp in Ponticelli, near Naples. According to information gathered by the Coalition in Italy and numerous media reports, on 13 May, about 60 unidentified Italian citizens, armed with bats, attacked the Ponticelli Romani camp, throwing Molotov cocktails at the homes. Luckily no one was injured during the attack, but the homes of the Romani inhabitants were burned to the grounds, with all of their personal possessions.
- According to documentation gathered by the Coalition, on the evening of 13 May, 2008, around a hundred of Italian persons armed with bats and rocks attacked another Romani camp in the area, throwing rocks at the inhabitants and their homes. Amongst the attackers were youth and children. About 800 Roma of Romanian origin, including women and children, were attacked by locals as they left the Ponticelli Camp by night, without any of their personal belongings. Many of them returned to Romania or sought refuge in other Romani camps around Italy**.**
- Two weeks later, on 28 May, 2008, the same camp was set on fire for the second time by unknown perpetrators.
- On 7 July, 2008, it was reported that the Ponticelli camp was set on fire in yet a third arson attack by unidentified perpetrators, after several Romani families had moved back to the area.

- On 9 June, 2008, independent activists reported that a settlement of approximately 100 Romanian Roma in Catania, Sicily, was attacked and burned to the ground by unknown perpetrators.
- Several Roma from the Ponticelli camp who, after their homes were burned to the ground, had tried to move to the informal Torre Annunziata Nord Romani camp in Naples. According to the individuals interviewed, "extremist groups" threatened to burn the camp to the ground if those who lived in Ponticelli did not leave.
- Since late 2006, there have been at least 6 similar attacks targeted against Romani population in Livorno, Milan, Naples and Rome. No perpetrators have been arrested or found guilty for these acts of extreme hatred and violence against Roma.
- Many Roma who are still living in Naples testified that they are feeling a high level of insecurity while in the city and that even children and teenagers are involved in the street naming and shaming verbal abuses.
- Romanian Roma have reported to local organisation about the phenomenon of children being taken from their parents by the institutions. Numerous Romani individuals have reported that their children had been institutionalised in precarious circumstances in recent months.
- One Romani woman named Hasima told a member of the Coalition that recently when she took her sick children to the hospital, the authorities took away her baby, reportedly because the father was not present and because the police alleged that she had stolen something. Neither being a single parent (if Hasima had been) nor an alleged criminal are grounds for child removal in Italy.
- The formal camp of Via Salone, a camp run on private property by an Italian association, is controlled by 28 surveillance cameras which monitor every move made by the inhabitants. In Brescia, in Northern Italy, surveillance cameras were present in the formal Camp of Roma Italian Sinti. In Naples, surveillance cameras were also present in the camps visited by the Coalition.
- 120 Romanian Romani inhabitants living in the formal Centro Lima Camp in Naples are treated as though they were living in a prison rather than in a state-provided living area.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The actions perpetrated against Roma at the hands of Italian authorities violate a number of Italy's obligations under international human rights law. Specifically, as a Party to the European Convention for Human Rights (ECHR), the Italian government is required, per Article 3, to ensure that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Therefore,

Italian Authorities must:

1. Immediately cease from making anti-Romani remarks and fuelling public hatred of Roma in Italy;
2. The National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR), Italy's national equality body, must immediately publicly condemn the developments in Italy highlighted in this report and undertake all actions within its power to address these acts of discrimination against Roma;

3. Adopt and implement a national anti-racism campaign in order to improve public perceptions of Roma in Italy;
4. Without delay, repeal all legislation and policy which negatively targets Roma, including:
    a. Pacts for Security adopted in Naples, Rome, Milan, Firenze, Torino, Genova, Bologna, Catania, Bari, Cagliari, Venezia, Modena, Prato and Trieste;
    b. Emergency Decree No 92/2008, defining the presence of the Roma in the areas of Campania, Lazio, and Lombardia as a cause of great social alarm with possible grave repercussions in terms of public order and safety.
    c. Ordinance of the President of the Council of Ministers no. 3678 of 30 May 2008: Urgent civil protection provisions to tackle the state of emergency in relation to nomad community settlements in the territory of the Campania region;
    d. Ordinance of the President of the Council of Ministers no. 3677 of 30 May 2008: Urgent civil protection provisions to tackle the state of emergency in relation to nomad community settlements in the territory of the Lombardia region;
    e. Ordinance of the President of the Council of Ministers no. 3676 of 30 May 2008: Urgent civil protection provisions to tackle the state of emergency in relation to nomad community settlements in the territory of the Lazio region.
    f. The initiative of Minister of Interior Roberto Maroni to perform a census of Roma living in Italy, including through fingerprinting, which additionally violates data protection laws;
5. Investigate all alleged cases of police abuse and ill-treatment of Roma and ensure that the officers concerned are held responsible;
6. Ensure respect for the inviolability of the homes of Roma by ceasing immediately the regular targeting of Romani camps for police raids and checks;
7. End forced evictions of Roma which result in homelessness, and respect legal safeguards available to individuals facing eviction;
8. Treat Roma equally with all residents of Italy and stop subjecting them to discriminatory document checks;
9. Publicly condemn all anti-Romani pogroms and act to bring the perpetrators of all such actions which have already taken place to justice through:
    a. Thorough and effective investigation;
    b. Prosecution of identified perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law;
10. Effectively enforce Italy's comprehensive anti-discrimination law, ensuring equal treatment of Roma in all areas outlined in the scope of the law; and
11. Adopt, in consultation with Romani representatives, a comprehensive strategy for improving the situation of Roma in Italy, with appropriate action plans and adequate resources.