

# URGENT ACTION



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UA 200/11

Forced evictions

SERBIA

17 Roma families

The authorities in Obrenovac, a municipality of Belgrade, Serbia, are planning the forced eviction of seventeen Roma families living in municipal buildings. Amnesty International is concerned the families will be moved to metal containers which do not meet the criteria of adequate housing.

Seventeen predominantly Roma families who live in several buildings owned by the Belgrade municipality of Obrenovac are at risk of being forcibly evicted. Approximately 78 people will be affected including 35 minors and four people over the age of 65. According to the Regional Centre for Minorities, a Serbian NGO, some of the Roma have been living in this location for more than 40 years, and most have contracts with the municipality allowing them to use the property indefinitely. Until recently they paid taxes and other bills, including for heating and lighting, to the municipality.



As with other recent evictions in Serbia, the municipality plans to move the community into metal containers which do not meet minimum standards of adequate housing as defined by the UN Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights. The authorities have not consulted with the affected community on the eviction plans and have refused to accept or listen to their appeals against eviction.

Amnesty International is extremely concerned at the rising number of forced evictions of Roma communities living in informal settlements in Belgrade. Serbia is a state party to international and regional human rights treaties which prohibit and aim to end forced evictions. This includes the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Serbian government has failed to comply with its obligations under these treaties including adopting a law prohibiting forced evictions, which would ensure that the processes and safeguards, set out in relevant UN Guidelines and Principles, are in place before any evictions are carried out. The government has failed to prevent forced evictions of Roma by the City of Belgrade, who not only lose their homes, but their livelihoods and often their only possessions.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please write immediately in English or your own language:**

- Urge the municipal authorities not to forcibly evict the families living in Obrenovac;
- Urge them to conduct genuine consultation with the families to identify all feasible alternatives to evictions and on resettlement options;
- Call on them to develop a comprehensive and sustainable resettlement and compensation plan for the families in Obrenovac to include adequate alternative housing for all families due to be evicted;

***Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.***

**APPEALS TO:**

**Mayor of Obrenovac Municipality**

Zeljko Jovetic  
Vuka Karadzica 74  
11500 Obrenovac  
SERBIA

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**Mayor of Belgrade**

Dragan Djilas  
Dragoslava Jovanovića 2  
11000 Belgrade  
SERBIA

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:**

**Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia**

Bozidar Djelic  
Nemanjina 11  
11 000 Belgrade  
SERBIA

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Ambassador H.E. Vladimir Petrovic  
Embassy of the Republic of Serbia  
2134 Kalorama Rd., NW  
Washington, DC 20008

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**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**

**Check with the AIUSA Urgent Action office if sending appeals after 12 August 2011.**