

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The MENA MURIA FOUNDATION wishes to thank you sincerely that WOONWAGENZENDING is permitted to speak about the gypsies' problems to-day.

The Institution of the United Nations that ought to guarantee the welfare of all people, should be informed about what we are facing nowadays.

We would aggravate our story to the East-European countries and especially to Romania where we have been active for over 10 years now, without blaming the present government about this situation, which originates from many years ago and still exists nowadays. The major part of the gypsies lives under the most horrible circumstances. It's a matter of survival or , so to speak, non-survival!

The charter of the UNITED NATIONS says clearly that all fundamental rights of humans are to be respected, amongst which dignity and equal rights, supporting social progress and a higher standard of living in full freedom. By education and pedagogy you are striving to promote respect for these rights and freedom by taking measures – both nationally and internationally – and to actually recognize and putting these rights into effect.

Do gypsies also have these indigenous rights? But why are they still living under such inhuman circumstances?

Quoting Article 2 : Anyone has a claim on all rights and freedom without any distinction whatsoever, such as race, colour, sexe, religion, political or any other conviction, nationality or social origin.

Article 6 : Anyone has the right to be recognized by the law.  
Why do most gypsies have no identity-papers?

Article 23:1 Anyone has a right to labour and to social security.  
Why do most gypsies have no work?

Article 25:1 Anyone has a right to lodging, provisions in case of illness, disablement and high age.  
Why must we construct a medical room, houses, a reception-house for old people and orphans?

Article 26:1 Anyone has a right to education (elementary school is free of charge).

Gypsies do not have money for education and feel ashamed not being accepted by the average citizens; they also get no chance to integrate!!

Article 28 : Anyone has a right to an existence of such a social and international order that the rights and liberties – as proclaimed in this Treaty – may be realized in full.

Each human being is entitled to equal treatment. That's why we are wondering why gypsies in many countries of our to-day's world (July 2003) have no civil rights and are not being registered, withheld from education, lodging, labour and medical care. Humans who have nothing at all, no hope for the future. This leads undoubtedly to human tragedy!!

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, hardly one-hour flight from this location lies Romania, a country in which we are trying to help the gypsies with our project, especially in the village of Band and surrounding area. Although we have no time to tell you everything, we would briefly point out the problems we are facing in Band and its surroundings.

The gypsies are very seriously ill, caused by malnutrition and lack of hygiene. Many suffer from tuberculosis (even open TBC), cancer, aids and other dangerous infectious diseases. Some 50 orphans in Band are walking about. Inhabitants are laying on the streets, waiting for their death. In many cases they really die on the pavement! Some villages have meanwhile become time-bombs which can explode any minute. This means that illnesses cannot hit the gypsies only, but any other group of the population as well.

Mr. Chairman, we are running out of time. On behalf of all gypsies we strongly appeal to the World Health Organization to send an independent observer along with us to Romania, so that he might see this catastrophic situation with his very eyes.

We sincerely hope that the United Nations can put an end to this inhuman situation, which could finally help the gypsies socially, medically, financially and economically.

The present situation is a disgrace to the whole western civilization, because everybody has the right of a human existence.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for your time.

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Save the Romanian Gypsies!