



9 June 2010  
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UN Human Rights Council  
Fourteenth, 31 May – 18 June 2010

Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports

Italy

Mr. President,

Many recommendations were made to Italy to take effective measure against racism and to prevent discrimination against migrants, asylum seekers and members of minorities, including Roma and Sinti people. We welcome Italy's support of the majority of these recommendations, in particular the recommendation to ensure equal opportunities for the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including education, health and housing.<sup>1</sup>

Amnesty International has longstanding concern at the numerous forced evictions that have affected and continue to affect the Roma and Sinti communities in Italy. We are also concerned at the discrimination affecting these communities in the enjoyment of their right to adequate housing, and we consider inadequate the measures taken so far by the authorities to address this problem. We are pleased, however, to note that Italy has accepted recommendations to ensure full compliance with international law with regard to forced evictions and to investigate all alternatives to forced eviction of Roma and Sinti people, including through consultation with those directly affected.<sup>2</sup> We urge Italy to ensure the prompt implementation of these recommendations.

Mr. President,

We are very disappointed that Italy rejected the recommendation made by several states to incorporate into domestic law the crime of torture as defined by article 1

<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/14/4, paragraph 84, recommendation 25 (Bangladesh).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendations 61 and 62 (Sweden and Australia).

of the Convention against Torture.<sup>3</sup> We strongly urge Italy to reconsider its position on this recommendation.

Finally, Mr. President,

We welcome Italy's acceptance of a wide range of recommendations to strengthen the protection of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in line with international standards, and to guarantee their access to basic social services.<sup>4</sup> Amnesty International has received reports in the past that over 500 people rescued at sea were taken to Libya by Italian authorities without properly assessing their asylum claims or need for international protection in breach of the principle of *non-refoulement*. [~~76 words~~]

[~~alternative last para.~~] We regret Italy's rejection of recommendations to eliminate the provision in Law No. 94 of 2009 which criminalizes the irregular entry and stay on Italian territory.<sup>5</sup> We are concerned that this law contains discriminatory provisions that could affect the rights of asylum-seekers and migrants, in particular Roma and Sinti people. We urge Italy to amend or withdraw these provisions. [66 words]

Thank you, Mr President.

372 words

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendation 8 (Netherlands, Czech Republic, New Zealand).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendations 67-71 and 74-80.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendations 72 and 73.