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PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release)

The mother of Baia Mare mayor, Viorica Chereches, delete traces of unhuman action staged by her son, who intoxicated with chemicals 22 children and two adults. We urge the authorities to initiate an investigation, to specify in what capacity Victoria Chereches went to the chemical block, accompanied by police and had Roma carrying recipients with chemicals by bare hands

Sunday, 3rd of June, the mother of Baia Mare mayor, Viorica Chereches, **went to the block inside the former company CUPROM, wher, under pressure, many Roma were moved by his son to live among recipients with chemicals. Viorica Chereches went accompanied by representatives of Community Police and asked Roma, who where moved there under presure, to collect all the bottles with toxic substances,** in order to have these moved elsewhere. **Roma have complied and gathered all recipients with chemicals with bare hands, without any protective equipment.** Although the mayor's mother is a doctor and manager of the Infection Desease and Psychiatry Hospital from the village, **she did not explained to Roma what risk they were exposed to when they were asked to carry those recipients filled with chemicals.** Moreover, all this took place in a context when, just two days before, 22 children and 2 adults were transported to the hospital with oxigen masks after they were intoxicated with chemicals – according to information released by national and local media.

We believe that the mother of Baia Mare mayor **deleted traces of the unhuman action carried out by her son,** on the 1st of June 2012, who put pressure on tens of Roma from Craica neighborhood, in order to move them into a block inside the former Company CUPROM, forcing them to live among bottles with chemicals, in inhuman conditions. Not only that the health of some citizens was exposed to danger, consciously, by the Municipality of Baia Mare, by moving them in inadequate, toxic housing, but also Mayor Catalin Chereches has tried to “cover tracks”, involving family members to put pressure on the Roma. **The signatory organizations do not know the capacity in which Mrs. Chereches took Community Police and went to chemically in which Roma are living, had them carrying, with bare hands, those recipients with toxic substances.**

We call upon the Police and Prosecutor's Office to investigate in terms of presence and involvement in the period mentioned in the blocks of CUPROM, the action started by Viorica Chereches, which we consider an abuse and an assault on the health of the Roma people, who were obliged to carry those recipients with toxic substances. We call upon the College of Physicians and representatives of Ministry of Health to initiate an investigation regarding the action of physician Viorica Chereches, who consciously exposed to danger many lives of Romanian citizens. We also ask for her dismissal as Manager of the Infection Desease and Psychiatry Hospital.

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¹ The photographs were taken by Mugur Varzariu, in Baia Mare, on the 3rd of June 2012 inside the former Company Cuprom.