

**PRESS RELEASE**

**The sterilization of Roma women:  
a serious threat to the fundamentals of a democratic society**

The Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies – Romani CRISS, MCA Romania – The Center for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism in Romania and the National Institute for Holocaust Studies “Elie Wiesel” strongly condemn the extremist manifestation of an extremist group in Timisoara, recently published on the blog <http://natm88.blogspot.com/>.

Statements such as the one published in a recent post:

*“We offer a 300 lei reward<sup>1</sup> to each Gypsy woman in Banat area, who can present a medical document to prove she was voluntarily sterilized in 2013. If they cannot educate their offspring in order to avoid being a burden for the Romanian society, we GUARANTEE 300 lei for the voluntary sterilization made in 2013. The offer is very serious, and those interested can contact the Autonomous Nationalists by email”.*<sup>2</sup>

Or publishing objectives such as:

*“solving urgently the Gypsy issue; preservation of the racial genotype, the genetic patrimony inherited from our ancestors, as part of our identity, erasing the guiltiness cult on the so-called “holocaust”, which allegedly took place in Transnistria, stopping the courses on “holocaust” in public schools until that period is objectively clarified, total opposition to multiculturalism and crossbreeding”,*  
fall under the Criminal Code and the Emergency Government Ordinance no 31/2002.

We condemn the recrudescence of the extremist phenomenon, which is incompatible to fundamental values that build a democratic society. The sterilization of women who belong to an ethnic group, regardless how this measure is promoted, represents a serious threat both against the members of that particular group, as well as against the entire society.

We emphasize that, recently, the European Court of Human Rights has condemned Slovakia (in 2011, respectively 2012, the V.C. and N.B. versus Slovakia decisions) for the sterilization of Roma women, holding that articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (prohibition of inhumane and degrading treatment and right to respect for private and family life).

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<sup>1</sup> 300 lei is almost 100 USD.

<sup>2</sup> When the press release was issued, the blog of the extremist group couldn't be accessed any more. Its settings have been modified, and it can only be accessed based on an invitation from the administrator. More information on the subject is available in the media:  
<http://www.debanat.ro/2013/01/nationalistii-autonomi-platesc-tigancile-sterilizate/>  
<http://www.antena3.ro/romania/o-grupare-nationalista-din-timisoara-propune-sterilizarea-femeilor-de-etnie-roma-si-le-ofera-bani-celor-care-nu-mai-fac-copii-198524.html>

We urge the Romanian institutions to put into practice any legal measures in order to make such extremist and discriminatory statements impossible to publish. They represent a serious threat against the democratic values and principles.

Romani CRISS and MCA Romania organizations will file a complaint in front of the Prosecutor's Office with regard to this initiative of supporting the sterilization of Roma women.

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