



Romani CRISS
Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies

19, Buzesti Street, Sector 1
Bucharest – Romania
Tel: +4 021 / 231 41 44
Fax: +4 021/ 310 70 70
E-mail: office@romanicriss.org

9.08.2006

Press Release

We do serve Roma!!!

The owner of public bar which banned access to a number of three young Roma in year 2002 is forced, through a civil sentence to allow access of the plaintiffs in the bar, as consumers, and pay moral damages in the amount of 600 RON.

We remind that, in the evening of 04.12.2002, three Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity, among them a representative of Romani CRISS, went to “Complex Moldova” Bar, that was managed by SC Aurelu SRL, situated in 97, Calea Nationala Street, Botosani County.

At the entrance in the bar, the three young people noticed a discriminatory advertising that had the following content „**We have the right to select our customers – We don’t serve Roma**”. In spite of this notice, the Romani CRISS representative tried to order something from the bar, but the person who was serving refused, motivating by saying that he was under direct orders from the owner of the bar not to serve Roma people. Trying to find out why they don’t want to serve Roma, the answer was: “**The owner does not want Gypsies in this bar**”.

On February 4th, 2003, Romani CRISS lodged a complaint to the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), regarding the refusal of access for the young Roma in Complex Moldova Bar in Botosani. Through Decision no. 165/27.05.2003, the National Council for Combating Discrimination decided that the presented situation was a discriminatory act and the application of a contraventional fine in amount of 800 RON applied to Moldova Complex – Botosani. SC Aurelu SRL appealed the NCCD process-verbaux at the Botosani Court of Law and the Court decided to replace the contraventional fine with “warning”. As the decision hadn’t been appealed within 15 days, it remained final.

Subsequently, Romani CRISS provided support to the victims of discrimination in order to initiate a legal action, to the Botosani Court of Law, against SC Aurelu SRL for damages caused by discrimination acts. On 8th of July 2004, through the civil sentence no. 3211, Botosani Law Court admitted in part the action of the plaintiffs, obliging the defendant „to allow, in the future, the access of the plaintiffs as consumers in the Bar situated in Botosani...”, also „to pay the plaintiffs 200 RON each, for moral damages”.

We mention that, in the present, Romani CRISS is carrying out the legal procedure for having executed another three rulings in regard to damages for Roma whose access to public places was banned.

In addition, three lawsuits regarding damages caused by mass media articles that affected the human dignity of the Roma are presently before the courts of law.

Cezara David
Public relations coordinator
Romani CRISS