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Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 77th session, the Committee considered the situation of Roma people in Plavecky Stvrtok under its early warning and urgent action procedure, in light of information submitted by non-governmental organizations.

The Committee expresses its deep concern about information received according to which Roma people residing in Plavecky Stvrtok are under threat of forced eviction due to proximity to a gas line and that there has been no provision of adequate alternative housing, resettlement or access to productive land. As reported to the Committee, the 105 Roma families with children have not been consulted regarding alternative accommodation, nor even have they properly been informed about the pending eviction. Furthermore, it has been said that the reasons of the eviction are not evident since the houses of non-Roma people residing in the same proximity are not under threat of eviction.

The submitting organizations claim that although the Roma people have been living on the same land in Plavecky Stvrtok for various generations, they have been asked in the past few months to prove the legality of their homes, by providing evidence of construction permits, certificate of ownership and other relevant documents, but in most cases the Roma do not possess such documents. Furthermore the municipality has implicitly recognized the legitimacy of this community by providing legal address numbers as well as levied and collected local taxes on the homes for many years. The Committee expresses its deep concern about information received according to which the homes of 18 families were destroyed because of a failure to provide the necessary documents.

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In this context, the Committee also recalls its recommendations following its consideration of the State party's report at the 76th session (CERD/C/SVK/CO/6-8, par. 17). The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party strengthen its measures aimed at ameliorating the housing conditions of Roma in view of the importance of such conditions for their enjoyment of other rights enshrined in the Convention, and urges the State party to prevent any irreparable harm to the Roma people in Plavecky Stvrtok.

In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee would be grateful to urgently receive information on all of the issues and concerns as outlined above, before **31 January 2011**.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Slovakia, with a view to provide it with assistance in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Anwar Kemal

Chairperson of the Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination