



The Global Initiative
for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

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Re: Threatened forced eviction of the the Dobri Jeliaskov community (Sofia, Bulgaria)

Dear Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Special Rapporteur on the right to water, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, and Independent Expert on Minority Issues,

On 30 June 2011 we wrote to request that you consider intervening with the Republic of Bulgaria to prevent the threatened forced eviction of the the Dobri Jeliaskov community in Sofia.¹ This letter is to provide an urgent update to that situation.

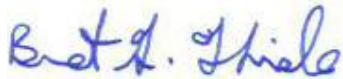
The Dobri Jeliaskov community consists of impoverished Roma and has been in existence for over 70 years. Currently 34 individuals live in the community, 15 of whom are minor children. The Dobri Jeliaskov community faced imminent forced eviction and destruction of their homes in July 2011. In addition to intervening with you, we launched a case before the Human Rights Committee that resulted in the first ever Interim Measures by the Committee to prevent a forced eviction. Until last month, those Interim Measures had been effective. That case, *MS. NAIDENOVA ET AL. V. REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA*, Communication No. 2073/2011, is still pending.

¹ The 30 June 2011 letter did not include the Special Rapporteur on the right to water. She is included here as her mandate now is relevant on account of the cut off of access to water.

Now, in an attempt to forcibly evict the obri Jeliaskov community, on 29 April 2012 the Municipality of Sofia had the water company, Sofiyska voda, cut off the water supply to the Dobri Jeliaskov community. The community now has no access to running water.

We hope that you can intervene with the Republic of Bulgaria and urge it to abide by its obligations to protect and to ensure the human rights of the Dobri Jeliaskov community, including by directing the relevant authorities, including the Municipality of Sofia and the water company, Sofiyska voda, immediately to reconnect access to water for the Dobri Jeliaskov community.

Respectively submitted,



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