

Equal Opportunities Initiative and Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Press Release

Sofia: The Human Rights Committee issued an injunction order against the threatened forced eviction and home demolition of the Dobri Jeliaskov community in Sofia. The order, issued late Friday, 8 July, come at the request of the Equal Opportunities Initiative and the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which filed a complaint with the Committee on behalf of the Dobri Jeliaskov community. The complaint alleges that, if the forced eviction is carried out, it would be in violation of Bulgaria's legal obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Bret Thiele, Co-Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, said that "This is the first time the Human Rights Committee has issued interim measures in a forced eviction case, which demonstrates recognition of the serious and irreparable harm that would occur to this already impoverished community if the evictions do take place."

The Dobri Jeliaskov community is an impoverished Roma community that has existed for over seventy years.

Daniela Mihailova, Legal Program Coordinator with the Equal Opportunities Initiative, said "the community welcomes the injunction and we all hope it is respected by the Bulgarian authorities. Anything less would show a complete disregard for human rights obligations."

The complaint will be considered in full soon and the Human Rights Committee began its regular session on Monday, 11 July.