

The 2008 and 2009 hate crimes against Roma in Hungary claimed six lives and left dozens injured. These incidents should not be viewed as isolated events. Instead, they are part of a growing transnational extreme right wing movement that is sweeping through Central and Eastern Europe, building up inter-organizational networks and common strategies for spreading terror among local Roma populations. This threat to regional peace and security clearly points to an acute need to come up with consolidated, region-wide approaches to tackle the issue which involve increased cooperation between governments, police forces, judicial institutions and national security agencies.

We are disturbed to observe a rapid spread of transnational right wing activity, seen recently in Serbia, Romania, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

In recent weeks there have been a series of anti-Roma attacks in the Jabuka Pancevo municipality in Belgrade. Since June 10, 2010 every evening, a group of the town's non-Roma residents have been harassing the Roma community by organizing protests, throwing bricks and setting fire to Roma property and attacking Roma. Two children have been seriously injured and one house has been destroyed. A number of families have fled the village, others fear further violence and have been unable to leave their homes.

In the Czech Republic between January of 2008 and May of 2010 there has been a string of racist attacks in which eleven Roma, including two minors have been injured. These attacks frequently involved vandalism, Molotov cocktails, beatings of Roma, shots, and in one instance a tear gas grenade. As recently as 3 April, 2010, three Molotov cocktails were thrown into a Romani home in the Moravian-Silesian Region.

In June in Romania the Hungarian extreme right party Jobbik established a local wing to reinforce its activities in territories outside Hungary with sizeable ethnic Hungarian minorities.

In Hungary since the OSCE Field Assessment, attacks against Roma have continued. In April of 2010, one of the deputies of the National Roma Minority Self Government was attacked outside a pub he owned by two members of a right wing nationalist organization. He was kicked in the face and severely beaten. In May and March there were incidents in which Molotov cocktails were thrown into Roma homes in Hatvan and Siofok.

Given that it is the prerogative of national security agencies to act against extremist groups and hinder their activities, we recommend increased regional cooperation between police forces and national security agencies in gathering, analyzing, and effectively sharing information that is vital to the security of the region.

We urge the Member States to adopt a specific OSCE Ministerial Decision on measures that must be taken in order to effectively combat right-wing extremism at national, regional and international levels.

Participating States' attention is drawn to the need to collect and maintain data on incidents of hate crimes motivated by intolerance and discrimination against Roma. In that respect, support to civil society initiatives that aim to respond and to prevent anti-Roma hate crimes should be stressed.