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PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY TO THE OSCE

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In connection with the full, circulated version of the United States Mission's statement on International Roma Day (PC.DEL/225/09), the Republic of Hungary would like to make the following comments:

Since the democratic transition, successive governments in the Republic of Hungary have considered the improvement of the situation of Roma an important priority. Numerous comprehensive programs in the field of education, housing, health care and employment have been adopted and implemented to that end.

Since the Roma community represents the largest minority group in the Republic of Hungary, they are obviously involved in criminal cases as well, both as victims and perpetrators. Unfortunately, recently three violent crimes have been committed against members of the Roma community.

In one of these cases the suspected perpetrators have already been arrested and according to the evidence gathered by the police, ethnic motivation can be excluded. In the other two cases the ongoing police investigation has not uncovered any evidence to support an ethnic motivation. Nevertheless, the Hungarian authorities attach the utmost importance to bringing to justice the perpetrators of these terrible crimes and strengthening public safety and, in particular, the safety of members of the Roma community.