



UNION ROMANI

Miembro de la UNION ROMANI INTERNACIONAL. Organización reconocida por las Naciones Unidas
Protocolo firmado en Nueva York el 28 de febrero de 1979.

For the attention of:

MOUVEMENT CONTRE LE RACISME ET POUR L'AMITIÉ ENTRE LES PEUPLES

43 Boulevard Magenta

75010 Paris

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Spanish branch of *Unión Romani*, whose Standing Committee has unanimously agreed to support the case brought by *Le Mouvement Contre le Racisme et pour L'Amitié entre les Peuples*, which has been put forward to the Law Court of the Republic, located in Rue de Constantine, in the 7th Arrondissement of Paris, against the French Interior Minister, Manuel Valls, who has repeatedly engaged in behaviour that incites hatred, violence and discrimination against the Roma community, which is particularly apparent in his racist comments of the 24th of September.

The Spanish branch of *Unión Romani* believes that the Home Secretary has seriously violated French legislation, as well as EU legislation - which is set out in various agreements, resolutions and directives, binding for all Member States - and in particular that which is established in the Treaty of Lisbon in the very first article:

“Article 1a

The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of the law and **respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between men and women prevail.”

The Home Secretary has stated, in a clearly provocative tone, that the settlements of the Romanian and Bulgarian Romas that are living in France will be dismantled and their occupants expelled back to their respective countries of origin – expulsions that should be unnecessary if, as Mr Valls claims, “the Roma intend to return to Romania and Bulgaria”.

The French Interior Minister incites hatred and racial violence when he associates the Roma with “begging and delinquency”, which, according to him, has only one solution: “dismantling their settlements and expelling them”.

But the minister falls further into the dangerous pit of racist incitement – a racism that has caused so many tears and so much suffering in Europe in the past – when he declares that “these populations – the Romanian and Bulgarian Roma – have a way of life that is extremely different to ours”.

Given everything mentioned here, I ask you to consider accepting our offer of supporting the case put forward to the Law Court of the Republic, and of forming part of the prosecution. We would also like to offer our material resources and our personal capacity for legal action in everything that we can in order to pursue the condemnation of Mr Manuel Valls, France’s Interior Minister.

Juan de Dios Ramírez-Heredia

Lawyer

Former Member of the European Parliament

President of the Spanish Branch of Unión Romani

Vice-president of Unión Romani International