

Radmila Ania's declaration concerning her menace in Serbia  
Radmila on the Roma demonstration on the 24.03.2014 in Erfurt.

In 2013 four men chased me out of my home, because they wanted money from me that I didn't have. They threatened to use force if I don't meet their demands. One of the men was the police inspector from Novi Sad. They came several times to demand money from me. Many times I gave them €500, sometimes €1000. These were my savings. The last time when they came to blackmail me, I couldn't fulfill their demands, because my money was finished. I was so afraid of those armed men that I had to leave my house.

With a small business for textile I could help Romanja (Romanja is a self-designated name for Roma-women) who couldn't find a job by assisting them to get the authorization to be self-employed street vendors (image 1). But the men came also to my business to blackmail me. So I had to suspend and close my business as well after my savings were eaten up. The sewing machines were rented, so I had to give them back. Whether me nor other Romanja or Roma have the possibility to claim the protection from the police, as I have already presented in my statement of claim against the rejection of my application for asylum. The police officers refuse to accept reports made by Romanja and Roma. The lawsuit was disclaimed by the court in Gera, even though I submitted all details for record.

I worked for an organisation for Romanja "Majæina Kolevka", in English "child cradle", in Novi Sad, Serbia. I was the president of this non-governmental organisation (image 2). We supported single Romanja and mothers at their visits at authorities, we supported them to complete forms for social welfare as well as organising food supply (image 3 + 4). Due to my work and my position in the organisation I was in an exposed situation and even well-known by outsiders. My statement was written down incorrectly at the hearing of the application for asylum: Romanja didn't work at our organisation to sew table decoration. Romanja worked in my company where we manufactured and sold table decoration.

I don't have any family left in Serbia except my sister. She was forced into the business of prostitution and plays the role of a female pimp for five women, she is under the severe command of the police inspector of Novi Sad. He threatened to use force on her if she would say anything about him in official police procedures. She serves currently a sentence of five years for procurement in the prison in Požarevace, Serbia. If I had to come back to Serbia, my whole existence would be destroyed: The men would continue blackmailing me and I fear that I would be forced into the business of prostitution just as my sister was.

The police officer came with three other men to the rooms of the organisation „Majæina Kolevka“ and demanded about €1.250. This was a part of the aid money our organisation received and that were deposited in the office (image 5). They requested this money from me and said "that there is no work here [anymore] for gypsies". After this they smashed the facilities of our establishment and tore everything off the walls. Hereupon I fled from Serbia because I had lost everything and it wasn't save for me anymore. The men wanted money in large quantities and they wouldn't stop with their demands and threats. Only my escape to Germany would end the blackmailing. I suffer from high blood pressure and I even had a cardiac infarction two years ago. That's why I depend on medicaments and medical treatment. Though I could apply for health insurance at the social welfare offices, I would not afford the additional payment for the medicines and the medical treatment. Only for the medical treatment of my heart disease I would have to pay 100 € per month. A doctor told me, that the stress caused by a possible deportation could even be life threatening to me, that's why I absolutely have to be examined. Already my father and two of my sisters/brothers died of heart diseases partly very young. If I have to go back to Serbia, I fear a prison sentence because I asked for asylum in Germany. That's why it won't be possible for me to register at the police for social welfare to the amount of 50 €.

After I lost my house, the offices of our organisation were destroyed and I had to suspend my business, everything contributing to my living is destroyed. There are no family members in Serbia that could support me and to find work I am too old. The prices for essential things like food are almost as expensive in Serbia as in Germany. So you can see that I have no chance there, even if I succeed in hiding from the police. In addition, I fear for my life when I would return to Serbia. Even if I would move to another city, these men could find me and threaten me again or do something to me. Because those men themselves belong to the police I can not expect any protection from the police.

All Roma and Romnja must be able to remain in Germany: During the time of the Nazi-Regime the Germans have kept very many Roma imprisoned in the concentration camps and killed them. My husband that has passed away was displaced by the Germans (image 6) and detained in a concentration camp. He survived four years of horror from 1941 to 1945 while his family members were murdered by the Germans (Figure 7 and 8). When I was 7 years old, my grandmother told me, that many of our relatives were deported to Germany and killed in concentration camps. The German government has to show responsibility and give all Roma from the Balkans a permit to stay!

Germany and other states have bombarded Serbia and my hometown Novi Sad for three months. Since then I'm sick and many people have been killed or suffer from sicknesses resulting from the war. Also, for the Roma in the Balkans, the situation after the war in Yugoslavia became much worse. Before the Roma had equal rights and there was little discrimination against Roma. After the war, the situation has worsened dramatically for Roma and we are discriminated in all sectors of our life (image 9).

Radmila Ania  
Supported by friends

I am happy to be at your disposal for interviews!

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