

CASE LAW MOSAIC

QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN HUNGARY, 2021/1

In a specific complaint from a town with county rights in Eastern Hungary, the petitioner complained that he had been moved from one segregated part of the town to another in the framework of an EU-funded segregated settlement rehabilitation project. In addition to the specific complaint, the implementation of the settlement rehabilitation project was also the subject of several press reports. The press also reported that five families in one of the segregated areas, 17 residents in total, including children, had to leave their homes at the beginning of October 2020 because of accumulated debts. The eviction of the families concerned during the epidemic, in the cold and rainy season, before the winter eviction moratorium, has caused a great outcry among Roma residents.

In the case No. AJB-719/2021, the Minority Ombudsman took the initiative of contacting the mayor of the municipality, the president of the Roma nationality self-government and the Deputy State Secretary for Social Inclusion. In early November 2020, she also personally visited the settlement, met the mayor and deputy mayor of the town and the staff of the mayor's office. She met with the president and vice-president of the Roma nationality self-government. Together with them, she also visited the affected segregated settlements, where she had the opportunity to talk directly to the families living there and learn about their most important problems, especially the epidemiological situation.

The investigation is still ongoing and is expected to be completed in 2021. However, it can be considered a result that, with the mediation of the Deputy State Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Minority Ombudsman, and with the cooperation of the municipality and the nationality self-government as well as the families concerned, the evictions of early November were prevented and averted.