

CASE LAW MOSAIC

QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN HUNGARY, 2021/2

Press reports drew the attention of the Minority Ombudsman to the fact that in March 2021, the owner of a property in an eastern Hungarian settlement – at the end of a street separating a Roma segregated area from the settlement – had laid electricity cables on top of a stone wall that had been built years ago under unclear circumstances. On the basis of the information available, video footage and photographs taken on the spot, it was assumed that the stone wall in question, of a size unlike a normal fence, would block almost the entire end of the street. The footage clearly showed that the long stone wall was virtually built on top of a residential building at the very end of the street.

According to news reports, Roma families living in the street have been disturbed and offended by the presence of the wall itself for years, but since it has been topped with electrical wires, many are now expressing fears of an accident.

In view of the fact that with regard to the above, concern about the violation of the requirement of equal treatment has been raised, the Minority Ombudsman contacted the municipality notary of the settlement in order to find out the exact background of the case, and subsequently requested information and asked the Government Commissioner in charge of the competent government office to conduct an investigation.

The investigation was still ongoing at the time of publication of this newsletter.