

CASE LAW MOSAIC

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

On 13 June 2021, in a Pest County settlement, a political party and two extreme right-wing organisations joined forces to call for a march under the slogan "Enough of Gypsy Crime!". The president of the European Roma Rights Centre had, prior to the demonstration, addressed the matter to the national and Pest county police chiefs, as well as to the head of the police station of the settlement concerned, and had also sent his petition to the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and the Minority Ombudsman.

According to the petition, the obvious aim of the march held in the town in connection with a recent serious crime was to intimidate the Roma population of the town, the rhetoric of the political party and extreme right-wing organisations is capable of inciting hatred against Roma, and the authorities should therefore take steps to protect local residents from intimidation.

The Minority Ombudsman has made combat against hate speech and hate crime a priority in her work, as reflected in her previous general comments, and with this in mind she ordered an investigation into the case, during which she also visited the demonstration on 13 June as a professional observer and was informed about the conditions of the police security of the march. The investigation is still ongoing.