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Mayor Vasil Terziev
Sofia Municipality
33 Moskovska Street
1000 Sofia
Bulgaria

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Dear Mayor Vasil Terziev,

**I am writing to urgently call for immediate action regarding the ongoing dire situation affecting Roma families in Zaharna Fabrika in Sofia, Bulgaria**. Beginning on 15 April 2025, the Ilinden district administration of Sofia, under your leadership, demolished dozens of homes in Zaharna Fabrika, leaving almost 200 Roma people - including children, elderly individuals, and pregnant people – homeless. Most families were left without shelter or access to essential services like water, electricity, healthcare, and education. Since the demolitions, only a few families have been provided with alternative housing by the authorities. The majority remain in extremely precarious conditions, sleeping in tents or relying on makeshift shelters.

The demolitions occurred without adequate due process, prior notice, or genuine consultation to explore of alternative solutions, defying the 11 April ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), which ordered Bulgarian authorities to halt the evictions until information on alternative housing was provided. By disregarding this ruling, the Bulgarian authorities have violated their international and regional human rights obligations, including to guarantee the right to adequate housing. Under these obligations, evictions are only permissible as a last resort, following genuine consultation to consider all alternatives to the eviction, provision of adequate alternative housing, and the implementation of safeguards to protect the dignity and rights of those affected.

**I call on you to take immediate action to stop any further forced evictions. I also call on you to ensure that all affected families are provided with alternative adequate housing, along with access to essential services such as medical care, social support, and education. This includes establishing a crisis working group that includes key government institutions, civil society organizations, and representatives of the affected community. This group should work urgently to resolve the situation. Additionally, access to effective remedies should be offered for the loss incurred. I urge you to act without delay to address this situation and to uphold Bulgaria’s obligations under international and regional human rights law.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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