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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This letter is to inform you about the activities the Protestant Church of the Netherlands has developed this summer together with Amnesty International in the Netherlands according to stop the eviction of the Roma population in Rome.

As you probably know in Rome there was the launching of the Nomad Plan in 2009. This "Nomad Plan" paves the way for the forced eviction of thousands of Roma and for most (but not all) of them to be resettled in new or expanded camps on the outskirts of Rome. There has been almost no consultation with Roma who are affected by the plan.

Those who are entitled to be resettled will only be offered accommodation in other camps and not in ordinary housing that many Roma aspire to live in. Thousands of Romani people living in Rome face the threat of multiple human rights violations as the result of this plan. The plan contains several discriminatory provisions and is poorly conceived. It will neither resolve the social problems that prompted it, nor increase the enjoyment of the right to housing by most of the Roma affected.

Therefore the Protestant Church of the Netherlands, together with Amnesty International, ask their members to write a letter to the local authorities in Rome asking to postpone the Nomad Plan. You find this letter in the attachment.

In meetings with members of CCME and also in Eurodiaconia meetings we got to know that the Waldensian Church is also fighting this discriminatory plan. Therefore we let you know that we are giving you our compliments on this and our feelings of solidarity, and hope that you will continue the work against discrimination of the Roma population in Italy and special in Rome.

We hope you will be in contact with the authorities in Rome, and that we all together be able to combat this Nomad plan with success.

May God bless the Waldensian church in all her work, and in this work particularly,

Gods grace may be with you

Dr. A.J. Plaisier  
General secretary to the board of the General Synod of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands