



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**  
**PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE**



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**PRESS RELEASE**

The Albanian People's Advocate, Mr. Igli Totozani, currently attending the 12th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions in Mexico, in his capacity as member of the Bureau of ICC (International Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions), has made present in this international activity the disconcerting developments in Albania involving the forceful displacement of Roma families from the current settlement at the Artificial Lake in Tirana where they have been residing for many years.

Addressing the 12th ICC Conference, Mr. Totozani stated that "No one should be forcefully evicted, least so citizens belonging to a risk group in the country like the Roma community. International standards that Albania strives to fulfill in its aspiration to join the European Union require that such displacements no longer take place, especially so in view of lacking feasible and sustainable alternatives". The People's Advocate underlined that, over the past few years, Albania has unfortunately come under the spotlight because of forceful evictions taking place each year. Mr. Totozani highlighted that "An appeal has been addressed to the Tirana Municipality, so that the latter show due sensitivity and hear the citizens' voices – so as not infringe international standards and indeed uphold their core values of protection and respect for human dignity and fundamental rights."

The People's Advocate informed the National Human Rights Institutions participating in the 12th International Conference that, in the following days, the Albanian People's Advocate institution shall share widely information regarding the developments of this pressing issue with the international institutions and partners.