

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 25 June 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to express my concern about the string of arson attacks targeting Roma citizens in several locations in Ukraine, starting with the incident at the Lysa Hora settlement in Kyiv in April 2018. The last attack which took place late in the evening of Saturday 23 June, in the Roma camp in the outskirts of Lviv, led to the death of a twenty-four-year-old man and to the hospitalisation of four other persons with knife wounds, including a ten year-old boy and a thirty year-old woman. It is reported that the perpetrators are from radical nationalist organisations and that the police, although aware that the attacks would take place, did not intervene.

I took note of the reactions of Ukrainian authorities in condemning these events.

It is of great importance that all relevant actors at the highest political level, as well as local authorities and police forces, mobilise in response to this situation, which seems to have spread throughout Ukraine.

The Council of Europe, as well as its member states, have a duty to uphold the European Convention on Human Rights, including its provisions regarding the right to life and the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment (Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention). I therefore expect the Ukrainian authorities to conduct the necessary effective investigations into allegations in line with the requirements of the Convention and the Court's case law and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Council of Europe stands ready to continue co-operation with your authorities for the implementation of the Strategy of Integration of the Roma national minority into the Ukrainian Society.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

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Prime Minister of Ukraine

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