TIMELINE - EFORIE SUD

a timeline of my 10 years social work in Eforie Sud
2013 - on the day after the demolition of the community, having exhausted all avenues through which he had sought help, Adrian Gamalie, a member of the Roma community in Constanta and an employee of the prefecture, called me and asked for my assistance.
2013 - I notify Amnesty International (I prepare a detailed report on the situation), the Red Cross (I request and basic food supplies are sent), Save the Children (I request and both food and beds are sent) and Romani Criss.
MANAGE TO MOVE THE ROMA FROM HERE
2013 - present on the day when the last two houses were demolished.
2014 - some members of the community receive containers near an improvised garbage dump.
2014 - documenting the daily life.
in 2014, he is the sole witness for the injured party in the lawsuit against the municipality for the forced evacuations of 2013.

The second witness, Robert Matei from the ERRC, came to court with an expired ID and couldn't be heard.
UNICEF BOOK

2014 - include the story of the children from Eforie Sud in the UNICEF book commemorating the organization’s 25th anniversary.
OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF ROMANIA
in January 2015, I was invited to Cotroceni by the President of Romania to thank me for the documentary about the electoral campaign. On this occasion, I handed him a photo album, the UNICEF anniversary album (25 years), which included the story of the Roma from Eforie Sud, and an open letter about the situation of the Roma from Baia Mare.

JANUARY 2015
Dear Mugar,

We are delighted to send you three copies of the illustrated book “We the Children” to which you contributed significantly with your photographic reportage. Together with the magazine GEO and Edition Lammertüber, UNICEF Germany presented the book at the Frankfurt Book Fair, a documentation of which you will find enclosed. It is a volume that contains words and offers comfort in only a few pictures. It rather reveals the to-do-list of international politics and of many specific countries and societies in the anniversary year of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – everything that has remained paper and not become a reality yet”, writes editor Peter-Matthias Günter in the preamble.

In this 266-page volume 45 photographers who participated in the competition UNICEF Photo of the Year document in moving and partially disquieting photo reportages the children’s will to survive and their strength despite the dreadful circumstances they live in – as much as the unhappy parts of childhood and the dreams children have. The reason for this project is, as you know, the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child on 20 November 2014. The book title, “We the Children” takes up the opening phrase of the UN Charter “We the peoples of the United Nations”.

The book is available in bookstores at a price of 49.90 Euro. We would be delighted if you could draw attention to it, for example, via social media. On www.unicef.de/wethechildren and at UNICEF Germany’s facebook page you will find all information regarding “We the Children”.

20 November 2014
The worst he can imagine, says Muger Vâlî, is indifference to observe injustice take root in society as the sad circumstances of Romani people, an oppressed minority in his country of Romania. His pictures show how a people taken in Bălău Mare, a town in the northwest of Romania, and the stand for other Romanian Roma across the country. In difficult times of change, the Roma are subjected to a lack of respect and social discrimination. Violence attacks on them, and their properties. The 1990s have been a time of conflict, trauma, resettlement, and the Roma are still without running water or electricity. Many Roma are left behind without proper healthcare, access to special schools, and education, in constant fear of persecution.
Am învățat un om care s-a dorit să fie președinte.

Sper ca poștele noastre să spune că am învățat un președinte care nu a câștigat de al doilea om.

11. 01. 2015

Marius Vîrbea
in 2015, he saves the dormitory building from eviction and demolition. For this, he goes to the town hall with a group of Roma women and asks the mayor to postpone the evictions. This building was only demolished in 2018.
2016 - he is present for the third consecutive year in the community of Eforie Sud.

He answers dozens and hundreds of calls every time people are threatened with a new eviction.
2017 - the lawsuit initiated in 2014 is won. The final and irrevocable verdict establishes that people are to receive 2000 RON and appropriate housing.

He asks the members of the community if they received the money won in 2017. They say that no one answers their calls anymore and that they haven't received anything.
2018 - he is present for the fifth consecutive year in the community of Eforie Sud.

He asks the members of the community if they received the money won in 2017. They say that no one answers their calls anymore and that they haven't received anything.
2019 - for fear that the municipality's obligation might expire, he asks the people if they want him to represent them in court.
2019 - he notifies the court bailiff and enforces the municipality's initial obligation to pay the amount of 2000 RON.
April 2019 - he arrives at Eforie Sud, and those present sign representation contracts for court.

He requests compensation in court for the non-implementation of the 2017 judgment and obtains 100 RON/day for delay starting from April 11, 2017.

The first trial begins.
May 2019 - a second group of people asks him to represent them as well.

he returns to the community, signs with them, and initiates a second trial (2020).
the first and second trials are won in the first instance. the first trial is definitively won and obtains compensation in the amount of 150,000 EUR for 6 persons and suitable housing.
FROM HERE
the second trial is lost in the appeal made by the municipality, but the case is accepted by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) where it is currently being judged.
Roma individuals who were in Germany begging and engaging in prostitution return to Romania specifically to sign representation documents with Mugur Varzariu.
during the pandemic (April 2020), he is called by a desperate mother and asked to save her daughter from the hands of a trafficking network.
I TOOK HER TO THE TRAIN AND SENT HER HOME
2020 - celebrating first victory
2021 - he continues to answer hundreds of phone calls and returns to the community for the eighth consecutive year.
2020 to 2023 - he uses his credibility and opens up the community to the Roma Just organization, which takes on the cases for the amounts claimed by the municipality as debts. Considering that he initiated the lawsuits first, he provides all the information to help Roma Just.
Roma Just repeatedly tried to destabilize the community. Even though Mugur won the first case, when it was Roma Just's turn to win in the first instance, they went to the community and told the people that they had won and that they didn't need to be represented by Mugur if they wanted to win.
ROMA JUST
LOSES THE TRIAL ON APPEAL
OTHER “FUN FACTS”

- car vandalized in 2019
- over 12000 km
- at least 27 trips
- I am shooting the same cameras in 2024 as I did in 2013
- I am driving the same car
- I did it without any support except from my family and friends (Matei from Matei’s fishery hosted me at his home and always gave me something to eat)
- I earned 70 euros over 10 years for an image that was among the best images of the year 2013 by the AFP agency
- I spent 3000 euros just on diesel fuel
- featured the story in one 1 movie: “Nes Roms” (France)
- featured the story in 2 interviews: TVR and Libertatea
FOR DETAILS

PLEASE CONTACT US AT:
Acest proiect este creația artistică a autorului, sens în care beneficiază de protecția legală conferită de lege, de la momentul aducerii sale la cunoștința publică. Autorul este cel care decide dacă, în ce mod și când opera va fi utilizată. Orice utilizare sau transformare fără drept a creației artistice reprezintă o faptă delictuală.
YOUR SUPPORT

IT HAS BEEN AWAITED SINCE 2010