

MUGUR VĂRZARIU, 2024

TIMELINE - EFORIE SUD

a timeline of my 10 years social work in Eforie Sud





THE CALL

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.









IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

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.



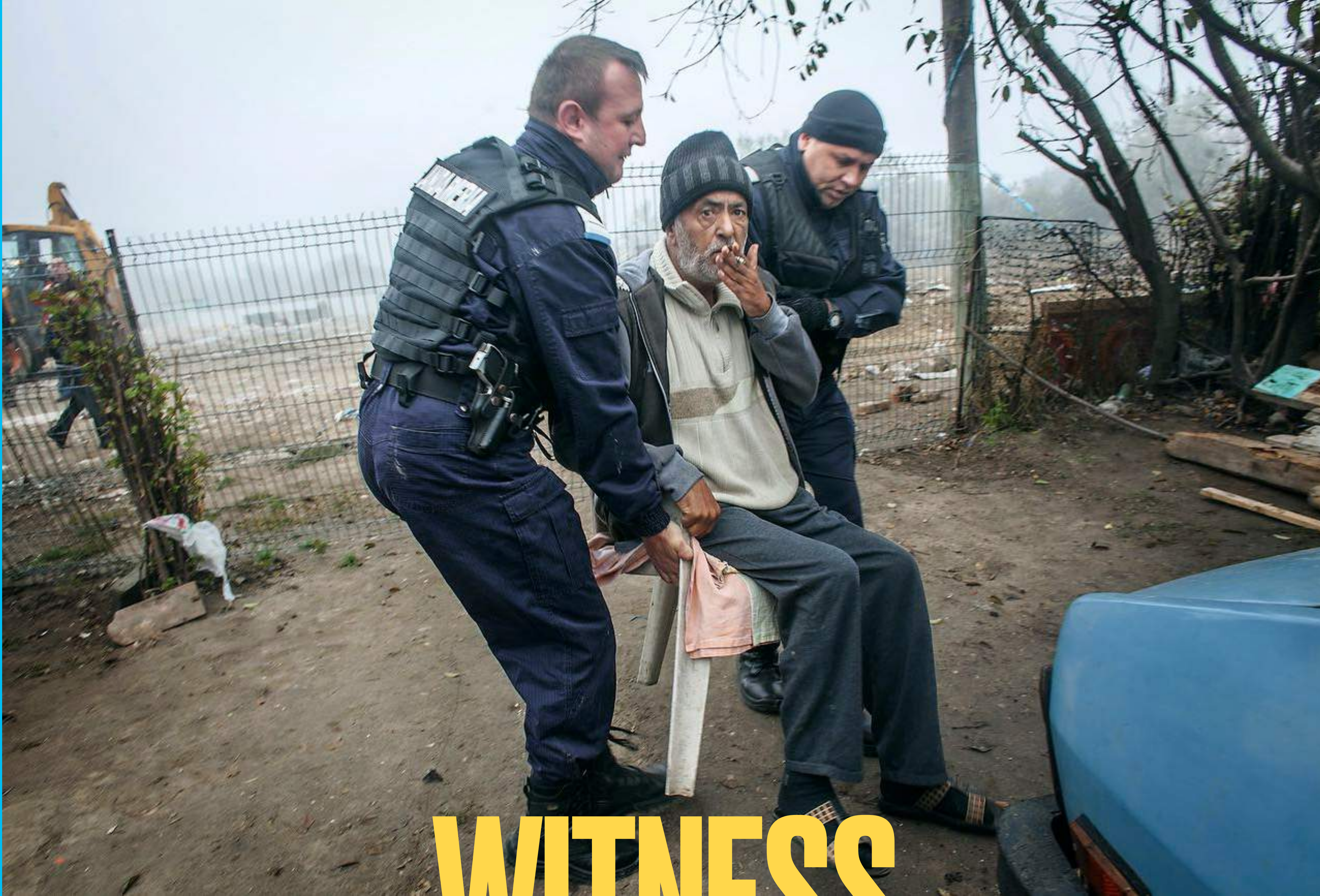
MANAGE TO MOVE THE ROMA FROM HERE



TO HERE







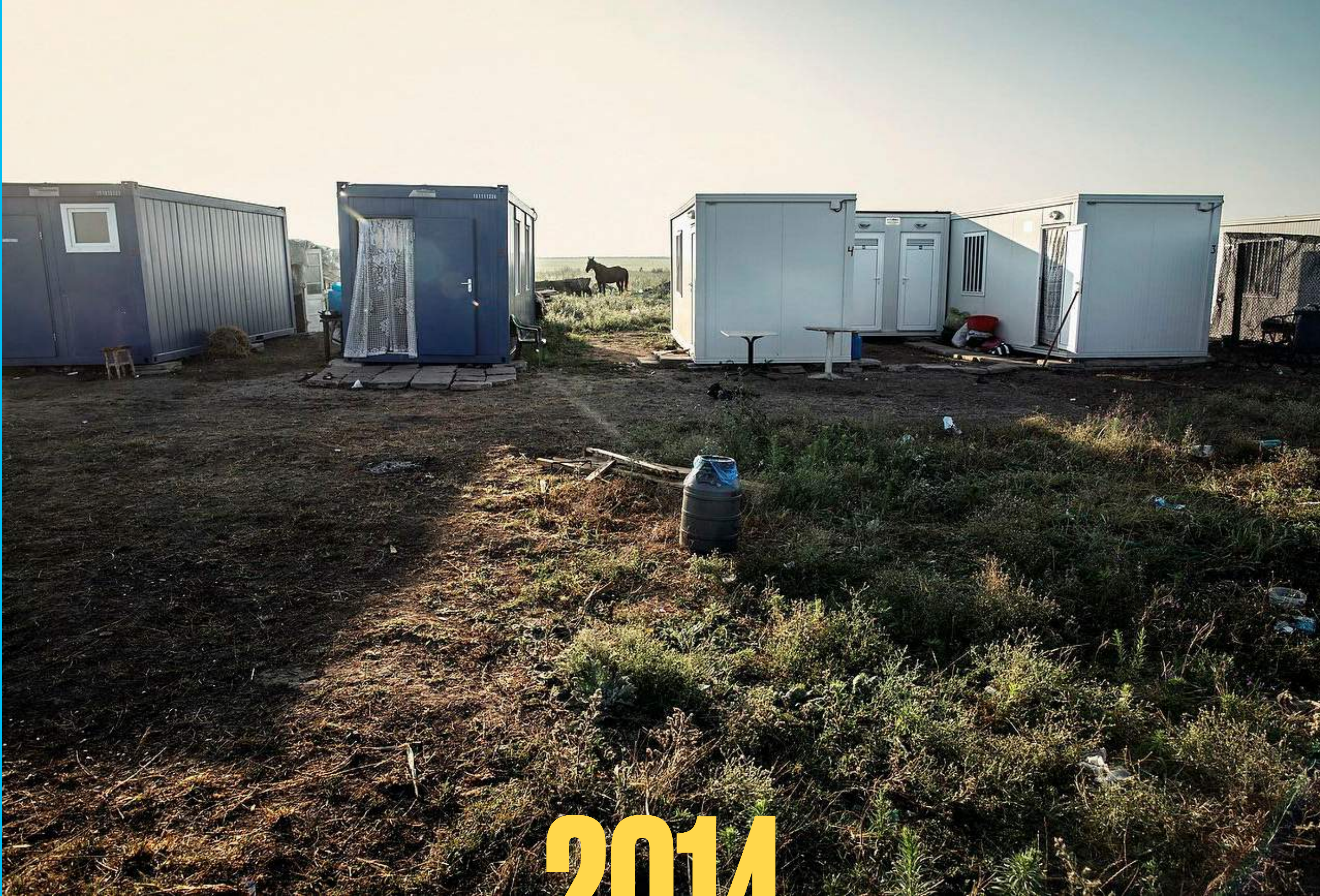
2013 - present on the day when the last two houses were demolished.

WITNESS









2014 - some members of the community receive containers near an improvised garbage dump.

2014



OTHERS



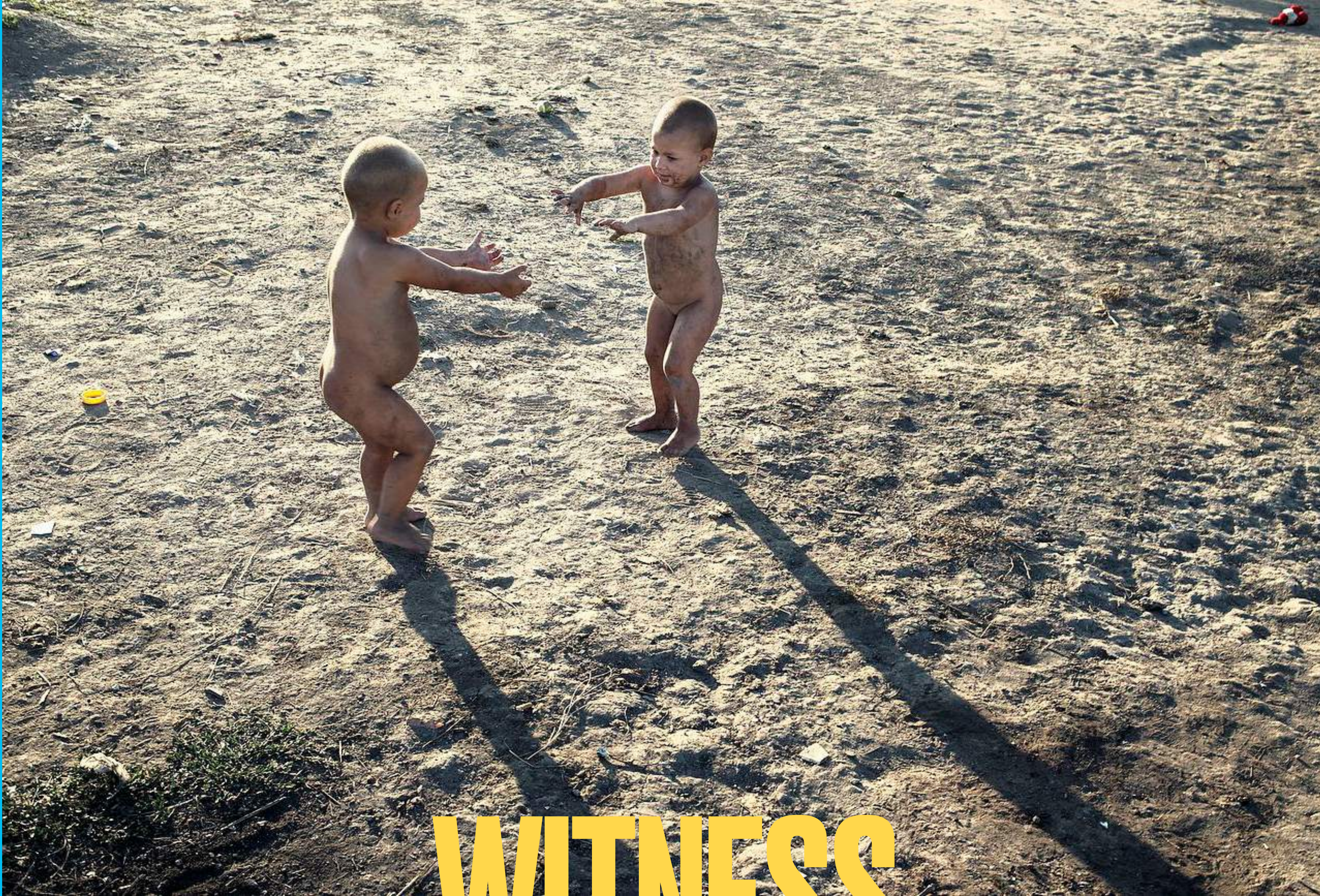


2014 - documenting the daily life.

MUD







WITNESS

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







R

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UNICEF BOOK

DAS RECHT AUF SCHUTZ VOR GEWALT
THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE

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

Domnule Președinte,

În anul 2011 am ajuns pentru prima dată în Baia Mare. Inițiativa primarului Cătălin Cherecheș de a ridica un zid de beton în jurul unei comunități de romi mi-a atras atenția și m-a determinat să mă deplasez la fața locului pentru a vedea cu ochii mei această monstruozitate. Fotografiiile realizate de mine au fost folosite în procesul intentat de CNCD primăriei din Baia Mare. La sfârșitul anului 2013, Curtea Supremă, printr-o sentință definitivă și irevocabilă, a declarat zidul un act de segregare.

Am vorbit atunci cu președintele CNCD, domnul Csaba Asztalos, și l-am întrebat dacă pot cere eu, în nume propriu, demolarea zidului. Mi-a răspuns că nu pot face acest lucru ca persoană fizică, așa că am încercat să îmi înființez o fundație. Costul prea mare al capitalului social m-a împiedicat însă să îmi duc planul până la capăt.

Deși am adresat o scrisoare deschisă tuturor ONG-urilor române și nu numai, cerându-le să deschidă un nou proces, plecând de la hotărârea definitivă, și să ceară demolarea zidului, din diverse motive, pe care vă las să le intuiți, nimeni nu a mișcat un deget nici până azi.

Timp de 3 ani am documentat suferințele romilor din acel oraș, cazul zidului nefiind, din păcate, unul izolat.

Am văzut că ați răspuns pozitiv campaniei de PR a Simonei Halep atunci când v-a invitat să cântați imnul alături de ea. Deși nu sunt un sportiv, pot spera la același răspuns din partea președintelui meu atunci când vă invit să cereți în mod public dărâmarea zidului din Baia Mare?

Vă mulțumesc și sper că acest an să ne aducă încă o dată unele demne perioade din istoria României.

JANUARY 2015

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.

unicef
Gemeinsam für Kinder

www.unicef.de
Hönninger Weg 104
50969 Köln

Bei Umzug mit neuem Anschrift, zurück!

unicef
Gemeinsam für Kinder

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20 November 2014

#WetheChildren

Dear Mugur,

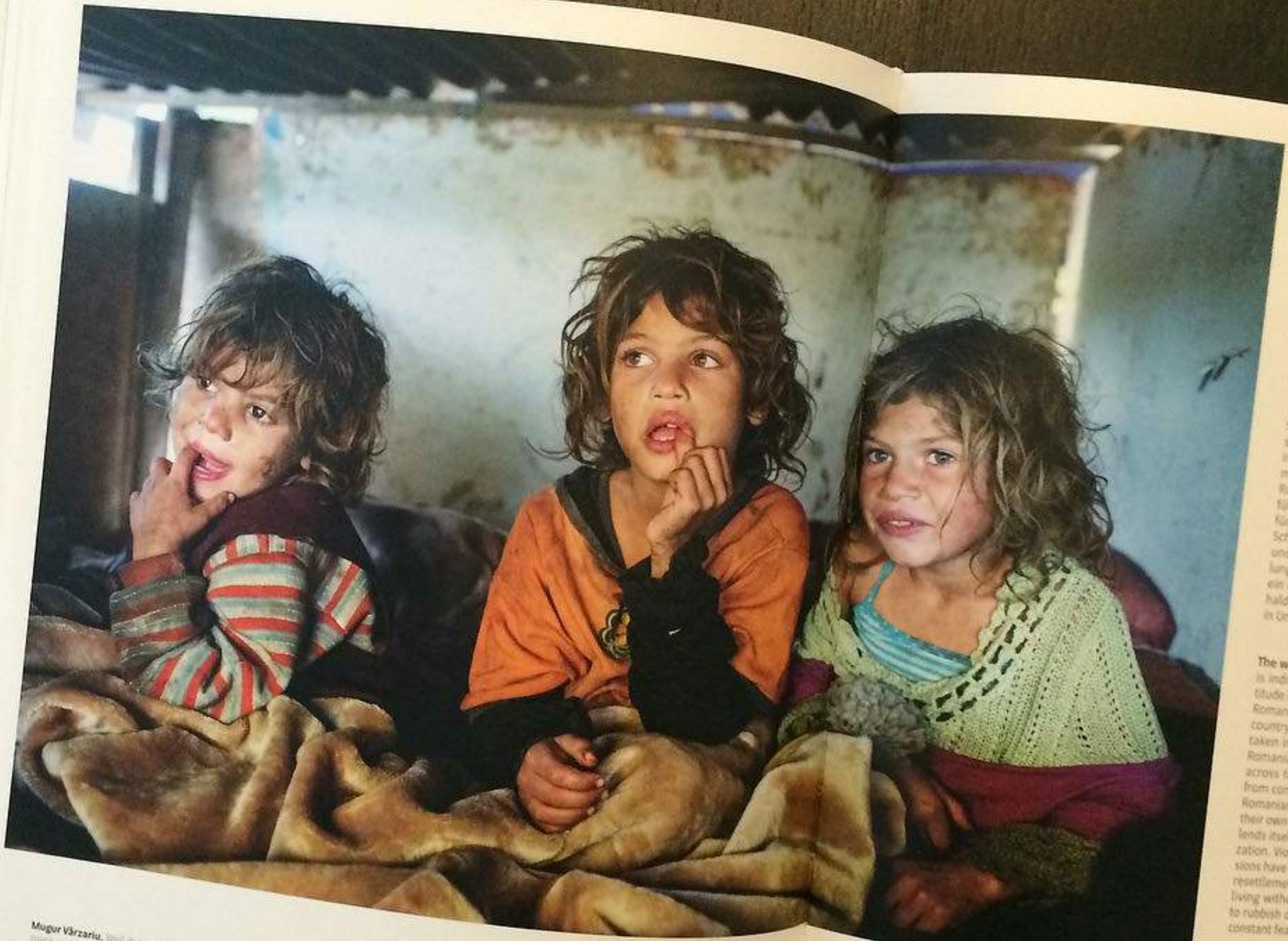
We are delighted to send you three copies of the illustrated book "We the Children" to which you contributed significantly with your photo images or photo reportages. Together with the magazine GEO and Edition Lammerhuber, UNICEF Germany presented the book at Frankfurt Book Fair, a documentation of which you will find enclosed. „It is a volume that cannot soothe 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 Gaede in the preamble.

In this 296 page volume 45 photographers who participated in the competition UNICEF Photo of the Year document in moving and partially disturbing photo reportages the children's will to survive and their strength despite the dreadful circumstances they live in – as much as the happy 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 in the UN Charta „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“. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

#WetheChildren





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Mugur Vărzariu, 39, mit drei seiner Kinder
in einem Zelt. (Foto: Mugur Vărzariu)

Das Schlimmste, was er sich vorst
sagt Mugur Vărzariu, sei die Gleich
genüber offensichtlichen Unrecht. In
stellung dokumentiert er die traum
umstände einer verlassenen Minderhe
Heimatländ Rumänien: der Roma. In
sehenden Bilder stammen aus Baia M
Stadt im Nordwesten Rumäniens, und
stellvertretend für andere Roma-Lage
in den mühsamen Zeiten des Wechsels
munismus zur freien Marktwirtschaft zu
Rumänen nach Sündenböcken für eige
füllte Träume. Die Minorität der Roma b
für hasserfüllte Ablehnung und Ausgren
Schwere Übergriffe auf sie und ihren Besitz
und sind an der Tagesordnung. Zwangs
lungen nichts Ungewöhnliches. Vielen Rom
ein Leben ohne Wasser und Strom, neben
halten oder Kläranlagen, in ständiger Ang
in Unsicherheit.

The worst he can imagine, says Mugur Văr
is indifference to obvious injustice. With the
itude he documents the sad circumstances of
Romani people, an ostracized minority in his ho
country of Romania. His pictures shown here w
taken in Baia Mare, a town in the northwest
Romania, and they stand for other Romani cam
across the country. In difficult times of change
from communism to a free market society, ma
Romanians are looking for scapegoats to blame f
their own unfulfilled dreams. The Romani minorit
lends itself to hate-filled rejection and marginal
zation. Violent attacks on them and their posses
sions have been and still are commonplace, forced
resettlement is not unusual. Many Romani are left
living without running water or electricity, next
to rubbish dumps or sewage treatment plants, in
constant fear and uncertainty.




Am unoscet un ou
care si-a dorit sa fie
presedinte.

We the Children

Sper ca peste 10 ani se pot
spune ca am unoscet un
presedinte care nu a uitat
de tie ou.

11.01.2015

 Mungu V. Bete





POSTPONING EVICTIONS

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.





ROMANIA
JUDETUL
CONSTANTA
ORASUL
EFORIE
PRIMARIA







2016

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

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

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.



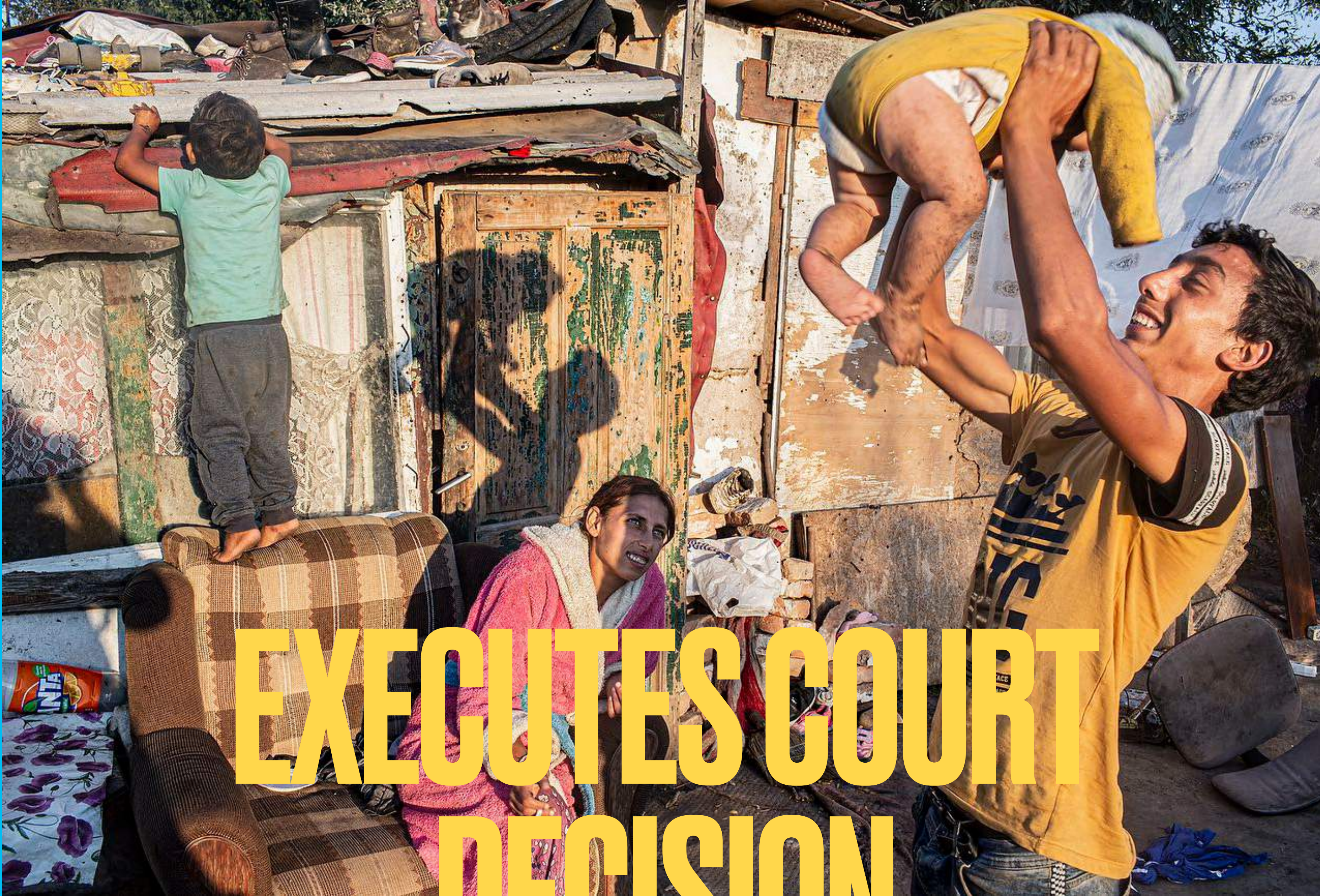


2019

2019 - for fear that the municipality's obligation might expire, he asks the people if they want him to represent them in court.







EXECUTES COURT DECISION

2019 - he notifies the court bailiff and enforces the municipality's initial obligation to pay the amount of 2000 RON.





FIRST GROUP

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.



SECOND GROUP

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).







FIRST GROUP

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



TO HERE





THE SECOND GROUP

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 FROM GERMANY

Roma individuals who were in Germany begging and engaging in prostitution return to Romania specifically to sign representation documents with Mugur Varzariu.





HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

2020









2021

2021 - he continues to answer hundreds of phone calls and returns to the community for the eighth consecutive year.









2022

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.











2023

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:

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mai multe detalii despre implicarea socială a lui Mugur
Vărzariu și Loving Colours puteți găsi aici:
www.mugurvarzariu.com

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YOUR SUPPORT

IT HAS BEEN AWAITED SINCE 2010

THANK YOU