

PRESS RELEASE – SEGREGATION IN EDUCATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GJAKOVË/ĐAKOVICA

On Wednesday 16 January 2013, solicitor Bahtir Troshupa filed a lawsuit against the Directorate of Education of the Municipality of Gjakovë/Đakovica. The lawsuit was submitted on behalf of a number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community members who claim that their children are being segregated by the 'Mustafa Bakija' primary school in Gjakovë/Đakovica; the school has placed Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian first grade students in a class separate from their Albanian peers. The lawsuit claims that this practice is a form of discrimination, violating the Constitution, the Anti-Discrimination Law, as well as the European Convention on Human Rights. The lawsuit calls for the following actions to be taken:

- The segregated class is dismantled and the affected students transferred to a multi-ethnic class.
- Compensation is provided for the immaterial damages suffered due to the human rights violations.

The European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) Kosovo, in cooperation with the Centre for Legal Aid and Regional Development (CLARD), has supported the affected parents in preparing this 'strategic litigation case' (i.e. public interest case) as part of the project *'Enhancing the Positive Impact of the Law for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups (VMGs) in Kosovo'*, funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo.

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