

12th of April, 2012

Press Release

**Weltwoche Cover Picture :
Central Council of German Sinti and Roma Searches for the Affected Family**

The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma is searching for the affected family of the child which has been shown on the cover picture of the Weltwoche magazine in its last issue. The Central Council will support the family in the full reserve of their rights. Romani Rose, chairman of the Central Council, asks the family to contact the Central Council (+49 6221 98 11 01).

The Swiss weekly magazine used this photo to illustrate an article which criminalised the whole minority of the Roma in a general and race baiting way. Therefore, the Central Council lay a criminal complaint against those responsible within the Weltwoche magazine.

The picture of the Italian photographer Livio Mancini has been misused “distorting the meaning and altering the truth”, explained the photo-agency Laif in Cologne. The photo is one out of a series which documents the desolate living conditions of a Roma group in Gjakova, Kosovo, in 2008. As “cynical and inhuman”, Romani Rose called the misuse of this picture in the Weltwoche’s article which is characterised by its racist stereotypes.

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Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma

Annex : additional photo information

Agency : Bildagentur laif

(<http://www.laif.de/index.php?18740312911195614214.00001133686305872343324812042012091842&ARTICLE=70305&VIEWMODE=2>)

Number:

16.14053365

Taken:

23.09.2008

Photographer:

Livio Mancini

Description:

The Garbage Gang of Kosovo In the outskirts of the Kosovar city of Gjakova (Djakovica in Serbian) a group of Roma kids live with their families in a slum built over a garbage dump. Moved after the war they survive by sorting through and selling recyclable trash. Neither Kosovar nor Serbian this ethnic group has always been shunned. These Roma children only know life in the dump a poisoned and diseased playground.

