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Second Secretary

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UPR 18, February 3, 2014
Recommendations by Canada

Slovakia

Question

As civil defamation lawsuits against the media may have an effect on media self-censorship, thus limiting freedom of expression and constraining the media's essential role in support of democracy, can the Government of Slovakia indicate whether it is considering establishing a damage cap for civil defamation cases? If not, what other strategies are being considered to prevent such effects?

Recommendations

Canada recommends that Slovakia:

1. Implement recommendations made in the Office of the Ombudswoman's Extraordinary Report related to human rights complaints on access to education, procedural guarantees in the demolition of illegal dwellings, and police conduct.
2. Allocate appropriate resources to the Office of the Ombudswoman to facilitate equal access to justice for all citizens and further strengthen its monitoring and reporting capacity.
3. Establish a task force of relevant Ministries and civil society organisations to develop a plan to de-segregate Roma education and to ensure the necessary resources are available to begin implementation.

Observation (if time allows):

Slovakia has a well-functioning Office of the Ombudswoman, raising important issues related to the rule of law, as well as human rights. The Government of Canada takes note of the recent extraordinary session of the Slovak Parliament to discuss the report of the Ombudswoman. The human rights violations noted in the Extraordinary Report warrant further review.