



Renate WEBER

Member of the European Parliament

M. Giuseppe Fioroni
Ministro della Pubblica Istruzione
Viale Trastevere,
76/A - 00153 ROMA
ITALY

17 March 2008

RW/AB/MR/17032008

Dear Minister,

A case of juvenile violence was brought to my attention by a Romanian citizen in my constituency, situation that was also presented by the Romanian press.

As you might know, the press has reported that a thirteen years old Romanian child from Civitavecchia was aggressively wounded by a colleague in school and hospitalised on 24 February. As noted in the attached article, following this incident, several Romanian families from Civitavecchia have complained that their children were beaten and harassed by schoolmates because of their nationality.

Therefore, I believe that it is extremely important that this situation is investigated not only by the judiciary, but also closely looked into at educational level.

I consider that tolerance and mutual respect for different nationalities are European values that should be taught and respected in schools from early stages, and that EU nationals should be able to educate their children in a non-violent and harassment-free environment in schools in any Member State.

I therefore hope that in your capacity as minister of education you will not tolerate this tendency of violence that appears to have xenophobic grounds and will do all necessary to solve the current situation in Civitavecchia, investigate whether there are similar cases in other schools, and also find a way to prevent any such possible tendencies in the future.

I would highly appreciate if you could forward me the results of your investigation, as I am extremely concerned of the possible developments of such a delicate issue that definitely needs to be urgently and seriously examined by the Italian authorities.

Yours sincerely,



Renate WEBER

http://www.hotnews.ro/stiri-top_news-2517510-bullismo-romanian-children-bullied-italian-schools.htm

Bullismo: Romanian children bullied in Italian schools

de Radu Rizea **HotNews.ro**

Joi, 6 martie 2008, 8:56 English | Top News

On February 24, A.F., a Romanian 13-year old boy in Civitavecchia, near Rome, passed out at home. The doctors examined him and found that he is not sick, but beaten. At the emergency room of the Sao Paolo hospital, he admitted he was bullied in school. He couldn't feel his arm and his shoulder. A 15-year old pupil for the second year in the same class was beating him every day. But the number of extreme violent acts against Romanian kids is much larger. Many mothers in the same city complained about their children being bullied.

A.F. may be crippled for life. The others are beaten once in a while, but are the kids that everyone makes fun of: "You'll become a house painter, like all Romanians", Italian kids say to Romanians.

A mother was forced to demand her son's name to be changed. The child was accepted directly in the second grade and learned Italian within weeks a few years ago. Now, when he is 14, his name is the only reason to be abused everyday. Lately, his colleagues even begun shouting "To death!" and "To the funeral pile!" when they see him.

The phenomenon, widely spread in Italy, is called bullismo. Even though its existence can not be denied, authorities refused to answer any questions asked by HotNews.ro.