

SYNOPSIS:

« DOWN & OUT »

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Brussels, BELGIUM

2007-2010

Today there are 500 million citizens in the European Union. Increasing social precarity is plunging numerous families into intolerable living conditions at a time when Europe's construction is centered on politics and economics and is rarely resolving social issues. In each European capital, social and economic contrasts continue to progress heading towards a two-tier society. Social insecurity affects the every day lives of an increasing number of people – notably through the lost of their homes.

At a time of major economic crisis, its effects are most harshly felt by the more vulnerable populations. Some think that 2011 will be more tragic than 2010. How many people and families will be expelled from their homes and forced to seek unsanitary shelters, or worse, squats, or even to living on the street?

« **Down & Out** » describes social collapse with its unexpected turns, a slow or sudden decline. A gradual dehumanization. Extreme poverty that, no matter what we say, frightens us, isolates us and provokes social exclusion.

This photo report follows the course of three lives: a relocated family after being expelled in winter, a duo formed during hard times and a young alcoholic man socially excluded.

– « *It's hard to understand that you still have a family you can count on and at the same time you can die. With time, you get used to it, but never completely.* »

Michel

– « *Again and again, we ask us to pay more and more.* »

Bibi

– « *Living in the streets wears you out. It accelerates the aging process. I'm slowed down.*

Before I could jump in my underpants with both feet. When I tried recently in the Cambre Woods, I fell down. »

Alain and Elvis