



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

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Commemorative event at Memorial on the site of Second World War concentration camp in Czech Republic

Speaking at the event, President of Czech Senate, Milos Vystrcil said that the Memorial at the site of the WWII-era concentration camp for Romani people at Lety u Pisku was a demand of time to treat the minority communities fairly. The commemorative gathering began to honor the memory of the Jewish and Romani victims of Nazism at the site of what was once the burial ground for some of those who died in the camp. The commemorative ceremony was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Bartos (Pirates), Czech Culture Minister Baxa, and former Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg. The Culture Minister acknowledged that Roma had experienced segregation and social exclusion for centuries. The Deputy Prime Minister said that the Lety memorial would stand evidence of human endurance as well as remind people to avoid those same mistakes in future.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/president-of-czech-senate-says-lety-commemorations-are-a-call-for-people-to-treat-minorities-fairly?fbclid=IwAR2Mln7xt7lXYPTj6ZtZJayaqo9RPsGXo-K2AgSBXT8x412DL25fYEr3AH8>

New Documentary about the King of Romani Songs, Saban Bajramovic

A new documentary about the King of Roma Song was premiered on May 11 at the Nis Cultural center. The documentary film was produced by the FROS Association along with Saitovic, and

co-financed by the City of Nis and the Ministry of Culture and Information. The documentary showcases stories about Bajramovic's life and musical beginnings to the ascension to the throne of the King of Roma singers. The well-known singer, musician and composer Ninoslav Ademovic told that Shaban's powerful music mind created some of the most famous rhythms. Another famous singer and musician of original Romani music, Dragoslav Mihailovic Kanarinac said that Shaban was his idol. When he sang, it was an inspiration for the singers. At the invitation of the Indian government, it is reported that the famous singer gave performance in India.

Read More at

<https://www.blic.rs/kultura/novi-dokumentarac-o-sabanu-bajramovicu-odusevio-nislije-od-golog-otoka-pa-do-trona-na/h10qzzz?fbclid=IwAR2pguqsstcXg6gDaHCTdWf-sgRB7oLIHHIY4cXGadQxWfTxSCUfT2gKnmw>

Romani Man Wins Unlawful Detention Case against Slovak Police

After around nine years, the justice prevailed when the Bratislava I District Court passed an order in favour of a 30-year-old Romani man with an intellectual disability who was illegally held in police custody for four weeks in 2013. The court awarded €4,000 in compensation for his unlawful detention and the ill-treatment he suffered while detained. European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and the Validity Foundation (MDAC) provided legal aid to the victim. Dorde Jovanovic, President of ERRC welcomed the Court's decision, however, he said that the case was a reflection of a wider problem within the Slovak criminal justice system.

Read More at

http://www.errc.org/press-releases/romani-man-wins-unlawful-detention-case-against-slovak-police?fbclid=IwAR0yji5fhaJmgvduJYnbcxsdrNDCeAp9NMkV7gG6eb3i6lpdKjfyLdG_NGQ

Recommendation for Appointing a Member of Roma Community in the Prime Minister's Office in Montenegro

President of the Roma Council Mensur Saljaj congratulated Dritan Abazovic on taking office as Prime Minister and expressed his belief that Abazovic has the will, ability and readiness to help members of the Roma/Egyptian community. He said, that one of their recommendations was to analyze the possibility of employing members of the Roma/Egyptian community, perhaps even in the Prime Minister's Office, who would work to improve the situation of Romani men and women in Montenegro. Saljaj stated that Abazovic had pointed out in the public discourse that

all minority communities would be represented in the government institutions with the focus on applying the model of civil organization of Montenegro, which is based on two key areas - rule of law and economic development of society.

Read More at

<https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/drustvo/603238/romski-savjet-pisao-abazovicu-analizirati-mogucnost-zaposlenja-pripadnika-re-zajednice-mozda-i-u-kabinetu-premijera?fbclid=IwAR3edAhcYS2T-VTykqvEJZxo7Zpq4YtXRndmZFu-zz-cVoQiENH99McsJBY>

Celebration of St. George's Day, the Biggest Holiday of Roma

Roma every year celebrate St. George's Day on 6 May, which signifies the arrival of spring and the farewell of winter, as well as the awakening of nature. St. George's Day is celebrated by the Orthodox Christians and a national holiday of Roma. Roma throughout the world celebrate this holiday with family and neighbours. The main customs associated with this holiday are weaving wreaths of plants and swimming in the river. It is also customary for the oldest member of the family to get up at dawn, wash outside, take the wood and wake the other members with a light tap to be "healthy as a woodpecker". After that, the celebration begins with music, games and as rich a table as possible.

Read More at

<https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/romi-danas-proslavljaju-svoj-naiveci-praznik-ovako-izgleda-djurdjevdan-u-naselju-gorica-u-sarajevu/220506060?fbclid=IwAR1kX0LG2FKn4AXaQWSGoQLThg8-5LeR2vDICPxn0HNT3GA2PDA0aKwPGSE>

Chouto Orizari in North Macedonia, the Largest Roma Town in the World

Chouto Orizari, the largest Roma city in the world, is located on the outskirts of Skopje, in North Macedonia. The city was created in 1963, after the terrible earthquake that devastated Skopje. It is estimated that there are between 40,000 and 120,000 Roma living there. It is the only city in the world that recognizes the Romani language, has a Roma mayor and has its own Roma flag. It is even one of the rare places in the world where the Romani people enjoy all their rights and are considered as full citizens.

Read More at

<https://www.rtbf.be/article/francois-mazure-nous-emmene-a-chouto-orizari-la-plus-grande-ville-rom-du-monde-10991747?fbclid=IwAR0t5zl1MDHGOkDBuBv-wf4pvkCSd6vv9BK-ru1dKZGnVvnuRGTG5wx2vTA>

Memorial for the Deported Sinti and Roma

A memorial in Remscheid, Germany was organized by The Remscheid Association for the Horse Stable Memorial and Educational Center to commemorate the fate of Sinti and Roma who were deported to concentration camp in Auschwitz by the Nazis in early March 1943. The association works for Sinti and Roma of Remscheid. The tragic fate of the Meinhardt family is a text-book example of the suffering that the Nazis inflicted on the Sinti and Roma. Bluma Meinhardt, living member of Meinhardt family, residing in the Netherlands, attended the event. She lost her mother and seven sibling sat camp in Auschwitz.

Read More at

<https://www1.wdr.de/nachrichten/rheinland/mahnmal-fuer-deportierte-sinti-und-roma-in-remscheid-100.html>

Celebration of World Roma Day-2022

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR) – ARSP organized a webinar to celebrate World Roma Day on the theme of “Assimilation and Integration of Roma Community in Mainstream Societies: Challenges and Way Forward” on 20th April, 2022. The Chief Guest of the conference was the Vice President of European Parliament, Ms. Livia Jaroka who spoke about journey of Romani activism from 1971 to 2022 and objectives of EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation. While funds are available, she added that only limited success has been achieved because European leaders and policy makers failed to involve Romani leadership and academics. She also listed possible areas wherein Roma knowledge could be useful like protection of nature, environmental issues and caretaking of European elders. Marko D Knudsen, Journalist from Germany, spoke that there may not be possible inclusion of Roma/Sinti in the majority society without looking into the issue of anti-Gypsyism or Anti-Ziganism. He also spoke about different problems of integration, fake assimilation, trans-generational trauma, negative prejudice against Roma/Sinti. Srdjan Amet, President of the Roma Lawyers Association and Attorney at Law for Roma Community in Macedonia & in the Balkans, pointed out in his speech that there were no specialized laws or legislations to combat discrimination against Roma in many countries in Europe and elsewhere. Though some countries have laws but not used to deal with discrimination issues. He also spoke about the faulty implementation of policies and programs related to integration. Sead

Kazanxhiu, Artist and Activist spoke about the important role of artists in the documentation of Romani history and the life of Roma. Nadja Greku, scholar, talked about present day dilemmas and political realities of Roma community.

Watch Full Conference at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOVS8llx8d0>

No Structural Antigypsyism at Deutsche Bahn

In March, there were reports that Roma minority migrating from Ukraine were denied access to lounges at the train station in Mannheim and Berlin by Deutsche Bahn employees. After a meeting with the Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Romani Rose and the Federal Government's anti-Gypsy Commissioner, Mehmet Daimaguler, Richard Lutz, the Gead of Deutsche Bahn emphasized that there was no place for discrimination and anti-Gypsyism at Deutsche Bahn. The group of Deutsche Bahn and the Central Council announced, the central council and the railways agreed to work closely to educate and raise awareness among employees on the issue of antiziganism.

Read More at

<https://www.migazin.de/2022/05/15/einzelfaelle-kein-antiziganismus-deutschen-bahn/?fbclid=IwAR2uMVf6t3tvvNg-UP6nJ3VjcTHwKaNhbjn8tTHerdwy7ONku2tOAaO7sQg>

Thirteenth Virtual Lecture of the Lecture Series

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR) – ARSP hosted thirteenth virtual lecture on the topic “The Baltic Roma- Romani Renaissance” on 29th April, 2022. The lecture was delivered by Mr. Valdemar Kalinin (Belarus, London) and attended by several International Romani scholars, activist and Indian dignitaries. He spoke about the situation of Roma during different periods- Russian Empire, Russian Revolution, Soviet Union and Russian Federation. Historically, Russia didn't have antigypsyism movement. After the Russian Revolution, during the civil war, some Gypsy/Roma also participated in the civil war. Russian Revolution impacted the economic structure of country, which also adversely affected Roma community engaged in music as nobody wanted to pay for music Many Roma from cities moved to countryside but had to struggle in finding jobs in the absence of requisite skills and knowledge. Situation of Roma's improved in 1925-26 when the Soviet Government officially recognized Gypsy/ Roma not as a

national minority but as equal to be educated in Romani language and to identify themselves as Cigan/Roma.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4t5xqi5Z--c>