

**Civil Unity for the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma**  
**Murdered under National Socialism**

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**I. Call for Civil Unity**

*Addressed to: Roma and non-Roma Civil organizations and individuals, German political leadership, Dani Karavan - Artist, Department of Urban Development of Berlin*

*This Open Call for Civil Unity is formulated by a Sinti and Roma civil initiative, lead by 'The Romani Elders' [\[1\]](#) and coordinated by the European Roma Cultural Foundation - ERCF ([www.romacult.org](http://www.romacult.org)) [\[2\]](#). In the framework of the 7th Berlin Biennale this unity will advocate for the completion of the 'Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Murdered under National Socialism'.*

*ERCF generates a wide network of Roma and non-Roma organizations and individuals throughout Europe and collects supporting statements and signatures in order to make an effort to impose pressure on all participants for the development of the Memorial - including the political sphere, the official authorities, the constructors and the artist for the continuation of the building process.*

*In 1992 after years of demand by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, the German Federal Government decided upon the construction of a Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Murdered under National Socialism. Today only an abandoned building site reminds us of the Memorial in the center of Berlin, in the Tiergarten, south from the Reichstag.*

*The Sinti and Roma community wishes to communicate the urgent need to finally finish the building of the Memorial in order to celebrate in dignity the inauguration together with the handful of survivors and their families.*

*The Civil Unity begins with the dissemination and promotion of the present Open Call for Unity starting on March 1st, 2012. Following the response of the decision making entities and hopefully with the continuation of the building process, The Romani Elders and the representatives of the younger generation of Sinti and Roma activists will assemble to make their public intervention: personal statements on June 2, 2012, to our best hopes in front of the completed Memorial.*

*It is the main objective of the civil unity to carve the memory of the Sinti and Roma victims into the European collective memory. The presence of the Romani Elders will symbolize the denial of generational racism and discrimination against Roma and Sinti. They will make effort to engage the European public in dialogue about the economic and social vulnerability of Roma and Sinti in the past as well as in our present societies. We hope that this public event will urge all the stakeholders who are involved in the memorial building to finish this process.*

*We believe it is essential to commemorate the Sinti and Roma victims of the Holocaust and place them in the history in order to acknowledge the continuing attacks and persecution against Roma throughout Europe today.—*

***Please visit the [TheRomaniElders.org](http://TheRomaniElders.org) website, and join - with your signature - this initiative by The Romani Elders and ERCF.***

## **II. TheRomaniElders.org / March 1, 2012**

The European Roma Cultural Foundation - ERCF curated a comprehensive archive: [theromanielders.org](http://theromanielders.org). 'The Romani Elders' - initiative builds on the achievements of The Romani Elders, who spent a lifetime in Romani activism. ERCF wishes to ensure that their achievements will never be neglected or forgotten; and their wisdom is re-invested in our societies. We feel that the knowledge, experience, and achievements of the Roma community's Elders are not explored, collected and returned towards Europe. ERCF and its generation of Roma intellectuals wishes to give their role models the attention and respect they deserve. The Romani Elders who accepted the invitation of the ERCF Board are:

- **Hans Caldarash** (SE): Roma musician, writer, activist. He started his professional career as a singer and throughout his performances he has been active against violence, prejudice and racism. Caldarash was the member of the Roma-council at the Swedish parliament, became a member of the Delegation for Roma issues at the parliament's department of Integration and Equal Rights, as well as started working as a director of the Roma Culture Centre in Stockholm.
- **Ágnes Daróczi** (HU): Roma woman activist who spent over 40 years in Roma cultural and political activism. She was organizer of the first exhibitions for Romani Art in Hungary, she was the lobbyist and fundraiser for the Roma Holocaust Memorial in Budapest. She is an internationally acknowledged researcher of minority studies and the founding director of Romedia Foundation, based in Budapest, Hungary.
- **Nicolae Gheorghe** (RO) is a Roma rights activist and sociologist who spent more than 35 years on Roma issues in various roles, such as researcher, founder of organizations, expert and political adviser. He was vice president of the International Roma Union from 1991 until 1993 and later on he was lobbying at the OSCE, United Nations and Council of Europe for the recognition of Roma issues as a greatest human rights concern in Europe. In 1993 he also founded the Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies, which also strives for an improved situation for the Roma in Romania. In the last few years he worked as Advisor on Sinti and Roma issues at the OSCE. He is one of the most charismatic Romani leaders not just in Romania but also in Europe.
- **Romani Rose** is the leading figure in the movement for Sinti and Roma civil rights in Germany. As a member of a German Sinti family that lost 13 members in concentration camps and the Holocaust Romani Rose has been politically active since the 1970s in the struggles of the minority for acknowledgement and material compensation for the wrongs they have suffered. His significant successes include the acknowledgement of the German Sinti and Roma as a national minority under the terms of the Framework Agreement on the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe. Since 1982, Romani Rose has held the post of Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, and since 1991 he has directed the Documentation-Cultural Center of the German Sinti and Roma, an institution known across Europe for presenting the first permanent exhibition on the destruction of the Sinti and Roma.
- **Ceija Stojka** (AU) is an Austrian-Romani writer, painter and musician, survivor of the Holocaust. The tragedies of the Holocaust became a central and eternal theme of her artistic work since 1989. She is a strong and brave Romani woman, who is a key figure for the history, art, and literature of

Romani culture in Europe. Her artistic work offers stories and visual representation of the trauma caused by the Holocaust. She encourages us to face with the past in order to start a new and meaningful dialogue and challenge the various forms of discrimination and violence in the present Europe.

- **Sandra Jayat** (retired member) (FR): Roma artist. Jayat was fifteen years old when she avoided a forced marriage, went on foot to Paris and got engaged with the circle of avantgarde writers and artists. She is an acknowledged figure of French art life as a poet, writer and painter. Jayat organized the first international exhibition of Roma art in Paris, in 1985.
- **Rosa Taikon** (retired member) (SE): Roma silversmith, activist. Since her first exhibition in 1966, her art has been shown in galleries throughout Sweden. Apart from her artistic work, Rosa Taikon participated in political and social activities of the Roma. Taikon raised her voices against racism in ethnological studies in Sweden as well as raised attention to the poor living conditions of Roma and processes of marginalization.

The comprehensive archive presents the life story, achievements, publications, activities, oeuvre, statements, leadership character and charismatic personalities of 'The Romani Elders'.

### **III. Public Intervention lead by The Romani Elders / June 2, 2012**

Following the response of the decision making entities and hopefully with the continuation of the building process, 'The Romani Elders' and the representatives of the younger generation of Roma activism will assemble During the 7th Berlin Biennale, on June 2nd, 2012 to make their Public Intervention - personal statements - to our best hopes in front of the completed Memorial.

The Sinti and Roma of Europe express a need to enforce a prompt solution for the lingering building process and to ensure to finish the monument thus we can celebrate in civil unity at the inauguration ceremony.

We kindly invite you to join us in front of the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Murdered under National Socialism on June 2, 2012 at 15.00!

### **The Problem Statement and the Argument for the Public Intervention**

*The present chronology has been created in consultancy with the political sphere. The Federal Government's Department for Media and Culture reviewed the chronology and suggested changes after a personal meeting on January 26, 2012 with ERCF. This diplomatic action, with the aim of mediating between the civil and the political players was already part of the artistic action curated by ERCF for the 7<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennale.* [\[3\]](#)

1992: Following the lobbying of Mr. Romani Rose (the head of the Central Council for German Sinti and Roma-CCGSR) the German Federal Government promised to erect a memorial for the Roma victims of the Holocaust. [\[4\]](#) Roughly 500,000 Sinti and Roma were murdered by Nazi Germany during World War II.

1994: Commitment by the Berlin Senate, the Federal Government and the then Federal President, Rita Süßmuth defined the location of the Memorial in the Tiergarten, south from the Reichstag.

1999: In June of this year the German Bundestag held a special session of parliament in which a vote was reached in favour of building a central memorial exclusively to the Jewish victims of National Socialism. At the same plenary session, parliamentarians commit to building separate memorials to "all of the other victims of the National Socialist crimes against humanity" (*Plenarprotokoll 14/48, 1999:4128*). This decision constitutes the basis of the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma (and to the Homosexuals) as well.

2000: Romani Rose, chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, invited Dani Karavan [\[5\]](#) to design the monument. [\[6\]](#)

2005: Paul Spiegel, the head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany at the inauguration of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, in Berlin pointed out in his speech the importance of erecting a memorial for the Roma victims. Spiegel supported the lobbying activities of Romani Rose. [\[7\]](#)

2005: Bernd Neumann, Minister of State in the Federal Chancellery and Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media became responsible for the coordination of negotiations. In February, 2005 the location (Tiergarten, South of the Reichstag-present place) was agreed upon [\[8\]](#), and the budget of 2 million Euros were allocated for the construction work. [\[9\]](#)

2006: Dispute commenced amongst the Roma organizations about the wording of the plaques (Roma, Sinti and other Roma groups). The building process was slow. At this time Romani Rose conducted a media campaign blaming the government for the delays. The government response was that the dispute over the wording delayed the constructions. Romani Rose rejected this response by saying that it was clear from the beginning that as long there is no "gypsy" (zigeuner-originating from the German word "thief") in the text of the plaques the Roma organizations will agree.[\[10\]](#)

2008: The construction started on December 19.[\[11\]](#) The construction works are conducted by Berlin's Senate Department for Urban Development, thus the City of Berlin is delegated on Behalf of the Federal Government. The Senat Department for Urban Development is responsible to carry out the design created by the artist, Dani Karavan. Karavan is represented in Berlin by his support group. The artist travels to the site occasionally from Israel. (approximety 2x per month) The date of inauguration at this point is communicated to be October 2010.

2010: In December Karavan stopped the construction and refused to continue.[\[12\]](#) He accused Berlin's construction department of failing to meet his standards for the memorial in a letter addressed to Neumann. This is highly uncomfortable and embarrassing for the city of Berlin, who is aiming to have a distinguished position and political autonomy in the Federal Republic. Peter Raue a well known lawyer of artistic and copyright cases joined Karavan's support team. In December Neumann, who seems to be a tactful politician states in SPIEGEL that he wishes to see the works completed "in accordance with the artist" if possible. He sees himself as an arbitrator.[\[13\]](#)

2011: Berlin has handed over the project to the Federal Government. The dispute appears in the international media: Karavan is questioning the quality of the construction, he is claiming he had expenses which were not reimbursed, he has been on site over 10 times thus he is claiming higher costs. In contrast Berlin is blaming Karavan for generating "absolutely non-reimbursable expenses". (e.g.: visit to the philharmonic including a meal for his guests, El Al business class flight tickets.) Karavan will withdraw his name if the work is not done according to his standards. According to the media, Raue's, the lawyer's main goal is to claim more honorariums for the prolonged works on the memorial for Karavan.[\[14\]](#)

2011 September: Mr. Neumann called for a mediation meeting for Karavan and his support group.[\[15\]](#)

In 2011 the deadline for finishing the works was assigned for May, 2012. In March 2012 this deadline was extended to October 25, 2012.[\[16\]](#)

#### **IV. Every Day is a Shame[\[17\]](#): Violent attacks against Roma continue in present-day Europe!**

In 2005 when the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe was inaugurated[\[18\]](#) in Berlin it was envisioned by European Roma that in just a few years the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma murdered under National Socialism would soon be standing, commemorating the Sinti and Roma Victims, and establishing the ground to not let history repeat itself. However, after 2004 the planning and building process slowed down while the number of violent attacks against Roma accelerated[\[19\]](#):

**2004**

**August, 2004, Miercurea Ciuc, Romania**

„In August 2004, over 100 Roma were evicted from a building in Miercurea Ciuc, in the mainly Hungarian county of Harghita.[\[20\]](#) Signs on the fences around the nearby waste water filtering station warned of toxic danger. The community had been living in the dangerous environment for more than four years.” [\[21\]](#) The case has been covered by the local and national media.

**2005**

**April, 2005, Hungary**

„The internet game - Gypsy Killer - incited Hungarians to kill Roma people online. This act was considered unethical but not illegal under the Hungarian Freedom of Speech - Law”.[\[22\]](#)

**May 7, 2005, Budapest, Hungary**

„At the Moszkva Square a racist attacker stabbed a 15 year old Roma boy with a fighter's sword. The boy was severely injured and hospitalized.”[\[23\]](#)

**2006**

**October 15, 2006, Olaszliszka, Hungary**

The violent attack at Olaszliszka was the culmination of fear and tension between the Hungarian Roma and non-Roma. „The victim, Lajos Szögi a local elementary school teacher almost hit a Roma girl who stepped in front of his car, while he was driving through the village. He stopped his car and got out to check that the child is

not hurt. Although the little girl did not suffer any injuries, her relatives attacked the driver and beat him to death in front of the eyes of his children.[\[24\]](#)" [\[25\]](#)

**October, 2006, Ambrus, Slovenia**

„The forced expulsion through mob action of an extended Roma family from the village of Ambrus, near Ljubljana. The mob set fire in the compound of the Strohan family and forced over 30 residents to flee." [\[26\]](#)

**2007**

**May 2007, in Záhorská Ves, Slovakia**

„Five masked men dressed to imitate policemen attacked the Sarközy family in a makeshift shelter at the site of the family compound that was destroyed in a similar attack in 2003. The attackers reportedly beat members of the family, including a mother and child, with wooden clubs and iron rods and destroyed all of their furniture." [\[27\]](#)

**April 8, 2007, Trebisov, Slovakia**

„The Sarközy family had been under threat since, when masked men attacked the compound of the Sarközy and Malik families in Záhorská Ves, beating members of the two extended families—then totaling 16 persons—with baseball bats and other weapons, causing serious injuries and destroying property." [\[28\]](#)

**May, 2007, Italy**

"The mayors of Rome and Milan signed "Security Pacts" in May 2007 that "envisaged the forced eviction of up to 10,000 Romani people." [\[29\]](#) The clearance and destruction of Roma settlements without prior notice, compensation, or provision of alternative housing began." [\[30\]](#)

**August, 2007, Hungary**

„Founding of the Hungarian Guard: the new association described himself as a body focusing on national cultural heritage and tradition, with the objective to establish the „framework for national self-defense." [\[31\]](#) According to Gábor Vona such a task for example is "civil protection, the protection of national heritage," and the physical, spiritual, mental training of the Hungarian youth for a potential situation, when the mobilization of regular people becomes necessary." [\[32\]](#) (The political party Movement for a Better Hungary, commonly known as Jobbik established in 2007 a paramilitary organization called the Hungarian Guard (Magyar Guárda) that aims, among other objectives, to protect Hungarians from "Gypsy criminality.")

**August 30, 2007, Detva, Slovakia**

„A Romani man and his wife were attacked and seriously wounded in Detva." Although suspects were

detained, no charges were brought, and human rights groups "asserted that the police did not investigate" the case properly." [\[33\]](#)

**August 10, 2007, Novi-Beograd, Serbia**

„At least five young men went to a park in Novi Beograd, where they shouted insults at Roma living there, and set fire to a nylon sheet covering the hut of a Roma woman. Roma confronted the attackers, and the woman was reportedly seriously injured in the fight." [\[34\]](#)

**August 12, 2007, Sofia, Bulgaria**

„A group of an estimated dozen skinheads assaulted six Roma—three men and three women—as they were returning to their homes in Fakulteta, a predominantly Roma neighborhood of Sofia. Four victims were injured and one of them required hospitalization. The victims were interviewed by the Romani Baht Foundation, a Roma rights organization, which said the victims had telephoned for help to the district police but that police had refused to send a patrol car." [\[35\]](#)

**August 16, 2007, Belgrade, Serbia**

„Three men armed with chains attacked Femija Bajrami, a 45-year-old Roma man, knocking him to the ground and beating him. Bajrami, a resident of the suburb Zemun, required medical attention." [\[36\]](#)

**August 21, 2007, Samokov, Bulgaria**

„A verbal encounter between a group of ethnic Bulgarian boys and Roma teenagers in the town square led to a fight and the beating to death of a 17-year-old Roma boy named Asparuh." [\[37\]](#)

**August 24, 2007, Olomuc, Czech Republic**

„A group shouting anti-Roma epithets attacked two young Roma Czechs, aged 18 and 23, at an open air cinema." [\[38\]](#)

**October, 2007, Italy**

"Extraordinary anti-immigrant sentiment exploded into violence toward Romanian immigrants and Roma in general. The violence was triggered by the particularly heinous murder of 47-yearold Giovanna Reggiani, a naval captain's wife, which was attributed to a Romanian immigrant of Roma origin. Reggiani was raped, beaten, left in a ditch, and died the following week. The government responded with roundups of Romanian immigrants and summary expulsions of some two hundred, mostly Roma, disregarding E.U. immigration rules." [\[39\]](#)

### **November 1, 2007, Rome, Italy**

„On November 1, 2007, President Giorgio Napolitano signed a decree providing for the summary expulsion of E.U. citizens “for reasons of public safety,” in direct response to what were described as “episodes of heavy violence and ferocious crime.” The Decree Law, which was in violation of E.U. Directive 2004/38/EC concerning the rights of E.U. internal migrants, appeared to be directed expressly at Roma. Within two weeks, 177 persons had been expelled under the new order.” [\[40\]](#)

### **November 2, 2007, Rome, Italy**

“Racist violence in the backlash to the murder of Giovanna Reggiani included the attacks on Roma living in improvised shelters in a parking lot near the scene of the murder. Up to eight attackers seriously injured three Romanian Roma with metal bars and knives; one of the injured had deep stab wounds in his back.” [\[41\]](#)

### **November 3, 2007, Rome, Italy**

“The housing of some 50 to 60 Roma, was bulldozed by city authorities on November 3, 2007.” [\[42\]](#)

### **December 2007, Prague, Czech Republic**

“The extreme nationalist National Party announced that it would begin recruiting members of a paramilitary National Guard in response to “the growing fear of the behavior of inadaptible minorities and immigrants,” and the failings of the national police.” [\[43\]](#)

### **December 9, 2007, Tatárszentgyörgy, Hungary**

„March of the Hungarian Guard in Tatárszentgyörgy. The guardists marched in a 3-column -over 200 meters long - military format, in black uniforms. After their arrival to the village their speech against „Roma crime” followed.” [\[44\]](#)

## **2008**

### **January, 2008**

“Minority Rights Group International has reported that there have been racist attacks on campsites in the U.K., many of which are not reported to the police.” [\[45\]](#)

### **April 13, 2008, Fadd, Hungary**

“Molotov cocktails were the new home of a Roma family. A woman who was going to sell the family a new home was allegedly told by a member of the local government to not sell the home to the family

and was also verbally threatened. She ignored the threat and sold the home to the family. A few days later

on the Roma family's new home was set on fire with Molotov cocktails." [\[46\]](#)

#### **May 2008, 2008, Naples, Italy**

"Following claims that a Roma teenager had attempted to kidnap a child, mobs in several areas around Naples attacked Roma communities, setting homes alight, and forcing hundreds of Roma to flee. Others were escorted out of the camps by authorities, with no prospect of return." [\[47\]](#)

#### **May 11, 2008, Milan, Italy**

"Attackers set fires with Molotov cocktails in a Roma camp in Via Novara, Milan." [\[48\]](#)

#### **May 13, 2008, Naples, Italy**

"A mob threw stones and Molotov cocktails at two Roma squatter camps in the Ponticelli district of

Northern Naples; many of the estimated eight hundred inhabitants fled." [\[49\]](#)

#### **May 14, 2008, Naples, Italy**

„Attackers returned, including scores of young men on motor scooters, armed with iron bars and Molotov cocktails. They moved systematically through the area, burning the camp to the ground. According to press reports, local residents stood by applauding the arsonists, and the police presence did not stop the attackers." [\[50\]](#)

#### **May 21, 2008, Italy**

"The Italian government issued a decree declaring a state of emergency for one year "in relation to the

settlements of the nomad community in the regions of Campania, Lazio and Lombardy." [\[51\]](#)

"The ordinances designate the prefects of Rome, Milan and Naples as emergency commissioners with extraordinary powers to address the emergency. These include measures to identify camp residents, to include fingerprinting, and to facilitate the expulsion from settlements or deportation through administrative or judicial measures. The prefects were authorized to set aside legal provisions for the protection of the rights of those in question, "for instance the right to be informed when subject to an administrative procedure such as fingerprinting and the requirement that persons be dangerous or suspect or that they refuse to identify themselves before

undergoing identity screening involving photographing, fingerprinting or the gathering of anthropometric data." [\[52\]](#)

**June 3, 2008 Pátka, Hungary**

"Molotov- cocktails were thrown on three houses owned by Roma residents. Nobody was injured but the fire caused severe damage." [\[53\]](#)

**June 9, 2008, Sicily, Italy**

"A settlement of approximately 100 Romanian Roma in Catania, Sicily, was attacked and burned to the ground by unknown perpetrators." [\[54\]](#)

**June 2008, Rome, Italy**

"The new mayor of Rome, Gianni Alemanno, expelled the first group from a settlement that had been present in the city for decades." [\[55\]](#)

**June 15, 2008, Fényeslitke, Hungary**

"A 14-year-old Roma boy was stabbed to death by a drunken man in Fényeslitke. The man reportedly voiced anti-Roma threats. The boy's 16-year-old brother was also seriously injured." [\[56\]](#)

**June 17, 2008, Milan, Italy**

"Two men, aged 35 to 40, attacked the Covaciu family in the Gianbellino area of Milan. Twelve year- old Rebecca Covaciu, her 14-year-old brother Inoi, and their parents were beaten and pursued into a public

park; bystanders offered no assistance." [\[57\]](#)

**July 1, 2008. Kesznyéte, Hungary**

"A sixty-nine year old Hungarian man drove electricity into his fence to protect his vegetable garden from thieves. When three boys climbed into his garden V. Zoltán died, and the two others were electrocuted." [\[58\]](#)

**July 21, 2008, Galgagyörk, Hungary**

"Shortly after midnight shots were fired at three houses of Roma families. [\[59\]](#) The attack took place exactly in the street where the Hungarian Guard assisted the moving of a Hungarian family, just a few days before." [\[60\]](#)

**August 8, 2008, Piricse, Hungary**

"Molotov-cocktail was thrown at two houses of Roma residents at Pircse; a woman was shot in the leg when she was trying to flee the burning house." [\[61\]](#)

**September 5, 2008, Nyíradony-Tamásipuszta, Hungary**

"Shots fired at Roma homes, while the Roma residents were asleep." [\[62\]](#)

**September 2008, Kosice, Slovakia**

"In September 2008, five persons attacked a group of five Roma. The perpetrators first verbally attacked the Roma and then started to beat them." [\[63\]](#)

**November 3, 2008, Nagycsécs, Hungary**

"A 43-year-old Roma man and a 40-year-old Roma woman were shot dead. Their home was set on fire by a Molotov cocktail and the two were killed while they were trying to flee the burning house. A firebomb thrown at another Roma home, across the street, failed to explode." [\[64\]](#)

**November 17, 2008, Litvinov, Czech Republic**

"Following a rally organised by the Czech Workers' Party (DS) in Litvinov which included several anti-Romani speeches on 17 November 2008, a group of 500 neo-Nazis set off to march through Litvinov's Janov Romani neighbourhood. 14 people suffered injuries." [\[65\]](#)

**December 9, 2009, Havirov, Czech Republic**

"Around one dozen right-wing supporters between the ages of 17 and 25 beat a 17-year-old Romani youth, causing partial paralysis." [\[66\]](#)

**December 15, 2008, Alsózsolca, Hungary**

"A 22-year-old Roma man was chopping wood in his yard when he was shot twice. His injuries were life-threatening." [\[67\]](#)

**2009**

**February 23, 2009, Tatárszentgyörgy, Hungary**

"The house of a Roma family in Tatárszentgyörgy was set on fire by a Molotov cocktail. The perpetrators shot and killed a 27-year-old man and his five-year-old son while they were fleeing from their burning home. The man's six-year-old daughter, three-year-old child, and wife were also injured in the attack." [\[68\]](#)

**March 21, 2009, Kosice, Slovakia,**

"On 21 March 2009 in Kosice, a group of police officers forced six Romani boys aged 11 to 16 in police custody to undress and slap and

kiss each other. The officers also set unmuzzled dogs on the boys, some of whom were bitten. Officers recorded humiliating scenes with their mobile phones and cameras during this incident. The video coverage, made public on YouTube." [\[69\]](#)

**April 5, 2009, Bratislava, Slovakia**

"On 5 April 2009 a group of four skinheads attacked 10 Romani men, construction workers from

Eastern-Slovakia, who were riding the bus in Bratislava. Three of the Romani men were reportedly hospitalised with serious injuries." [\[70\]](#)

**April 6, 2009, P erov, Czech Republic**

"Far-right groups organized a march through the Roma-populated area in P erov in the Czech Republic. Days before the rally, the organizations were calling through their websites on members and sympathizers to join the march against what they termed "gypsy terrorism", and referring to "gypsy ethnicity" as "parasitic." [\[71\]](#)

**April 15, 2009, Budapest, Hungary**

"Three minors and an 18-year-old man, all of Roma origin, were waiting for the tram in front of the Keleti train station, when they were attacked by a group of people wearing hoods. They were beaten so severely that they were comatose by the time the ambulance arrived." [\[72\]](#)

**April 19, 2009, Vitkov, Czech Republic**

"In an arson attack on a Romani house three Roma suffered serious injuries; among them a two-year-old girl who suffered serious burns to 80% of her body and had three of her fingers amputated. Her mother also suffered second and third degree burns to 30% of her body. As the grandmother tried to extinguish the fire, she found that the water supply had been turned off making it impossible to distinguish the fire." [\[73\]](#)

**April 22, 2009, Tiszalök, Hungary**

"A 54-year-old Roma man was shot as he was leaving for work from his home in Tiszalök. The

man was killed instantly. The attack is part of the case of "serial" killings and attacks against Roma." [\[74\]](#)

**April 26, 2009, Monov, Slovakia**

"An armed 27-year-old went to the Roma settlement entered the houses of the residents, broke windows and doors, shouted at the residents, threatening them that he would kill." [\[75\]](#)

**May 24, 2009, Zdiiby, Czech Republic**

"Unknown perpetrators attacked a Romani family by throwing two Molotov cocktails at their home. According to Czech Television the family extinguished the fire and no one was injured. Bottles containing an unknown fuel were thrown at the wall of the house, which lead to the explosion of an electrical wiring unit." [\[76\]](#)

**May 27, 2009, Abádszalók, Hungary**

"A man broke into a house at 3:00 a.m. and attacked the Romani family inside with a razor blade.

The man, had connections to the Hungarian Guard. The family managed to overtake the perpetrator, who was also armed with a gun." [\[77\]](#)

**June 7, 2009, Zohor, Slovakia**

"A 20-year-old man shot a 61-year-old Roma man in the face with a gas gun while verbally insulting Roma and shouting Nazi slogans." [\[78\]](#)

**June 17, 2009, Belfast, UK**

Around 20 families of Roma people from Romania were forced to flee their homes in Belfast after coming under sustained attack for a number of nights. A crowd is reported to have gathered outside their homes shouting racist slogans, smashing windows and kicking in doors. [\[79\]](#)

**August 3, 2009, Kisléta, Hungary**

„A 45-year-old woman and her 11 year old daughter were attacked by strangers in their

home. The mother died after being shot while still in bed. Her daughter survived but was badly injured." [\[80\]](#)

**August 5, 2009, Ver ce, Hungary**

In the town of Ver ce a pregnant Roma woman and a young Roma boy were beaten by skinheads. The town is known to host an annual event called Hungarian Island where participants advocate for a "white Hungary". [\[81\]](#)

**December 11, 2009, Spišská Nová Ves, Slovakia,**

„Romani man was attacked by security guards after a group of Romani activists was refused entry to a disco in Spišská Nová Ves. The group called the police to report discriminatory treatment. The police came and spoke with the Roma and employees of the disco. When the police left, several of the security guards attacked a member of the group causing minor injuries." [\[82\]](#)

2010

**March 14, 2010, Ostrava, Czech Republic**

"On the morning of 14 March 2010 a Molotov cocktail was thrown into the home of a Romani family in Ostrava's Bed iška settlement. An unidentified perpetrator threw the Molotov cocktail through the window of a bedroom in which a 14-year-old girl was sleeping; the girl managed to put out the fire before anyone was injured." [\[83\]](#)

**March 18, 2010, Siófok, Hungary**

"Molotov cocktails were thrown into the houses of four Romani families in Siófok. There were no injuries. Zsolt Németh, the chairman of the Siófok Roma Minority Self-Government stated that the Molotov cocktails were clearly an attack against Roma since four Roma houses in the same area were targeted." [\[84\]](#)

**March 27-28, 2010, Sokolov, Czech Republic**

"Three perpetrators attacked Police Commissioner Lubomir Horvath, a Romani man, in his apartment in Sokolov. As a result of the attack, Mr Horvath's leg was fractured in three places and doctors had to insert screws into his leg. One of the perpetrators chased his 19-year-old son, knocked him to the ground and kicked him while shouting "black swine". [\[85\]](#)

**March 29, 2010, Karviná, Czech Republic**

"Four perpetrators shot an air rifle at Roma, hitting a nine-year-old girl in the thigh, her mother in the arm and their ethnic Czech neighbour in the collarbone. The neighbor was reportedly not meant to be targeted but was hit accidentally when one of the shots missed the Romani woman." [\[86\]](#)

**April 20, 2010, Husinec, Czech Republic**

"Two non-Romani male adults attacked a 13-year-old Romani girl. The girl was with a group of children when the perpetrators threw her into a fishpond and submerged her head under water repeatedly. The children were residents of a homeless shelter; the attack was the third on shelter residents in the past two years, including assaults with air rifles." [\[87\]](#)

**May 9, 2010, Tornala, Slovak Republic**

"A 46-year-old Romani man died, reportedly due to extensive inhalation of tear gas during a dispute over outstanding energy payments owed to the municipality, during which a large amount of tear gas was used. The Romani man, was seeking resolution of the

debt, when he was taken to a police station where he was interrogated, treated by an ambulance and then sent home in stable condition. A week later, on 17 May, doctors treated the man for breathing problems and deteriorating health conditions: he died in the hospital on the same day. Police claim that the tear gas was not the cause of the death, linking the death to high blood sugar." [\[88\]](#)

**May 22, 2010, Hatvan, Hungary**

"In the early morning of 22 May, another arson attack occurred in Hatvan. Unknown perpetrators threw several bottles filled with gas at a house inhabited by Romani people. The residents of the house woke up when the bottles were thrown through the window and broke. They called the fire brigade, which managed to put out the fire." [\[89\]](#)

**July 17, 2010, Saint-Aignan, France**

"A 22-year-old Roma in his automobile broke through a fence put up by security personnel, and hit one of the gendarmes who attempted to block his path. The attacker tried to escape from the second patrol, but one of the policemen shot the gypsy." [\[90\]](#)

**July 30, 2010 Paris, France**

„French President Nicolas Sarkozy has made a decision to shut down at least 200 Roma camps and expel their inhabitants." [\[91\]](#)

**August 10, 2010, Bratislava, Slovakia**

"A 50 year-old armed Slovak man shot dead six members of a Roma family and another woman in the Slovakian capital. Fourteen more people were wounded in a gun battle with police following the murders - including a three-year-old boy and an officer who was shot in the head - before the gunman committed suicide." [\[92\]](#)

**September 14, 2010, Prievidza, Slovak Republic**

"During the eviction of several Romani families including seven children and a number of adults, an unidentified perpetrator fired shots on the building from which they were being evicted. No injuries." [\[93\]](#)

**July 10, 2010, Olaszliszka, Hungary**

"Unknown perpetrators attacked a Romani house late in the evening on Sunday 4 July 2010. Three shots were fired at the house leaving bullet holes in the front wall. When the attack occurred, the mother and children were sleeping in the house." [\[94\]](#)

**October 19, 2010, Dale Farm, UK**

Hundreds of riot police, bailiffs and contractors with heavy digging equipment moved in to the Dale Farm Travelers' site throwing families and their caravans off the site and leaving a trail of destruction. [\[95\]](#)

2011

**February 18, 2011, Ostrava, Czech Republic**

"Unknown perpetrators attacked a Romani man travelling with his 13-year-old son on a city bus, first verbally then physically. Witnesses reported in the media that the perpetrators called the victims "Gypsies", forced the man off the bus and punched him several times. Police sources reported that the crime was committed by between four and six men between the ages of 20 and 25. The attack left the Romani man with injuries." [\[96\]](#)

**March 13, 2011, Nový Bydžov, Czech Republic**

"A gang of 20 neo-Nazis attacked three Romani individuals in Nový Bydžov. One of the victims suffered head injuries and lost consciousness. He was transported to hospital, where it was determined he had suffered a concussion. The incident came immediately after a march of an estimated 500 sympathizers of the extreme-right Workers' Social Justice Party (Dlnická strana sociální spravedlnosti - DSSS) in the town. Police intervened brutally when about 200 counter-demonstrators attempted a non-violent blockade to prevent the march. According to witnesses, police officers on horseback charged at the peaceful demonstrators at full speed." [\[97\]](#)

**April 26, 2011, Gyöngyöspata, Hungary**

"During tensions between supporters of the extreme right paramilitary Véder group and the local Romani community in Gyöngyöspata, Hungary, a male Romani youth was assaulted on the night of 26 April 2011. Véder members also reportedly threatened local Roma with a gun and some threw stones at one of the houses in the Romani neighbourhood, then assaulted a 14-year-old Romani boy." [\[98\]](#)

**July 11, 2011, Býchory, Czech Republic**

"In the town of Býchory, perpetrators threw a flaming torch into a Romani home on 11 July. The family put out the fire themselves. Five people, including three small children, live in the targeted home and another two people were visiting at the time of the attack. None of the victims suffered physical injury but the attack caused some damage to the house. "They walked through the village holding lit torches and giving the Nazi salute." [\[99\]](#)

**July 30, 2011, Nyrsko, Czech Republic**

"Two racists broke into a Roma-occupied home and almost killed a Romani man by beating him with a wooden bat and kicking him. According to victims' testimony, around 5 PM on 30 July, the children of the family came running into the house shouting that

they were being chased by skinheads. The perpetrators broke into their home, attacked the mail member of the family. Fortunately, other members of the family ran to his aid and after some serious struggle, both of the assailants, who are 18 and 23 years old, fled, shouting that the Romani people were "black swine" and that they had come to kill them." [\[100\]](#)

**June -August 2011, Marseille, France**

"A minimum of 500 Roma have been evicted from camps in Marseille." [\[101\]](#)

**August 10, 2011, Krty, Czech Republic**

"A Molotov cocktail was thrown into a Romani house on railway property in Krty. One man suffered second-degree burns as a result of the attack. According to local media reports, the Molotov cocktail landed in the bedroom where two young parents and their 1-year-old child were sleeping." [\[102\]](#)

**August 26, 2011, Rumburk, Czech Republic**

"Four ethnic Czechs brutally attacked a Romani man with baseball bats in front of his pregnant girlfriend." [\[103\]](#)

**August 27, 2011, Rumburk, Czech Republic**

"A Romani family fled Rumburk after their neighbours threatened to kill them. Before fleeing, the family had contacted both the police and the Rumburk town hall, neither of which offered them help. The mother of the family is an ethnic Czech and her husband is Romani." [\[104\]](#)

**September 3, 2011, Varnsdorf, Czech Republic**

"A mob of several hundred ethnic Czechs, including both members of the neo-Nazi "Free Youth" (Svobodná mládež) movement and other people from the town, marched through Varnsdorf trying to attack Romani residents of the Sport residential hotel and shouting racist abuse. Although the situation was out of control between, it was eventually stopped by police vans." [\[105\]](#)

**September 10, 2011, Nový Bor, Rumburk, and Varnsdorf , Czech Republic**

"Three separate anti-Romani demonstrations were held by the ultra-nationalist Workers' Social Justice Party in the towns of Nový Bor, Rumburk, and Varnsdorf. In Varnsdorf, the second location in the series, the demonstration transformed itself into an unannounced march led by hardcore neo-Nazis." [\[106\]](#)

**September 17, 2011, Varnsdorf, Czech Republic**

"At 2 PM on 17 September, an anti-Romani rally was held on the Varnsdorf town square, followed by a march on Romani residences supported by extremists from the Workers' Social Justice Party (DSSS). Half an hour before the announced start time of the demonstration, police detained 14 men with tattoos associated with football hooligans on suspicion of various misdemeanors. Police reported some were carrying knives." [\[107\]](#)

**October 16, 2011, Ústí nad Labem, Hungary**

"The investigation into an attack committed against two ethnic Czechs by Romani people has confirmed that the two ethnic Czechs had attacked other Romani people prior to the incident. The investigation is still ongoing, as the incident has been reported on differently by different sources." [\[108\]](#)

**November 5, 2011, Šluknov, Czech Republic**

"A Romani man filed a complaint against the behavior of a police officer in Šluknov. According to the Romani man, while standing on his own property he was approached by one police officer and then attacked by another, who grabbed him from behind with one hand on his throat and pushed him to the wall, yelling racist language." [\[109\]](#)

**November 26, 2011, Decin, Czech Republic**

"Romani man who suffered from schizophrenia died following a police intervention called for by paramedics unable to calm him down from a fit of aggression. The man was then transported to the hospital. On Thursday, 1 December, the hospital informed the family that their 26-year-old son had died. According to his relatives, the police, who had made inappropriate comments regarding the man's skin color, used force and a stun gun against the man even after he had ceased resisting." [\[110\]](#)

**November 28, 2011, Vimperk, Czech Republic**

"According to the Czech Press Agency, a dark-skinned singer was attacked by a group of racist promoters of the ultra-right extremist Workers' Social Justice Party (Dlnická strana sociální spravedlnost, DSSS), who shouted racist slogans, pulled her hair and spit at her. The singer alleges that two off-duty police officers at the restaurant did not come to her aid and that the officers who did arrive to address the incident took no action because the assailants were not locals." [\[111\]](#)

**December 2011, Turin, Italy**

"A 16-year-old Italian girl whose claim that she was raped by Gypsies prompted a furious mob to launch an arson attack on a Turin Roma camp has admitted to police that she invented her story. Hundreds of residents of the deprived Turin suburb of Vallette took to the streets on Saturday to protest after the girl, who has not

been named, claimed she had been dragged behind a building and raped by two Gypsy men." "Police officers evacuated the camp moments before the crowd of local attackers arrived and no injuries were reported, but fire crews were unable to prevent the camp being destroyed." [\[112\]](#)

**2012**

**January 2, 2012, Tanvald, Czech Republic**

"Two Romani brothers were shot in Tanvald approximately 200 meters from their home on 1 January 2012 while reportedly en route to wishing their grandmother a happy new year. The 22-year old man died from his injuries and the 24-year old man suffered serious injuries. Czech-Romani Civic Association chair Gorol maintains that the incident was an "execution" of the Roma, as the men were allegedly unarmed." [\[113\]](#)

**January 10, 2012, Plzen, Czech Republic**

"A Romani activist living in the P ední Skvr any neighborhood of Plze has been targeted with racial slurs and e-mail threats over the last six months, including the spray-painting of a red swastika on the front door of his apartment." [\[114\]](#)

**January 10, 2012, Prague, Czech Republic**

"Three young men have confessed to their involvement in the murder of a Romani woman in the Prague 3 district of Jarov. According to Romea.cz, the woman was kicked and punched in the head before being stabbed. According to local residents, the young men are right-wing extremist sympathizers who have regularly attacked homeless people and locals in the past." [\[115\]](#)

**January 15, 2012, Varnsdorf, Czech Republic**

"Romea.cz reported that approximately 200 people amassed in Varnsdorf's Benešov Square to demonstrate against the presence of Roma in the town. At the demonstration, which remained without violent incident, the flag of the ultra-right Workers' Social Justice Party (D lnická strana sociální spravedlnosti or DSSS) was carried by demonstrators." [\[116\]](#)

**It is essential to commemorate the Sinti and Roma victims of the Holocaust and place them in history in order to acknowledge the continuing attacks towards the Roma throughout Europe, today; To**

stop the series of "Cowardly racist murders"[\[117\]](#) and "the new dimension of the violence committed against the Roma minority"[\[118\]](#).

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[\[1\]](#) Following the invitation of Artur mijewski, curator of the 7th Berlin Biennale, the European Roma Cultural Foundation - ERCF curated a comprehensive archive: [theromanielders.org](http://theromanielders.org). See Part II: [TheRomaniElders.org](http://TheRomaniElders.org).

[\[2\]](#) The European Roma Cultural Foundation - ERCF is an independent non-profit foundation registered in Budapest, Hungary. The European Roma Cultural Foundation, the operational and fundraising body, exists to strengthen and widely promote the role of Roma arts and culture in Europe (and beyond) as a way to fight against negative stereotypes and hostile attitudes towards Roma communities.

[\[3\]](#) ERCF is also planning to meet the artist - commissioned for the conceptualization and creation of the Memorial -with the Berlin Construction Department and with political players to continue the mediation between the civil and governmental players.

[\[4\]](#) <http://www.fr-online.de/politik/denkmal-fuer-ermordete-sinti-und-roma-die-farbe-des-wassers,1472596,7129222.html>

[\[5\]](#) <http://www.danikaravan.com/>)

[\[6\]](#) <http://www.tagesspiegel.de/politik/mahnmal-sinti-und-roma-fordern-entscheidung-zum-bau-einer-gedenkstaette/156370.html>

[\[7\]](#) <http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/d-29610192.html>

[8] It was actually not until 2007 that the site between Brandenburg Gate and Reichstag was officially declared as the future site of the Memorial to the Sinti & Roma. This site had been designated already in 1994 however (but it did not become binding, as defined by the Bundestag, until 2007)

[9] It was actually Chancellor Helmut Kohl who, in 1993, allocated 2 million euros of federal funds for the construction of the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma. He did this following his promise to Jewish leaders of the community that the central memorial in Berlin would be dedicated exclusively to Jewish victims of National Socialism.<http://www.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/denkmal-streit-sinti-roma-oder-zigeuner-1213650.html>

[10] <http://www.rp-online.de/politik/deutschland/einigung-ueber-denkmal-fuer-ermordete-sinti-und-roma-1.2316719>

[11] [http://www.morgenpost.de/berlin/article1002512/Mahnmal\\_Bau\\_startet\\_16\\_Jahre\\_spaeter.html](http://www.morgenpost.de/berlin/article1002512/Mahnmal_Bau_startet_16_Jahre_spaeter.html)

[12] <http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/vorab/0,1518,774827,00.html>

[13] <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,736716,00.html> ;  
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[19] Present list of violent attacks, murders and pogroms against Roma remains incomplete. The authors attempted to build a chronology through a desk, and internet research. Only in the midst of the research did the authors face the unexpected reality: the infinite number of discriminatory and violent events between 2004 and 2012.

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[21] A number of Roma people have filed a complaint of discrimination against the authorities. The non-governmental organization Romani CRISS (Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies) in partnership with the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) documented the case in July 2005, making numerous visits to the site.

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[24] On May 29, 2009 the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Court found all the accused individuals and imposed the most severe penalty.

[25] <http://www.origo.hu/itthon/20070209olaszliszkat.html>

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[31] <http://www.stop.hu/belfold/megalakult-a-magyar-garda-fekete-egyenruha-arpad-savos-pajzs/174893>

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[35] European Roma Rights Centre, "Skinhead Attack of Roma Sparks Unrest," Roma Rights Quarterly, vol. 3, November 2007, <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2869>.

[36] European Roma Rights Centre, "Romani Man Beaten in Serbia," Roma Rights Quarterly, November, 2007, <http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2897>.

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[117] that's what Romani Ros called the recent attacks by neo-Nazis on Roma in Hungary.

[118] Quote from Romani Rose's speech on August 2, 2010 at the annual international commemoration at the site of the former extermination camp at Auschwitz.  
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