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Roma National Union  
Sockengatan 83  
252 51 Helsingborg  
S- Sweden  
Tel. 0046 42 10 78 98  
Fax. 0046 42 10 77 10

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LEGAL SERVICES

International Romani Union Norden  
c/o Palison  
Gårdsåkra 1.E  
241 35 Eslöv  
S-Sweden  
Tel/Fax 0046 413 -15 846

Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation  
P.O. Box 8300  
San Francisco, CA 94128-8300  
U.S.A.

### Plan for providing assistance to roma/gypsies Nazi victims

Roma National Union is an umbrella organization which represents romas in Sweden. We have today 25 roma member organizations connected to our Union which represents the majority of roma groups in the country. We have Finish-romas, Swedish, non-nordic (from Central and East European countries).

Our organization colaborates with all organizations in Skandinavia and even represents the roma's interesess from these countries in certain cases on the international level.

In Sweden exist aproximatelly 300 roma Nazi victims. This people are coming from all parts of Europé involved in The Second World War. Here are living roma victims from 30 different countries and on our opinion this creates a

special situation. It's already recognized as unique the fact that Sweden is the only country where can be founded the largest variety of roma groups.

First roma groups came in Sweden in the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Their descendants are today the travellers and the finish roma. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century arrived from Balkans, Ukraine and Russia the , so called, swedish roma. In the last 30 – 40 years roma refugees of the communist regimes from the East European countries arrived. The last big group of roma migrants into Sweden were refugees from central and East Europe.

The most important thing for us, as a representative roma organization, is that the public opinion to understand and recognize **The Roma Holocaust** as a historical fact and that the nazi's policy regarding the roma people was the same as that of the jewish people and not as some "prominent scholars" declared after the WW2 that romas were an "asocial group" (criminals) and this was the reason for their extermination. We all know that romas were the last beneficiaries of the material reparations after the war. They were included more substantially in this category only in the last years when other groups they started to claim and obtain funds 50 years ago. The reason for this unequal treatment was that the romas, considered as an "asocial group", maybe, their extermination was some how justified.

The material reparations for the roma Nazi victims are an important step in order to demonstrate once for all that roma people were a part of The Holocaust.

We understand that nothing can compensate the suffer and loses of roma people but, as we mentioned above, it is important for their children and families to obtain this compensations as a recognition of their suffer. The terrible thing which has happened must not happen again.

Regarding to the distribution and allocation of excess and possible unclaimed residual funds we don't have special suggestions. We want only to accentuate on the following aspects to be taken in account:

- **The racism and discrimination against roma people is one of the main problems of the modern society.**
- **This is the main reason for the high percentage of poverty and mortality among roma people.**
- **From the roma point of view the past distributions of funds didn't expressed a fair distribution taking in account that many applications were denied.**

As a conclusion of what we mentioned above, we consider that should be the time that roma position regarding the distribution of funds to be reconsidered. The Roma Nazi victims memory has to be respected and recognized. That's why

we ask with respect that the distribution of this funds to express the real needs of the roma victims and the compensation to be well understood.

In order to realyse this, we suggest that the roma organizations to be more seriously taken in account as representatives of the roma. That's why we ask that the funds allocated to romas to be more consistent and to express the reality and also, for a good and effective distribution, an important part of this funds to be allocated to the roma organizations.

We want to present, briefly, our plan for providing assistance for roma Nazi victims. This consist generally in supporting the roma survivors of the Holocaust and particularly the following:

- **The idea of establishing for a Roma Holocaust Foundation is allready a fact in Sweden. We, The Roma National Union, International Romani Union Norden and The Swedish Gypsy Association from Stockholm are the initiators of this foundation.**
- **The programme of the foundation is based on two platforms:**
  - 1) **Nazi victims – Holocaust**
  - 2) **Roma Integration**

#### **Nazi victims – Holocaust –**

**This platform of activities and projects of the foundation concerns to the roma nazi victims and everything related to this subject:**

- To establish a special found for pensions and the beneficiaries to be the survivors of the Holocaust.**
- **We want to establish three special care houses for roma elders in the main cities in Sweden: Malmö, Gothenburg and Stockholm.**
- **The idea is that our roma elders to feel secure under roma specialized personal and also to comunicate in their own language.**
- **The roma culture and history can be better preserved in such establishments because our elder people are a live part of our history. The remembrance of the Roma Holocaust can be alive.**

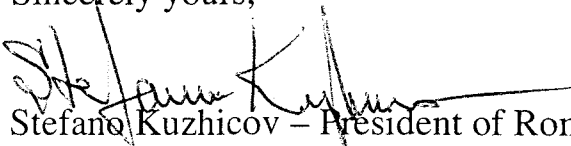
#### **Roma Integration –**

**This platform of activities and projects of the foundation concerns to all roma people and their needs.**

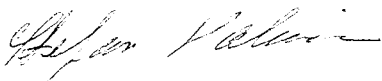
- to offer the possibilities for our member organizations and individuals to apply for support in order to develop different projects and activities in domain as: education, labor, culture, media, health, research on roma history, etc.
- Another point on our agenda is the establishment of a Forum for Roma Rights where the roma rights to be defended and understood as human rights. Racism and discrimination against romas is a fact. It is very important that roma themselves to fight against the negative stereotypes, racism and discrimination.
- The equality between genders is already an important point in our programme. The participation of the roma women in public life is a necessity and obligation.
- We have many member organizations in our Union whoes main activities are based on religion but until now we didn't managed to establish a single roma church or a specific establishment for such activities. The religion is very important for us and this organizations offer a real support for young roma people(prevention on drug consuming, threatment, rehabilitation,etc.) and others. This funds can offer a posibility for the establishing of some Roma Churches.

We would like to mention that all our plans and projects are developed in a close colaboration and partnership with, International Romani Union Norden and The Swedish Gypsy Association from Stockholm.

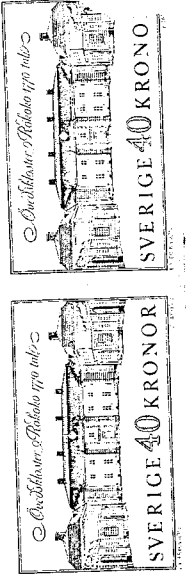
Sincerely yours,



Stefano Kuzhikov – President of Roma National Union – Sweden



Stefan Palison- President of International Romani Union Norden, Commissioner for Romani Holocaust



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P.O. Box 8300

San Francisco, CA 94128-8300

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