

CHRONOLOGY OF THE HOLOCAUST AGAINST ROMA AND SINTI

FROM 1933

SINTI AND ROMA ARE GRADUALLY EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC LIFE AND ARE DEPRIVED OF THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS.

15TH SEPTEMBER 1935

SINTI AND ROMA ARE GRADUALLY EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC LIFE AND ARE DEPRIVED OF THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS.

NOVEMBER 1936

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE "RESEARCH CENTRE FOR RACIAL HYGIENE" UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. ROBERT RITTER IN THE REICH MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. THE CENTRE PRODUCED ABOUT 24,000 "RACE REPORTS" BY THE END OF 1944.

JUNE 1938

HUNDREDS OF SINTI AND ROMA ARE DEPORTED TO THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS OF DACHAU, BUCHENWALD, MAUTHAUSEN AND SACHSENHAUSEN.

8TH DECEMBER 1938

HITTLER'S "BASIC DECREE": THIS IS TO "BEGIN SETTLEMENT OF THE GYPSY QUESTION WITH REGARDS TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE RACE". THE "REICH SECURITY MAIN OFFICE" ASCERTAINS "GYPSY" AFFILIATION ON THE BASIS OF RITTER'S "RACE REPORTS".

8TH DECEMBER 1938

IN GERMANY ORDERS FOR THE SPECIAL MARKING OF SINTI AND ROMA ARE ISSUED AND SPECIAL "RACE IDENTITY PAPERS" ARE GIVEN OUT. AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR SINTI AND ROMA HAD TO WEAR ARMBANDS WITH THE LETTER "Z" IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

21ST SEPTEMBER 1939

CONFERENCE OF THE DEPARTMENTAL HEADS OF THE SECURITY POLICE AND THE LEADERS OF SPECIAL ACTION GROUPS UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HEYDRICH ON THE PREPARATION OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE "REMAINING 30,000 GYPSIES" FROM THE REICH TERRITORY TO POLAND.

16TH OCTOBER 1939

THE SECURITY SERVICE "SD DANUBE" INFORMS SS-OBERFÜHRER NEBE THAT "THREE OR FOUR WAGONS OF GYPSIES CAN BE JOINED ONTO THE FIRST JEWISH TRANSPORT" LEAVING VIENNA ON 20TH OCTOBER 1939.

17TH OCTOBER 1939

HITTLER'S "CONFINEMENT DECREE". THE 21 "GYPSY OFFICES" FROM KÖNIGSBERG, PRAGUE, VIENNA AND MUNICH TO HAMBURG, UNDER THE REICH SECURITY MAIN OFFICE, MUST ERECT ASSEMBLY CAMPS SIMILAR TO CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN PREPARATION FOR THE DEPORTATIONS TO OCCUPIED POLAND.

30TH JANUARY 1940

HEYDRICH HOLDS A CONFERENCE WITH SS-LEADERS ON THE DEPORTATION OF "ALL JEWS OF THE OSTGAUE AND 30,000 GYPSIES FROM THE REICH TERRITORY AND THE OSTMARK AS THE LAST MASS MOVEMENT INTO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT".

27TH APRIL 1940

HIMMLER'S ORDER FOR THE FIRST DEPORTATIONS OF WHOLE FAMILIES. THE DEPORTATION TRAINS WITH 2,800 GERMAN SINTI AND ROMA INTO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT LEAVE IN MAY FROM HAMBURG, COLOGNE AND HOHENASPERG NEAR STUTTGART.

1940

IN LACKENBACH CONCENTRATION CAMP SOUTH OF VIENNA, MURDERED ROMA AND SINTI ARE BURIED IN MASS GRAVES ON THE JEWISH CEMETERY; THE OTHERS ARE DEPORTED TO THE LODZ GHETTO.

FROM SUMMER 1941

ROMA AND SINTI ARE SYSTEMATICALLY SHOT BEHIND THE EASTERN FRONT BY SO-CALLED EINSATZGRUPPEN AS WELL AS UNITS OF THE WEHRMACHT AND THE ORDNUNGSPOLIZEI. SS-EINSATZGRUPPEN LEADER OTTO OHLENDORF STATES IN THE NUREMBERG WAR CRIMES TRIAL: "THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GYPSIES AND THE JEWS, THE SAME ORDER APPLIED FOR BOTH".

10TH OCTOBER 1941

CONFERENCE ON THE "SOLUTION OF THE JEWISH QUESTION" AND THE "GYPSIES TO BE EVACUATED" OF THE PROTECTORATE OF BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA BETWEEN THE SS LEADERS HEYDRICH, FRANK, EICHMANN AND OTHERS.

JANUARY 1942

5,000 ROMA AND SINTI FROM THE GHETTO IN LODZ ARE MURDERED IN GAS VANS IN THE EXTERMINATION CAMP OF KULMHOF. ALL EAST PRUSSIAN SINTI AND ROMA FAMILIES, MOST OF THEM FARMERS WITH THEIR OWN FARMS AND CATTLE, ARE DEPORTED TO THE CONCENTRATION CAMP OF BIALYSTOK AND FROM THERE TO AUSCHWITZ IN 1943.

29TH AUGUST 1942

CONFIRMATION OF THE GERMAN MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN SERBIA: THERE WITH THE HELP OF GAS VANS, THE "JEWISH QUESTION AND THE GYPSY QUESTION HAVE BEEN SOLVED".

14TH SEPTEMBER 1942

REICH MINISTER OF JUSTICE THERACK MINUTES A DISCUSSION WITH GOEBBELS: "DR. GOEBBELS IS OF THE OPINION THAT JEWS AND GYPSIES ARE QUITE SIMPLY TO BE EXTERMINATED. THE IDEA OF ANNIHILATION THROUGH WORK IS THE BEST." ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 1942, THERACK DISCUSSED WITH HIMMLER AND OTHER SS-LEADERS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FORCED LABOUR IN SS-ENTERPRISES, GERMAN ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

16TH DECEMBER 1942

HITLER'S "AUSCHWITZ DECREE" FOR THE DEPORTATION OF 22,000 SINTI AND ROMA FROM EUROPE INTO THE SECTION OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU CONCENTRATION CAMP TERMED THE "GYPSY CAMP"

MAY 1943

DR. JOSEF MENGELE BECOMES SS CAMP DOCTOR IN AUSCHWITZ. HIS FIRST ACTION IS TO SEND SEVERAL HUNDREDS SINTI AND ROMA TO THE GAS CHAMBERS. HE CONTINUES HIS "RESEARCH INTO TWINS" THROUGH THE KILLING OF JEWISH AND SINTI CHILDREN. IN OTHER CONCENTRATION CAMPS TOO, SINTI AND ROMA ARE VICTIMS OF AGONIZING MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS.

16TH MAY 1944

THE ATTEMPT BY THE AUSCHWITZ CAMP COMMANDANT TO SEND THE REMAINING 6,000 SINTI AND ROMA IN THE "GYPSY CAMP" TO THE GAS CHAMBERS COLLAPSES IN THE FACE OF THE RESISTANCE OF THE MEN, ARMED WITH SPADES, POLES AND STONES.

2ND AUGUST 1944

DISSOLUTION OF THE "GYPSY CAMP" IN AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU. OF THE 6,000 SINTI AND ROMA STILL ALIVE IN JULY 1944, 3,000 ARE DEPORTED TO OTHER CONCENTRATION CAMPS, THE OTHER 3,000 MURDERED IN THE NIGHT OF 2ND TO 3RD AUGUST.

MAY 1945

THE NUMBER OF ROMA AND SINTI KILLED IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND BY SSEINSATZGRUPPEN BY THE END OF THE WAR IS ESTIMATED AT HALF A MILLION.

Source: Documentation and Culture centre for German Roma and Sinti
web-page: <http://www.sintiundroma.de>

Realisation: European Roma and Travellers Forum
web-page: www.ertf.org & www.2august.ertf.org