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Press Release

Delegation of European Sinti and Roma attend Holocaust Remembrance Day 19th of April 2012 in Israel
Central Council of German Sinti and Roma will inform about increasing anti-Gypsyism in Europe

For the first time, a delegation of European Sinti and Roma attends at the Israel government's invitation the celebration of the Holocaust Remembrance Day in Israel. The delegation chaired by Romani Rose, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, includes also representatives from Poland, Slovakia and Czech Republic. The delegation will hold talks with the Speaker of the Knesset Vice-President Reuven Rivlin, as well as with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Main topic will be the increasing anti-Semitism and the open and the willingness to resort to violence against Sinti and Roma in Europe.

"Roma and Sinti of Europe do have a special relation to Israel. Without Israel, we would be faced with a much stronger anti-Semitism in Europe; the Central Council observes with great concern the current development. We would wish that Israel closely monitors the racism against Sinti and Roma in Europe," said Romani Rose. The current debate in Germany shows the necessity of a constant dispute of open and latent anti-Semitism and Racism.

In the evening of 19th of April the delegation will attend the Holocaust Remembrance Day at Yad Vashem. Previously, in a meeting with representatives of Yad Vashem, the existing good cooperation with Roma institutions will be expanded, notably regarding the cooperation in scientific conferences and the exchange of documents of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust Remembrance Day is held in Israel since 1951 on 19 April 1943 - 27 Day of Nisan –, the day of the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. Miriam Novitch, one of the first scientists documenting the genocide of the Sinti and Roma, lived and worked in the Ghetto Fighters' Kibbutz. Her book "Le sous le régime Tsiganes génocide of the Nazi" appeared in 1968 in Paris.

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