

Independent Council of Roma of Serbia

To: The Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples
Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, Secretary
Palazzo San Calisto
00120 Vatican City

Dear Archbishop Marchetto:

The Roma people of Serbia request that the Pontifical Council tasked with the concerns of Sinti and Roma assist us with obtaining justice in the following matter.

We have acknowledgement that the Holy See wants to reach out of to the Roma and Sinti to address the issues of the Holocaust. The Roma people believe that this is a good beginning.

But sworn testimonies in the United States Federal Court in San Francisco in the legal case **Alperin v. Vatican Bank and Franciscan Order** state that the Vatican and Franciscan Order helped the Croatian Ustasha, to commit genocide against the Roma people under the patronage of Nazi regime.

In 1998 the United States State Department published a report that the Ustasha found asylum in Rome and the Vatican after the Second World War with treasure robbed from the Roma which Franciscan Order, priesthood and Vatican Bank helped hide.

Because of that, the high court of the USA authorized the legal action against the Franciscan Order and Vatican Bank for money laundering funds stolen from the Roma victims of genocide...

The Roma believe that the legal action is legitimate and their belief in the morality of the Church is brought in question.

The fact is that the fascist regime of Independent State of Croatia from 1941-1945 with their Ustasha brigands robbed and then murdered up to 80,000 of our people at Jasenovac concentration camp. This is a painful memory to Roma and they will witness to the media about their people's sufferings and they still feel fear, disgust, and loathing of the Ustasha, Nazis, and Fascists who killed, raped, and bestially tortured the Roma people. In every step and every place and even out of concentration camp across the former Yugoslavia, the facts of the dark side of history cannot be hidden. The Ustasha, Vatican Bank, and Franciscan Order have harmed the Roma people. This matter must be finally be put to rest in a just manner so that these horrible deeds can never be committed or contemplated again. To allow the fellow travelers of the Ustasha to escape historic justice because they are affiliated with the Vatican is an injustice and insult that we will never forget.

So we are pleading to you:

In the name of true Lord and Mercy and the memory of the *Porrajmos* we ask that the Pontifical Council tasked with the concerns of Roma and Sinti to tell the Franciscan order and Vatican Bank to stop their lying and to admit their part in injury to the Roma so that there can finally be peace for the souls of our dead and to others that belong to our nation and allow the justice of reconciliation in the legal action *Alperin vs. Vatican Bank* to proceed which is the only process that can resolve the horrible crimes committed against the Roma people in former Yugoslavia.

**In the name of Independent Council of Roma of Serbia
which represents 80 Roma associations.**

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