

## Resources on the Roma Genocide in the Russian Federation

### ➤ Educational material

Bruchfeld, S. et al. (2000). *Peredaite ob etom defiaim vashim...: istoria Kholokosta v Evrope 1933-1945: pravitel'stvo shveitsii proekt 'Zhivaiia istoria'*. Moskva: "Tekst". [Original in Swedish]

### ➤ Information material

[“Gypsy tragedy”](#), an exhibition presenting the history of mass killings of Gypsies by the Nazis during the WWII, was opened at the foyer of the [Moscow musical and drama gipsy theater «Romen»](#) on 26 April 2015. It contains two sections: "Gypsies-victims of genocide" and "Gypsies in the battle for their country". Many documents were shown to the public for the first time; such as front-line photographs and award documents, previously stored in personal archives. The exhibition was opened until 30 May 2015.

Documents of German punitive agencies, Soviet documents and the historic memory of the inhabitants of the Smolensk region, Leningrad region and some other regions of Russia contain information about mass Roma extermination by Nazi German occupants from 1941 to 1944. These were intentional crimes rooted in the Nazi attitude towards Roma as racially inferior people. They led to the destruction of many Roma communities. Scientific research also confirms the facts of mass Roma extermination in the territories occupied by Nazi Germany and its allies, including the territory of the former Soviet Union, which has recently allowed scientists, researchers and journalists to speak about the Roma genocide during World War II.

Martin Holler studied history and Slavic (Polish and Russian) literature in Heidelberg, Moscow, Warsaw and Berlin. In 2006 he had a PhD dissertation in modern history on the “Soviet Politics of Nationalities, using the example of the Romanies (Gypsies), 1923-1939”. During his archival research in Moscow, Smolensk and Saint Petersburg, he was also collecting materials on Gypsy history in the Soviet Union during and after the war, based on which he wrote a report [“The National Socialist Genocide of the Roma in the German-occupied Soviet Union”](#), published in 2009.

[„Genocide of European Roma \(Gypsies\), 1939–1945”](#), published on the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, says that German military and SS-police units also shot possibly at least 30,000 Roma in the Baltic States and elsewhere in the occupied Soviet Union, where Einsatzgruppen and other mobile killing units killed Roma at the same time that they killed Jews and Communists.

According to the site for teachers and students, Danish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, on eastern front, the gypsies were frequently executed (shot) as “spies”, “thieves”, “alien elements” or “partisans”. There was no systematic hunt for the gypsies (unlike the Jews). The German security detachments “only” shot the gypsies, when they encountered any.

➤ Scientific publications

ALTMAN, Ilya: "[Holocaust Education in Russia Today: Its Challenges and Achievements](#)", The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme Discussion Paper Series

BRUCHFELD, S. et al. (2000). *Peredaite ob etom deitiam vashim...: istoriia Kholokosta v Evrope 1933-1945: pravitel'stvo shveitsii proekt 'Zhivaiia istoriia'*. Moskva: "Tekst". [Original in Swedish]

HOLLER, Martin (2009): "[The National Socialist Genocide of the Roma in the German-occupied Soviet Union](#)", Report for the Documentary and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma

KENRICK, D. and PUXON, G. (2001). *TSygane pod svastikoï*. Moskva: "Tekst" Zhurnal "Druzhba narodov". [Original in English]

PALAMARCHUK, E. A. (2003). *Natsizm--Tri Lika Genotsida*. Rostov-na-Donu: IUBiP.

TYAGLYY, M. and PIOTROW J. (2009): "Were the "Chingene" Victims of the Holocaust? Nazi Policy toward the Crimean Roma, 1941-1944", *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, 23(1) 26-53

WEISS-WENDT, Anton (2015): "The Nazi Genocide of the Roma - Reassessment and Commemoration", Berghahn Books, USA  
Using the framework of genocide, this volume analyses the patterns of persecution of the Roma in Nazi-dominated Europe. Detailed case studies of France, Austria, Romania, Croatia, Ukraine, and Russia generate a critical mass of evidence that indicates criminal intent on the part of the Nazi regime to destroy the Roma as a distinct group.

YAHAD-IN UNUM (2009): "[Broad Daylight, Testimony Extracts. Research Trips 2009: Ukraine, Belarus, Russia](#)"

ZIMMERMANN, M. (1999). "The Soviet Union and the Baltic States 1941-44: the massacre of the Gypsies". In: Kenrick, D. (ed.). *The Gypsies During the Second World War. Vol. 2. In the Shadow of the Swastika*. Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire Press, pp. 131-148.

➤ Multimedia material

1967: "Цыган" ("Tsygan"), Feature film, USSR, Director: Evgueni Matveev, 83 min.  
The story of a Roma family during World War II.

2009: "Cyganki", Russia, documentary, directed by Yelena Losev, Written by Victor Dement - Roma survivor, Produced by BFG-Media Production, 93 min.  
Shows the fate of two Roma women who managed to escape a concentration camp and went to Moscow.