



Centre commémoratif
de l'Holocauste à Montréal

Montreal Holocaust
Memorial Centre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre and Romanipe Commemorate the Roma Genocide

Montréal, Monday July 25, 2016 – On August 2 at 5:30pm, the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC) in partnership with Romanipe will host a commemoration of the Roma Genocide. The public is encouraged to attend and recognize the systematic murder of Roma and Sinti groups by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II.

In addition to committing genocide against the Jews, **the Nazis committed genocide against the Sinti and Roma**. While the Roma Genocide, also known as Porrajmos or Samudaripen is largely overlooked, “the upcoming commemoration will help spread awareness about the murder of 500,000 Sinti and Roma, at least half of the European communities at the time,” said Alice Herscovitch, Executive Director of the MHMC.

The MHMC supports Romanipe and The Canadian Romani Alliance’s efforts to invite the Government of Canada to issue a formal recognition of the Roma Genocide, and declare August 2 as the official day of commemoration. “Government recognition of genocide is an essential first step in preventing mass atrocities and human rights violations,” added Herscovitch. “For this reason, we are compelled to encourage and support the Government of Canada’s recognition of the Roma Genocide.”

According to Romanipe, this recognition would allow Roma communities to be included in the history of World War II and events honouring its victims. It would also “assist the collective healing process of this tragedy that befell the Roma and Sinti population at the hands of Hitler and his collaborators.” Furthermore, lack of recognition of the Roma Genocide for the past 70 years has allowed the discrimination against Roma to persist to this day.

The commemoration will take place at the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre and will consist of testimony readings from Roma Genocide victims, and the screening of “A People Uncounted,” which documents the rich Roma culture, their persecution and past tragedies through the personal experiences of dozens of Roma.

About The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre: The MHMC educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, while sensitizing the public to the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference.

About Romanipe: The Montreal-based, not-for-profit organization Romanipe fights discrimination against Roma by mobilizing around efforts to combat the prejudice faced by this community worldwide and in Canada.

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