

INTERNATIONAL ROMANI UNION

Office of the President of IRU Normunds Rudevičs



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To the Prime Minister's Office South Block, Raisina Hill New Delhi - 110011

RESOLUTION

About relations between the Republic of India and Romani people (represented by the International Romani Union)

Dear Prime Minister!

We, the elected representatives of International Romani Union and delegates of Roma International Confrence (November 28 to December 2nd, organized to commemorating the millennium of migration of Romani people from Northern India), are signing this resolution on the grounds of our best intentions to rebuild the relationships between the Republic of India and Romani people in the world.

It is broadly accepted that early Romani groups originated from the North-Western part of India, whence they migrated westwards to Persia, intermarrying and intermixing, thereby constituting a group of people known as 'Dom', (later became 'Rom') before moving further towards West in the expanding Ottoman and Byzantine Empires, and subsequently they entered into Europe in the 15th century.

It was suggested by scholars around 250 years ago that Romani people were most likely of Indian origin, primarily because of linguistic evidence which depicts the resemblance between its vocabulary and some of the Indian languages. The findings of cultural anthropology as well as ethnological study of Roma community validate Indian roots of Roma. They are genetically closer to Indians than to Europeans. The analysis of genetic data provides strong population genetic support for the linguistic based identification of the ancestral Roma with the presumed aboriginal Doma of northwestern India and the Gangetic plain.

We, Romani people, have been forced to leave the territory of India thousand years ago. Although we are not claiming any rights to territory of the sovereign Republic of India, we come with open hearts and minds to you to create an open platform of discussion about two potential instruments to build a bridge of trust and friendship between the Republic of India and Romani community of about 20 million in Europe alone.

Dear Prime Minister, we, the representatives of International Romani Union and the

delegates of the Conference, are suggesting the following:

- 1. To officially recognize the fact that Roma people are originated from the territory of the Northern India and were forced to leave this territory thousand years ago.
- 2. To recognize the fact that national (not citizenship) identification documents of Roma, issued by the International Romani Union as valid and trusted proof of the identification of Roma nationality.
- 2. To recognize the legitimacy of the registers of national identification document, held and maintained by the International Romani Union.
- 3. To form a working group within the government of the Republic of India to initiate the procedure for Roma people who hold the identification document, issued by the International Romani Union, to obtain the permanent residence permit of the Republic of India in an accelerated procedure.
- 4. To formally support the effort of International Romani Union to establish the headquarters of Roma National Bank in New Delhi.

We believe that by acknowleging the fact that Roma people are originated from the territory of the Northern India, recognition of their efforts to prove their nationality with an official document as well as to build a sustainable financial system that will serve their interests now and in the future, will help to build a bridge of friendship and co-opearation! We believe that more than 20 million Roma people can be useful to represent the interests of India in the world (and Europe) by opening new economic opportunities.

We invite you to talks and discussions of your chosen time and format, and we're looking forward to your official or un-official position on the topics described and mentioned above.

With the warm greetings!

Regards,

The President of International Romani Union

Dr. Normunds Rudevics

And the following delegates of the Conference:

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1. Jeta DUKA (Albania) 2. Nedžwedin NEZiri (France) 3. Marcel COURTHIADE (Greece-France) 4. Nicolas DINTINEZ GONZALES (Spain) 5. Silvia AGUERO FERNÁNDEZ (Spain) 6. Dzemail IBRAMIHONSKi (Hacedonie) 7. Mariana SESCHUENSUAVA (Russia) 8. Ana Dalila GÓNEZ (Colombia) 9. Souia STYRKACZ (Poland) 10. Diane WiRiLOVA (Bulgarie) 11. Maya FAMILIE (Serbia) 12. Trajko PETROVSKU (Tracedonia) 13. Bajram HALITI (Serlia) 14. Or han GABBUS (Netherlands) 15. Ava DAMPOUS VA (Croatia) 16. Carmen JURS (Romania) 17. Josef GASPAR (Romania) 18. Alexandre ZAMFIR (Roumania) 19. Richard RUDEVICS (Latvie) 20. Zhato mi TOVANOVIĆ (Ferbia)