EGAM commemorates the Roma genocide on August the 2nd, with a special thought about the former concentration camp, now a pig farm in Lety (Czech Republic)

The European Grassroots Antiracist Movement – EGAM pay homage to the victims of the Roma genocide perpetrated by the Nazis and its allies during WWII, to the survivors and their descendants.

The history of the Roma genocide is still too little known, and its memory still too poorly transmitted, although strong efforts, especially by the civil society, have been made in recent years.

On this day, it is important that various institutions, from the civil society and the political world, at the local as well as at the national and at the European levels, commit themselves to ensure a better knowledge of this history and a better transmission of this memory.

This history is part of the history of Europe, thus concerns all Europeans, and transmitting it is a way to fight racism and discrimination today.

Indeed, genocide denial – to a lesser level, the lack of transmission of memory – is the continuation of the logic of genocide, which is the most violent political act to which racism can lead.

On this day of dignity and remembrance, we especially think of Lety, in Czech Republic, where a pig farm, funded by the EU, is now located on the site of a former Roma concentration camp.

In June, EGAM held there the first European commemorations, along with Roma and other human rights leaders from more than 20 countries from all over the continent.

As we did then, we ask today, including through the various commemorations our member or partner organizations hold in various countries, the Czech government to change the location of the pig farm and to build of a proper memorial on the place of the site of the former concentration camp.

We ask the European Commission to push for this solution, which is the preferred one including of the farm owners.

As long as it has not been done, the memory of the victims of the Roma genocide will go on being sullied, and so will democracy in Europe.

Here is the link to the short video of the European commemorations at Lety :
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=posI5jbrlhA

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Created in 2010, EGAM – European Grassroots Antiracist Movement is a network that gathers the main antiracist NGOs from more than 30 countries. Our goal is to work for a more integrated and more active European civil society against racism, antisemitism, racial discrimination and genocide denial.

Since 2011, EGAM and its members and Roma partners have been organizing the Roma Pride, a European mobilization for the dignity of Roma people which takes place every year the first week-end of October in about 15 countries.
In October 5th 2014, we will renew this initiative simultaneously to continue fighting racism and discrimination and to promote the diversity of Roma cultures and histories in Europe.