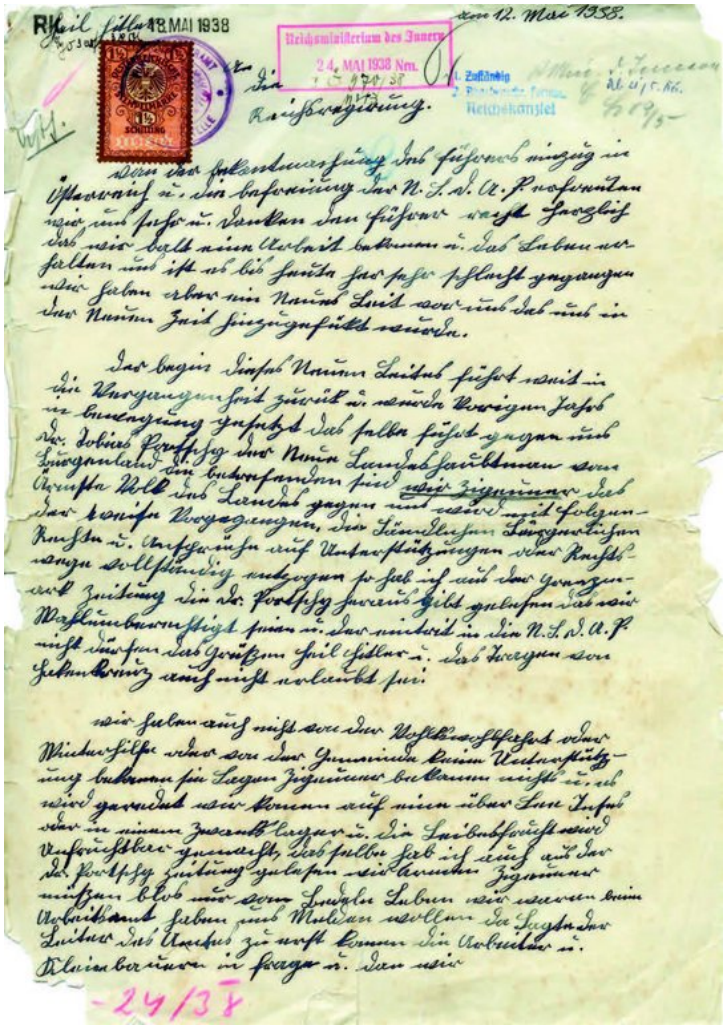
E1 Protest letter



On 12 May 1938, seven Roma from the village of Redlschlag in Burgenland wrote a letter to the “German Reich Government” (“Deutsche Reichsregierung”) in which they protested against their discrimination. They drew attention to the fact that the discrimination introduced by Nazi governor, Tobias Portschy – such as the loss of the right to vote, the ban on school attendance for Roma children and the denial of unemployment benefits – was instigated without any legal basis.

Did you know

...that six of the seven signatories to the protest letter were arrested by the Gestapo within a few days and ultimately paid for their protest with their lives? Only one of the signatories was probably able to flee to neighbouring Hungary in time.

Your task

Find examples of public protests from the near and distant past, including, if possible, in your country. What disadvantages could a signatory to a public protest letter face?

About the photo

Letter of complaint issued by the Roma of Redlschlag to the Reich government in Berlin in May 1938 concerning their discrimination at the hands of the regional authorities. Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance DÖW 12.543.

https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/e

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