

E2 Political intervention



On 16 December 1942, Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler ordered the deportation of all Sinti and Roma still living in the German Reich to the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp. On 5 April 1943, Oskar Wilhelm Rose, who was living in hiding with false papers, asked for a meeting with Munich Cardinal Michael Faulhaber, an act that meant he would be risking his own life. His attempt to persuade the cardinal to intervene against the deportations of the predominantly Catholic Sinti and Roma was unsuccessful. The cardinal noted in his diary: "A gypsy named Adler, Catholic, at the secretary's office – The 14,000 gypsies in the territory of the Reich are to be collected in a camp and sterilised, the Church is to intervene. Without a doubt, he will look to me for help. – No, I can't promise any help."

💡 Did you know

...that the Jehovah's Witnesses were the only religious community to take a firm stand against the National Socialists, and that many of their members were executed for this act of defiance?

✎ For you to do

Find out how different religious communities reacted to the National Socialist persecution of Jews, Sinti and Roma, as well as political opponents, disabled people and other persecuted groups.

📷 The photo

Oskar Wilhelm Rose (1902-1978).
Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma Heidelberg.

1910

1951

1942-43



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