

Poland's Gypsies commemorate WWII victims

by UPI

WARSAW, Poland -- A large Gypsy caravan left the southeastern Polish town of Tarnow on a tour of execution sites to commemorate victims killed by the Nazis during World War II. Traveling in traditional carts, the Gypsy journey to pay respects to genocide victims is seen by organizers also as a festival of dance and music promoting Romany culture, Polish Radio reported Monday. The Gypsy memory camp began touring Poland in 1996 when the Tarnow Romany community decided to display their history and culture with an annual road show. Adam Andrasz, head of the Romany Association in Tarnow, and ethnologist Adam Bartosz told Polish Radio they decided to recreate a traditional Gypsy encampment that had been part of a museum exhibit. Andrasz said they renovated the carts and began touring sites where Gypsies were killed during World War II. The Gypsies were among groups systematically killed in Nazi death camps as they were condemned to total annihilation, Bartosz said. Some 500,000 Gypsies were killed in the death camps.

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