

## GYPSY LANGUAGE

# 21 February International Mother Language Day

My granddad, my grandmom, my dad, my mom, their children, all were born in Turkey. We are here for 2000 years, where did you come from?

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Turkey, all of them are our nation, our people. Look at the us, what shall Gypsies do, they do not have work, they do not have home. There is no home for us, we do not have any money either. We are not able to do anything. We do not want any territory, we are all together, with Ottomans.

We lived here for many years. Ottoman gave us, the Gypsies, the Honored County and territory. Our people made us *çeribaşı* (the leader of the Gypsy community).

The Gypsies did a lot of good things. Our jobs were music, singing, sieves, blacksmith, saddle, tinning, knife, tankard, horsemanship, fork, spoon, iron, metal sheet, grouter, golden necklace, golden ring, golden bracelet, earrings etc. Ottoman Empire made laws in Turkey. How can you say that we came by population exchange.'? Bayezid II (Ottoman Sultan) gave us a territory and county. He made our men soldiers.

We were living here, in Turkey. Some people say that we came by exchange law of Lousanne Agreement (1923). There is no such a thing! We were here for 2000 years, since Byzantines. Many other ethnic groups came after us.

Look, our people suffered so much. They are living all around TurkeyWhy don't you ask us what we are doing?

You destroy our home. There is no home and work for us. You are sweeping away our Gypsies. The government invited us to a meeting in March 14, 2010 and we went. And what did he do? Nothing. Our government did not give anything social to us.

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As Gypsies we are poor. It's been a long time and there is no social thing given to us. Isn't this a crime against us? Why don't you hear our people? How could you look at us and do not see that? We are the people of this country too ...!