



ROSA CORTÉS

(Vélez Rubio, Almería, Spain 1722 - unknown)

As a result of the Great Round-Up (1749), Rosa Cortés was captured along with her husband, Ginés Fernández, and transferred from her hometown, Vélez Rubio, to the walled fortification Alcazaba of Almería. There, **all Romani women** from Almería, along with their children under the age of seven, **were imprisoned**. Later they were sent to the Alhambra in Granada, and later, to the Barrio del Perchel in Malaga.

Cortés husband, Fernández (Vélez Rubio, Almería, 1712 - Atlantic Ocean, 1752), was sent to the Arsenal de la Carraca (Cádiz) and, from there, transferred to the Arsenal de la Graña (Ferrol, A Coruña) by boat. Unfortunately he died on the journey, along with more than 200 other Romani men.

On September 13, 1752, Cortés was confined, with more than 600 other Romani women from Andalusia, in the House of Mercy in Zaragoza.

On January 18, 1753, **she led the escape of 53 Romani women** held in the House of Mercy in Zaragoza after making a hole in the wall using nails torn from the wooden beams.

We know that she was caught and punished. Despite being tortured, she did not give up her co-conspirators. We do not know anything else about her life.

Sources and further information:

1. Martínez Martínez, Manuel. Nunca más. Homenaje a las víctimas del proyecto de “exterminio” de la minoría gitana iniciado con la redada de 1749. Almería, Spain: Círculo Rojo, 2015
2. Martínez Martínez, Manuel. La mujer gitana en la historia. Una lección de resistencia (1539-1765). Beau Bassin, Mauritius: Editorial Académica Española, 2019

This biography has been written by Nicolás Jiménez González