

# Opening Ceremony of the Historical Site Adlerwerke

25 March 2022



## Greeting note by Mario Reinhardt

### Grandson of a Katzbach-inmate

My name is Mario Reinhardt. I am a Sinto from Duisburg. My grandfather, Franz Lehmann, had to do as a KZ prisoner slave work in the Adlerwerke.

My family, the nuclear family Lehmann, was deported by the Nazis to Poland - as many other Sintis. My grandfather came to Auschwitz in 1942, where he was imprisoned until the depletion of the death camp in 1945 in constant fear for his life and had to carry out the hardest physical labor in a mine. Even at the end of 1945 they deported him as well as 2000 people to the concentration camp Buchenwald in Thuringia. From there he came to the Adlerwerke in Frankfurt. At the end of March 1945 he was sent back on a death march to Buchenwald, where he was freed by the Americans. He went back to Duisburg and started a family - despite all traumatic experiences and continuous discrimination. Here he set the course for the survival of my family, that by all rights should have been destroyed

I am thankful that there is now a place, which recalls outrageously actions in the Adlerwerke. Despite the growing culture of remembrance we Sintis still have to fight again and again against the hostilities and the discriminations in everyday life. Let us fight together against the contempt of humanity, as it affects us all.