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Findings come as Tories move to reduce numbers coming to Canada

Incidents of members of the Roma minority in the Czech Republic being firebombed, turned away from restaurants and refused housing by landlords are contained in a fact finding report released in Ottawa on Monday.

The report, by the Immigration and Refugee Board, also noted that in May, the Czech government was considering a ban on two extremist political parties after the broadcast of a National Party video which called for “the final solution” to the Roma “question.”

The report was released two weeks after the Canadian government reimposed a visa requirement on Czech citizens to reduce the flow of Roma — once known as gypsies — claiming refugee status in Canada. It was the second of two reports from the March 23-31 fact-finding mission.

Fact-finders were told Roma “rarely travel by train for fear of being intimidated or attacked and instead prefer to travel by bus.” One contact told of a group of Roma children on a field trip being denied entry to four restaurants.

Immigration and Refugee Board members consult such fact-finding reports to help them determine the credibility and objective basis for individual refugee claims of a “well-founded fear of persecution” or a threat to their life in their home country.

The board is independent of government and does not make visa policy.

The first report in June examined whether Roma faced state-sanctioned discrimination. It provoked controversy in the Roma community in Canada after Immigration Minister Jason Kenney referred to bogus refugee claims and cited the report as evidence the Czech government “is doing its best to improve the legal treatment of, and economic opportunities for, members of that community.”

The second report is on the treatment of Roma and potential for internal relocation. It says “there are no state-imposed obstacles impeding a Czech citizen from moving anywhere within the country” although limited financial resources inhibit the freedom of Roma to flee aggressors.

The fact-finders were told that many Roma live in “socially excluded” enclaves marked by high levels of loansharking and unemployment.

“The most significant issues facing Roma include: negative societal perceptions (including discrimination), inadequate housing, poor education, high unemployment, as well as far-right extremist activism,” the report said.

