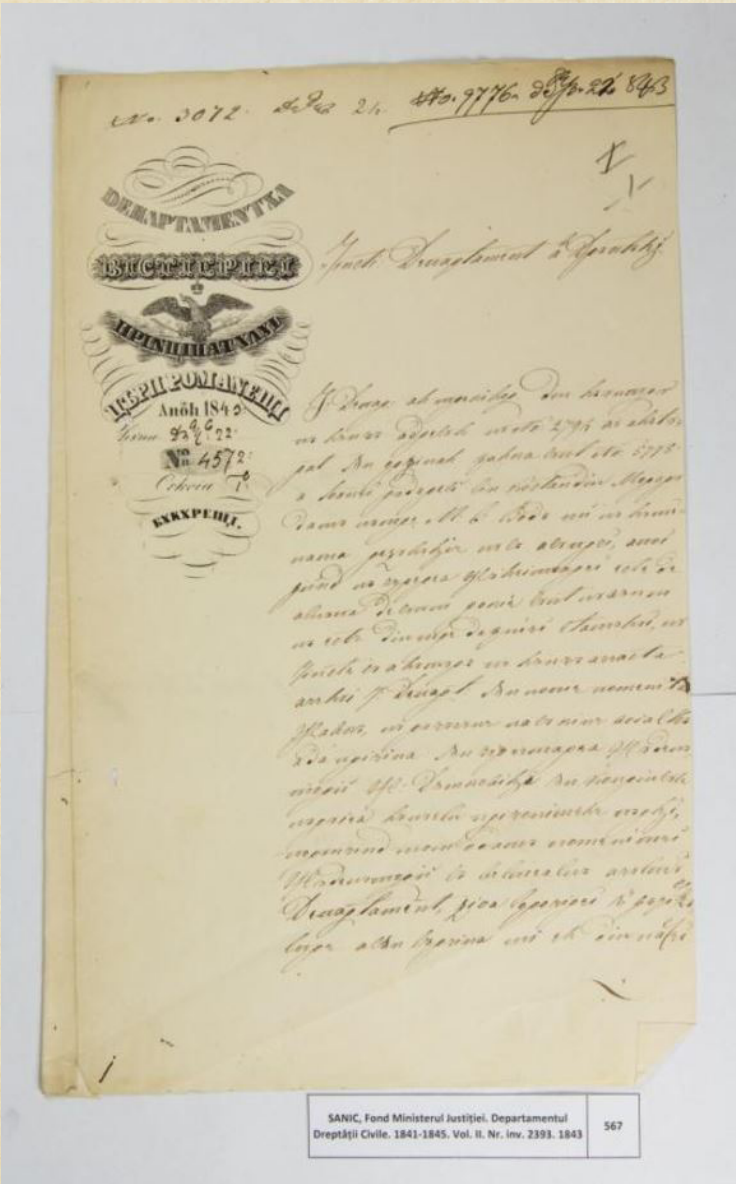




# IOANA TINCULEASA RUDAREASA



Ioana Rudareasa was a Roma slave from Wallachia. After the abolition of slavery in 1843, **Rudareasa, a slave of the state, not the boyars, demanded her freedom.** Denied it, however, she would be forced to go to court.

The trial took more than ten years, and finally, she and her children were declared free of slavery by the highest court of Wallachia. The trial started in 1843, with the first court ruling declaring Rudareasa free of slavery.

Subsequently, however, the ruling was rejected, the boyars claiming the family fell under their property rights. Rudaresa was thus forced to appeal to the superior court of justice. A retrial saw Rudareasa and her children declared slaves of the Brailoiu family. Following this decision, Rudareasa appealed once more, this time to the **highest court in the state.** It was only after that she was finally **declared free of slavery.**

Rudareasa's efforts in fighting for freedom are very important to the history of Romanian Roma. Documents reveal a dedicated individual who **fought**

Image: DANIC, fond Departamentul Dreptății Civile, dosar 541/1848

**for liberation from slavery for more than a decade.** At the same time, while the trial demonstrates that Roma fought for their freedom using all legal means available. Finally, the case illustrates how self-interested the boyars were in their desire to keep slaves.

“Most High and Most Merciful Lord,

It has been almost three years since I sued the heirs of the deceased house of Elenca Brăiloiu, who wanted to acquire me under slavery together with my children. Being from the family of relatives who are today equals with the Romanian tax payers, paying honest tax (lime) to the Treasury, I presented to the court enough evidence, and on the honest decision of the Civil Divan, section 1, given with No 186 of last year December



21st. Dissatisfied with the said heirs, they appealed to the High Divan, under the presidency of the great ban Teodor Văcărescu, only to prolong me by judgments and expenses, without any justice, hoping that I will arrive with this at the end of my life, to take advantage of my remaining children.

With tears in my eyes I fall to Your Magnificent most high mercy, to give enlightened commandment to appear into the justices, and after my rights will be recognized, to obtain salvation from the slavery that they want to do me without proves, more virtuous that neither my parents were, nor of my people was slave.

Your Majesty servant,

Ioana Tinculeasa Rudareasa”

**Sources:**

1. Data base: <http://sclavia-romilor.gov.ro/>
2. DANIC, fond Departamentul Dreptății Civile, dosar 541/1848

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