LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!

THE WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM (R.A.)
MAY G-D REMEMBER ALL SOULS OF COMMUNITIES OF THE HOME OF ISRAEL EXILED IN EUROPE WHO WERE BURNED IN THE FLAMES OF SHOAH. SIX MILLION MEN AND WOMEN, GIRLS AND BOYS, THE ELDERLY AND BABIES WERE BRUTALLY MURDERED; MASSACRED RIGHT WHERE THEY LIVED – IN TOWNS, SHTETLS AND VILLAGES; DRIVEN LIKE SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS; BRUTALLY AND TORTUOUSLY BURNED TO ASHES IN THE FURNACES OF TERRIBLE DEATH CAMPS IN GERMANY, POLAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES – BY THE HANDS OF GERMAN EXECUTIONERS, THEIR ACCOMPLICES AND MURDERERS OF OTHER NATIONS WHO AGREED TOexterminate, annihilate and root out the Jewish people, erase the Jewish memory and kill anyone under Israel’s name.
PEOPLE AT THE MEETING LIT CANDLES AND OBSERVED A MINUTE OF SILENCE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BABI YAR VICTIMS. THE ANTHEMS OF UKRAINE AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL WERE PLAYED. MANY PEOPLE WERE CRYING.
BABI YAR IS NOT ONLY A CHALLENGE TO HUMANITY AND A GREAT TRAGEDY IN THE HISTORY OF THE 20TH CENTURY, BUT ALSO A WARNING FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS THAT INHUMANE POLICIES SOONER OR LATER RESULT IN PANDEMIC EVIL AND END IN CATASTROPHE.
SEPTEMBER 28, 2006
ALONG THE DEATH WALK
MOURNING PROCESSION
TO THE MENORAH MONUMENT


MOURNERS FOLLOWED THE WAY OF THOUSANDS OF KYIV’S JEWS IN SEPTEMBER 1941 ALONG MELNIKOV STREET TO THE MENORAH MONUMENT.

BEFORE THE MEETING, JEWISH SCHOOL STUDENTS READ THE NAMES OF THE VICTIMS.

AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS WERE OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS, PROMINENT POLITICIANS AND PUBLIC LEADERS, WWII VETERANS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN KYIV AND THE WHOLE WORLD.
WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY, IN KYIV, THE CAPITAL OF UKRAINE, COMMEMORATING SIXTY-FIVE YEARS SINCE THE TRAGEDY OF BABI YAR, TO PLEDGE OUR COMMITMENT TO FURTHER EDUCATION ABOUT THE TRAGEDY AND REMEMBRANCE THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT, AND TO FIGHT ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM, XENOPHOBIA, RACISM AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH IS A NEW SERIOUS THREAT FOR THE MODERN WORLD.


AS THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM “LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!” IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, WE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF MANY NATIONS, TAKE A SACRED OATH OF ETERNAL COMMITMENT TO THE TRAGEDY’S REMEMBRANCE AND ITS LESSONS. WE SEEK PARTICULARLY TO REACH THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, SO THAT THEY WILL UPHOLD THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.

WE WELCOME THE EFFORTS Aimed AT PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF MILLIONS OF INNOCENT VICTIMS OF WORLD WAR II, THE HOLOCAUST AND ITS LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

WE ARE PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF BERLIN TO HOLD THE WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM ON NOVEMBER 9-10, 2008, IN BERLIN, TO MARK 70 YEARS SINCE DIE KRISTALLNACHT.
MR. VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

MR. VIATCHE SLAV MOSHE KANTOR, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM FOUNDATION, PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN JEWISH CONGRESS

MR. MOSHE KATSAV, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

MR. STJEPAN MESPIC, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

MR. FILIP VUJANOVIĆ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO

MR. SERGEY MIRONOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF FEDERATION OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

MR. DUŠAN ČAPLOVIĆ, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

MR. GELA BEZHUASHVILI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA

MS. MARGARET SPELLINGS, THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

MR. ALEKSANDER SZCZYGŁO, CHIEF OF THE CHANCELLERY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

MR. FRANCIS O’DONNELL, UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR FOR UKRAINE

LORD JANNER OF BRAUNSTONE, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

RABBI YISRAEL MEIR LAU, THE CHIEF RABBI OF THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, FORMER PRISONER OF BUCHENWALD

MR. AVNER SHALEV, CHAIRMAN OF THE YAD VASHEM DIRECTORATE

MR. STEPHEN HERBITS, WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS SECRETARY GENERAL

MR. IVAN DZYUBA, MEMBER OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF UKRAINE

MR. ROBERT GOLDBERG, CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITIES

MR. MOISEI FISHBEIN, UKRAINIAN POET

MR. DMYTRO PAVLYCHKO, CHAIRMAN OF THE UKRAINIAN WORLD COORDINATING COUNCIL
THOSE WHO WERE SILENT WERE COMPPLICIT IN GENOCIDE. THOSE WHO ARE SILENT TODAY, WHO STALL NEGOTIATIONS AND PREVENT SERIOUS PENALTIES FROM BEING DELIVERED TO THOSE WHO WOULD DESTROY ISRAEL, WHO WOULD DENY THE HOLOCAUST, WHO SUPPORT TERRORISM, AND THREATEN NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION, BEAR GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY. FOR BY NOT STANDING UP TO THE THREAT THAT IS IRAN, THEY DENY THE LESSONS OF BABI YAR.
WE ARE HERE SIXTY-FIVE YEARS LATER TO SAY TO EACH OTHER: ALL THESE EXTREMISTS AND FUNDAMENTALISTS AND ALL THESE LEADERS SPEAKING FALSEHOODS AND DENYING THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE HOLOCAUST – TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY, PAY ATTENTION, GIVE YOUR EARS, GIVE YOUR HEARTS, GIVE YOUR CONCERN TO THOSE ELEMENTS, BECAUSE THEY MEAN WHAT THEY SAY. AND OUR SILENCE WILL NEVER LEAD TO THE FRUITFUL ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT MUST BE DONE IN ORDER TO PREVENT AND THWART ALL THESE HORRORS IN THE WORLD.
PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES – JEWS, UKRAINIANS, RUSSIANS, GYPSIES, ADULTS AND CHILDREN, MEN AND WOMEN.

THIS MASSACRE WAS AND STILL REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC EVENTS IN MODERN HISTORY ALONG WITH AUSCHWITZ, MAJDANEK, TREBLINKA, DROBITSKY YAR IN KHARKIV, AND THE SIEGE OF LENINGRAD.

WHAT HAPPENED AT BABI YAR OVER TWO YEARS, STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1941, IS BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION.
THE CREATOR KEEPS TESTING US IN ORDER TO HEAD US OFF THE PATH OF IDLENESS TO THE WAY OF ETERNITY.

FACING ONE OF THE CRUELLEST TRAGEDIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY, WE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO IN THE PLACE CALLED BABI YAR, AND WHAT ITS PLACE IS IN HUMAN HISTORY.

STARTING IN 1933, STEP BY CAREFUL STEP, THE NAZIS WERE TESTING THE WORLD’S TOLERANCE FOR THEIR INTOLERANCE.
OVER THE DECADES, THE MEMORY OF BABI YAR WAS TURNED INTO FACELESS AND NAMELESS ASHES, BELONGING TO NO NATION.

FROM THESE DUST AND ASHES, FROM THE HUNDREDS OF YARS THAT HAVE SCARRED OUR DESTINY, UKRAINE RAISES AN ETERNAL PRAYER FOR ITS CHILDREN, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME RAISES ITS VOICE TO ADDRESS HUMANITY IN THE NAME OF THE CATASTROPHE, WHICH IS OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE... TIME STOPS BEFORE THEIR MEMORY, OPENING UP AN ETERNITY THAT WE CAN ONLY REACH IN PRAYER.

I RECITE THIS PRAYER AS THE SON OF AN AUSCHWITZ PRISONER, AS A UKRAINIAN, AS THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE.
SEPTEMBER 27, 2006
THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR

SHEVCHENKO NATIONAL ACADEMIC OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF UKRAINE

LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!

THES DAYS, WITH NEO-NAZISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM ALARMINGLY ON THE RISE, AND WITH THE VOICES OF REVISIONIST HISTORIANS DENYING THE HOLOCAUST EVEN LOUDER, HUMANITY SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE LEVEL OF DANGER RESULTING FROM IGNORING SUCH CONCERNS.

THEREFORE, HOLDING A SERIES OF TOP-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL EVENTS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BABI YAR TRAGEDY IS OF GREAT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.
LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!
IN KRAKOW, AT THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM “LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!” VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO STATED, “MY PEOPLE WENT INTO INDEPENDENCE SQUARE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SUPREME VALUES OF HUMANKIND: RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. NO FCRMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM OR XENOPHOBIA WILL FIND A HOME IN UKRAINE.”
SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY

According to the President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko, such events “will become a part of the major efforts undertaken recently by the public and world leaders to eternalise the memory of the Nazis’ victims.”

“We have an opportunity once again to remind the entire world, and young people in particular, of the importance of remembering history’s lessons and preventing any manifestations of anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance in inter-ethnic relations,” Yushchenko believes.

“Babi Yar is still the secret tragedy of humankind. Few people know of the monstrous atrocity the Babi Yar tragedy triggered. The Babi Yar massacre triggered six thousand similar tragedies in Europe. It triggered the extermination of 1.7 million Jews in Ukraine alone,” Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor, President of the World Holocaust Forum Foundation, President of the Russian Jewish Congress said during a press conference in Kyiv.

According to the President of Israel Moshe Katsav, to preserve humanity and global human values, we must educate young people of all countries. We must tell them about the events that took place during the Holocaust and teach them the Holocaust’s lessons. “We must act together to stop anti-Semitism and racism and keep them from raising their ugly heads in many places around the globe, as they are dangerous not only for Jews, but for the entire community in which they appear.”
RABBI YAAKOV DOV BLEICH RECITED EL MALEH RACHAMIM PRAYER IN MEMORY OF THE BABI YAR VICTIMS.

G-D FULL OF MERCY WHO DWELLS ON HIGH! GRANT PERFECT REST TO THE SOULS OF SIX MILLION JEWISH VICTIMS OF THE CATASTROPHE, WHO WERE PUT TO DEATH, SLAUGHTERED, DROWNED, BURNED, STRANDED BY ACCURSED NAZIS AND THEIR ASSOCIATES... BECAUSE WE ARE AT ONE WITH THEIR MEMORY AND WE PRAY FOR THE ELEVATION OF THEIR SOULS. IN THEIR MERIT SHALL THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL RETURN TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE. LET US SAY AMEN.
A MOURNING CEREMONY IN MEMORY OF THE BABI YAR VICTIMS WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27 AT THE MENORAH MONUMENT.
THE CEREMONY, ARRANGED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, WAS ATTENDED BY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISRAELI DELEGATION, LEADERS OF JEWISH DIASPORA COMMUNITIES AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

CEREMONY GUESTS OBSERVED A MINUTE OF SILENCE TO HONOUR BABI YAR VICTIMS AT THE PLACE WHERE THE FIRST MASS EXECUTIONS OF JEWS RESIDING IN KYIV AND ITS SUBURBS WERE CARRIED OUT 65 YEARS AGO.

MOSHE KATSAV, THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, DELIVERED A SPEECH AT THE MOURNING CEREMONY IN MEMORY OF THE BABI YAR VICTIMS. PEOPLE CAME TO THE MENORAH BEARING NOT ONLY FLOWERS AND CANDLES, BUT ALSO SMALL STONES FROM JERUSALEM THAT THEY LEFT AT THE MONUMENT IN KEEPING WITH AN ANCIENT JEWISH TRADITION AS A SIGN OF TRIBUTE AND RESPECT TO ALL THOSE KILLED AT THIS PLACE.


THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL CLOSED THE CEREMONY.
NO CHILD’S PLAY
CHILDREN IN THE HOLOCAUST - CREATIVITY AND PLAY

The Holocaust brought the children of those camps to an untimely end. Yet their creativity and the stories they shared continue to inspire us. This exhibition celebrates the innocence of childhood and honors the memory of those who survived the Holocaust. Through art, music, and photography, we remember their resilience and strength.

Mr. Adolf Aronofsky

"I remember being surrounded by a sea of children, all of them crying. They were small but they had a strength and courage that I admired."

The Holocaust and the Children's Museum Foundation, Inc.
MEDIA ABOUT THE EVENT

HOLOCAUST HISTORY IN BLACK AND WHITE: PHOTOS SHOW PEOPLE KILLED IN THE TRAGEDY THAT CLAIMED ONE AND A HALF MILLION HUMAN LIVES. THE YAD VASHEM MUSEUM BEGAN COLLECTING THESE PHOTOS AFTER NO CHILDS' PLAY EXHIBITION LOANED BY YAD VASHEM MUSEUM, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL Curator – Yehudit Inbar Designer – Pnina Friedman

ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2006, A TWO-PART EXHIBITION IN MEMORY OF BABI YAR VICTIMS OPENED IN THE UKRAINIAN HOUSE ARTS PALACE AS PART OF OFFICIAL EVENTS MARKING 65 YEARS SINCE THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR.


THE SECOND PART OF THE EXHIBITION, NO CHILD’S PLAY, WAS ARRANGED BY YAD VASHEM, THE HOLOCAUST MARTYRS’ AND HEROES’ REMEMBRANCE AUTHORITY.

THE OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION WAS ATTENDED BY OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM “LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!”

VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE, OPENED THE EXHIBITION.

AFTER THE TOUR OF THE EXHIBITION, A RECEPTION WAS HELD ON BEHALF OF VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE, FOR OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM “LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!”
SEPTEMBER 26, 2006
OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR THE UKRAINIAN HOUSE ARTS PALACE

AT THE OPENING, THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE STRESSED THAT EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY WAS COMMEMORATING THE TRAGEDY FROM WORLD WAR II AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE VICTIMS OF ONE OF ITS MOST HORRIBLE EPISODES, THE BABI YAR MASSACRE THAT TOOK PLACE 65 YEARS AGO. MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE OF VARIOUS ETHNICITIES WERE KILLED IN THE HOLOCAUST. THEREFORE, BABI YAR MUST BECOME AN INOCULATION TO PROTECT AND FOREWARN THE WORLD ABOUT AGGRESSIVE AND VIOLENT XENOPHOBIA. "TIME MAY HEAL OUR WOUNDS, BUT IT CAN NOT ERASE THE HISTORY FROM OUR MEMORY... THIS HISTORY IS MADE OF HUMAN LIVES INTERRUPTED."
THE ACTS OF BRAVERY PERFORMED BY THE RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS WERE EXTREMELY ADMIRABLE. THOSE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE RISKED THEIR LIVES, OFTEN PAYING THE ULTIMATE PRICE, TO SAVE THE LIVES OF JEWS. THEY DID NOT ACT OUT OF ANY PARTICULAR LOVE FOR JEWS. THEY WERE SIMPLY INCAPABLE OF WATCHING INDIFFERENTLY AS WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ELDERLY PEOPLE WERE KILLED.

DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE ON AWARDING THE ORDER OF MERIT

FOR THEIR COURAGE AND SELF-SACRIFICE DEMONSTRATED DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR IN SAVING JEWISH PEOPLE FROM FASCIST GENOCIDE AND FOR PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS, I HEREBY RESOLVE:

TO AWARD THE ORDER OF MERIT,
2ND CLASS TO
Galina V. DANILKO, Kyiv
AND TO AWARD THE ORDER OF MERIT,
3RD CLASS TO
Zeynab Zh. AZNAKAEVA
Vera A. ANDREEVA
Vladimir N. APATSKY
Anna I. BEBIKH
Evgeniya F. BESPALOVA
Pyotr K. BESERMERTNY
Neonila B. BELOSTOTSKAYA
Nita F. BODOVAR
Anastasia A. VELENTCHUK
Motya I. VEPRITSKAYA
Ekaterina P. VLASENKO
Nikola E. VOROBOVA
Emilia M. VOITOVICH
Lyudmila A. VOLOVICH
Evgeniya P. VORONINA
Alexandra S. GASANOVA
Lyudmila T. GASPERSKAYA
Nina T. GLADCHENKO
Vlad D. GOZAK
Vladimir S. GOLOVAY
Nikolay S. GOLOVAY
Galina F. GOLOVCHENKO
Nikolay A. GRABOVSKY
Alexander K. GROKHOLSKY
Neonila V. DOVGODKO
Inna M. EVGENIEVA
Yuri I. EMPOLENIKO
Irina N. ZHIVLYUK
Lyudmila N. ZHIVLYUK
Raissa N. ZHILINSKAIA
Anna S. ZHURAVEL
Elena E. ZAVADSKAYA
Lyudmila I. ZAVOROTNA
Georgiy I. ZAMESHAYLOV
Nilol A. IVANOVA

Vera I. IZMALKOVA
Nadezhda I. IZMALKOVA
Viktor P. KARASEVSKY
Lidiya V. KARPENKO
Anatoly M. KOT
Ekaterina I. KOVALENKO
Nadezhda I. KOVTUNOVA
Valentyn I. KOTOV
Kseniya M. KOZAKOVA
Valery N. KONCHAKOVSKY
Ivan I. KORNIENKO
Maria Z. KOROLENKO
Stepan A. KOROLEV
Lukash K. KOSTYUKHEVICH
Alexander K. KOSTYUKHEVICH
Boris I. KRAVCHUK
Vladimir I. KRAVCHUK
Nadezhda T. KRAVCHUK
Lidiya S. KUSHKO
Alexandra A. LAVENKO

Yulia I. LANCHEVSKAYA
Elena A. LIPOVA
Motya S. LITVYNENKO
Alexandra S. LOGINOVA
Vera N. LUKANINA
Nikolay I. MAXIMENKO
Elena P. MARCHENKO
Anton M. MELNICUK
Ivan M. MELNICUK
Vera L. MIRONOVA
Anatoly Y. MIKHAILO
Antonina M. MIKHAILOVA
Evgeniya G. MINAEVA
Natalya P. MOLCHANOV
Anna G. MOROZOVA
Yuri S. MYASKOLSKY
Vasily M. NAZARENKO
Pyotr N. NIZYETSKY
Larisa A. NIKITINA
Olga G. OMELECHENKO
SEPTEMBER 26, 2006
OFFICIAL RECEPTION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS OF BABI YAR

KYIV CITY STATE ADMINISTRATION

Dmitry S. OMELANYUK
Galina G. ONISHCHENKO
Vera P. ORUDZHEVA
Lyubov T. OSTAPENKO
Tatiana N. OSTAPOVICH
Magdalina A. PALYAN
Praskovya M. PATIUTA
Valentina G. POLOZ-SOKOLOVA
Zoya D. POPOVA
Elena M. PUHOSTOVALOVA
Anna A. RADNYUK
Svetlana A. PATKINA
Tatiana I. REZNIKOVA
Olgz R. ROZHCHENKO
Maria V. RUHENO
Maria M. RUZHIN
Mirazim Zh. SABIROV
Galina E. SAVITSKAYA
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Vera D. SATSKOVA
Vladimir A. SVITKO
Galina A. SINGAISKAYA
Aniza M. SITKIV
Olgz A. SIKORENKO
Olgz F. SKURATOVSKAYA
Galina V. SLOBODYAN
Nina A. SOKOLOVA
Paisia V. SOKOLOVSKAYA
Anatoly D. SOKOLOVSKY
Pyotr D. SOKOLOVSKY
Ivan A. SOLOMONYUK
Zinara F. STEPANENKO
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Lyudmila I. TIMOSHCHENKO
Anna S. TISHKOVEVS
Philipp S. TISHKOVETS
Taisiya P. FENDYUR
Taisiya V. FORSYUK
Valentina V. KHARCHENKO

Vladimir F. KHARCHENKO
Tamara B. KOMITSKAYA
Dmitry M. CHEGER
Nadozhda I. SHIMCHENKO
Lyubov F. SHRKO
Alexey M. SHKOLENKO
Viktor V. SHCHIPOVSKY
Sofia G. YAROVA

VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE
SEPTEMBER 27, 2006
The most horrible stage of the Holocaust, the stage of total extermination of Jews, began with the shootings at the edge of the Babi Yar ravine. Over the course of two days in September 1941, the Nazis killed more than 33,000 of Kyiv’s Jews, mainly women, children and the elderly. Only a few witnesses and survivors still remember the Kyiv “death walk” that ended in Babi Yar on the city’s outskirts. Fewer still can understand the chilling terror and utter loneliness of a human being standing face to face with the Nazi death machine. That absolute loneliness still fills this area of Kyiv. It is the loneliness of a people faced with extermination. It is the loneliness of an individual facing death.

It was after the mass murder in Babi Yar that the Nazis, emboldened by the international community’s apathy, embarked on their campaign to exterminate the Jewish people in occupied Europe. In January 1942, only four months after the tragedy in Babi Yar, the Wannsee conference passed “the final solution of the Jewish question.” In February 1942, the Nazis opened the Belzec death camp.

In March, they started building Sobibor. Majdanek and Treblinka were converted into death camps. In June 1942, the gas chambers in Poland’s Oswiecim began operating at full capacity. The civilized world contributed to the creation of death camps when it refused to see the dangerous events that led in a straight line to their foundation.

The scale and nature of the Catastrophe linking Auschwitz and Babi Yar were terrible, indeed. Nearly six million people died in the flames of the Holocaust. Very few could have foreseen that the tragedy would go that far. It started with seemingly harmless social and economic oppression of Jews. The measures ranged from taking away their property to forcing sales at insulting low prices. As a result, the Nazi ideology of genocide led to the pogroms of Crystal Night, the mass murder at Babi Yar and the death camps, all of which are linked together.

The executions in Babi Yar marked the transition to an open, physical extermination of Jews. They are a symbol of suffering, cruelty and absolute anti-humanism. This tragedy belongs not only to Jews in Kyiv and Ukraine, but to all countries and nations: the USON, Europe and the whole world. Mass murders of Jews similar to the Babi Yar tragedy cropped up all over occupied Europe. The infernal instrument of death that was switched on at Babi Yar had its sights on more than just Jews. The Nazis planned to use the same techniques to exterminate other ethnic groups that Nazi ideology found undesirable. In a salient point made at the 2005 World Holocaust Forum in Krakow, President Vladimir Putin said “Today, six decades later, we see the Holocaust not only as a national tragedy of the Jewish people but as a catastrophe for all of humanity.”

Looking back at the events of the 1930s, we can theorize that if the world had not been so indifferent to the fate of Germany’s Jews, neither the Babi Yar tragedy nor the Holocaust would have happened. However, the world turned a blind eye to obviously racist German laws, to pogroms against Jews, to the distress of Jewish emigrants before World War II, and to mass executions of civilians at the beginning of the war. All of this led up to the genocide and the Catastrophe.

With xenophobia, ethnic and religious intolerance and aggressive anti-Semitism on the rise today, the world must realize the consequences of its indifference. Auschwitz, Babi Yar, die Kristallnacht, and the Nürnberg Laws are the countdown giving us a chance to peer into the future. If we understand the roots of the tragedy and the way it developed, we will find the answer for preventing its recurrence.

We will never succeed in building a good and fair future unless we preserve the memory of our historical tragedies and understand the suffering we have inherited from the past.

Organization Committee
The second International Forum “Let My People Live!”
September 27, 2006
Kyiv, Ukraine
THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM
IN COMMEMORATION OF
THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TRAGEDY
IN BABI YAR
SEPTEMBER 27, 2006
KYIV, UKRAINE
THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL FORUM
"LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!"
WAS HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF UKRAINE VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO.
SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

OFFICIAL RECEPTION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS OF BABI YAR HELD AT KYIV CITY STATE ADMINISTRATION

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR AS PART OF THE STATE EVENTS MARKING 65 YEARS SINCE THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR

RECEPTION ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO FOR OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM “LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!”

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

CEREMONY IN MEMORY OF BABI YAR VICTIMS AT THE MENORAH MONUMENT

OFFICIAL CEREMONY IN REMEMBRANCE OF BABI YAR VICTIMS AT THE MONUMENT CALLED “BABI YAR RAVINE”

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM “LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!” IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR, HELD AT THE SHEVCHENKO NATIONAL ACADEMIC OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF UKRAINE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

ALONG THE DEATH WALK
MOURNING PROCESSION TO THE MENORAH MONUMENT
SEPTEMBER 2006
KYIV UKRAINE
THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM

“LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!”

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2006, AT THE SHEVCHENKO NATIONAL ACADEMIC OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF UKRAINE IN KYIV, AS PART OF OFFICIAL EVENTS MARKING 65 YEARS SINCE THE BABI YAR TRAGEDY.

PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO PROVIDED HIS PATRONAGE TO THE EVENT.


MORE THAN 1,000 GUESTS FROM 60 COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE FORUM:

HEADS OF STATE AND CABINET MEMBERS FROM 46 COUNTRIES.


MORE THAN 500 ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS PROVIDED MEDIA COVERAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM “LET MY PEOPLE LIVE!” AND OTHER EVENTS MARKING 65 YEARS SINCE THE BABI YAR TRAGEDY.
WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION:

- President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko, Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, Russian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin, Secretariat of the President of Ukraine Kyiv City State Administration, Yad Vashem - The Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, Representatives of International Political, Public and Religious Organizations, Including the Council of Europe, the EU, the UN, the World Jewish Congress, the European Jewish Fund, the American Jewish Congress, the European Jewish Congress, the Russian Jewish Congress, the Babi Yar Memory Foundation, Ukrainian Centre for Holocaust Studies, Jewish Council of Ukraine and Many Others.

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OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY IN BABI YAR SEPTEMBER 27, 2006 KYIV, UKRAINE

THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE
THE WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM (R.A.)
YAD VASHEM,
THE HOLOCAUST MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE AUTHORITY
THE COUNTDOWN

PART I

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