

Press release, April 1, 2021

Public reading of the Holocaust Victims` names – Yom Ha-Shoa 2021

On April 8, the 16th edition of the Public reading of the Holocaust Victims` names – Yom Ha-Shoa, will take place. Just as in 2020, the measurements necessary due to the coronavirus pandemic interfere with the realization of this event. For the second time, therefore, the commemoration of the victims of the Nazi persecution during WWII will take place only in virtual space.

„To us, it is important to keep the tradition alive also during these times: because of the people we commemorate, and the people who participate in the commemoration every year,” says Tereza Štěpková, director of the Terezin Initiative Institute. „To me, personally, it is also very important to keep the tradition of reading the names of Jewish and Roma and Sinti victims of the Holocaust together. The decision, whose names one wants to read is a decision we leave to the participants,” she adds.

There are three different possible ways how to participate. If you register beforehand, you can take part in a reading held as a livestream and, as always, read six names either of your own choice or a list prepared by ITI. The reading will take place from 2 pm to 5 pm and will be broadcasted as a livestream on the social media channels and the website of the Terezin Initiative Institute. It is also possible to prepare a video or audio clip and send it to the Terezin Initiative Institute before April 8. On April 8 itself, you can share your contribution on social media and participate by adding the hashtag #ctujmenanajomhasoa. Of course, it is also possible to watch the livestream and commemorate the victims in your own, personal way at home.

The Public reading of the Holocaust Victims` names – Yom Ha-Shoa is a marathon reading of the names of men, women and children who were first labelled by the Nazis as „jewish” or „gypsy” and, based on this labelling, were persecuted as „racially inferior”. Traditionally, it takes places during the spring month, in Czech Republic since 2006. Since 2013, the event has spread from Prague to other cities. Just as in the years before, with this event we take part in the honoring of the memory of the heroes and victims of the Holocaust, called Jom ha-šoa ve ha gvura (Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day) that also commemorates the beginning of the uprising of the Jewish prisoners of the Nazi ghetto in Warsaw.

The event takes places under the aegis of H. E. Daniel Meron, ambassador of the State of Israel in the Czech Republic, Zdeněk Hřib, M.D., mayor of the city of Prague and Tomáš Petříček, M.D., minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The ambassadors of Germany, France, Norway, Austria, Slovakia, Ireland and Greece participate as well as well-known representatives of culture and society, survivors of the Holocaust and their descendants and representatives of local



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organizations and cities where the reading would take place if the pandemic would allow, and, of course, the wider public.

Everyone can participate in the event, read out names and help return the memory of innocent but often forgotten victims of hatred, violence and injustice to our focus of attention. Paying attention to them is the first step to create a place for them in a common view on history that takes everyone who is part of society into consideration and does not restrict itself to those considered society`s majority.

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