

It is for this reason that we meet here today, for the world must never forget the unspeakable horror of the Holocaust. Every person has a responsibility to fight against ignorance, intolerance and prejudice in all its forms.

So let us rededicate ourselves as we commemorate this day of Yom HaShoah, so that the memories of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust can live on for eternity and that a tragedy like this will never happen on the face of the earth again.

HOLOCAUST MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, April 18, 2004, the people of the world memorialized Yom HaShoah—a special day of remembrance honoring the martyrs and heroes of the Holocaust. Holocaust Remembrance Day is a day that has been set aside to remember the victims of the Holocaust and to remind each of us what can happen when bigotry and hatred are not confronted.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled as I rise today with my colleagues to honor the memories and the lives of the more than 6 million victims of Nazi hatred and aggression during the pogrom known to us as the Holocaust. I am also humbled to stand in this cathedral of freedom and honor the lives of the many heroes who fought so bravely against unimaginable odds to defeat a genocidal madman.

More than 60 years ago, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime set out to eradicate European Jewry. So committed were they to the accomplishment of this goal, their so-called "Final Solution," that even in the waning days of World War II, when defeat was imminent, the Germans continued rounding up Jews all over Europe and sending them to their deaths.

Mr. Speaker, driven by a radical and uncompromising anti-Semitic ideology, the Nazis redoubled their efforts to reach every last Jew before the war ended. They were in a rush; time was running out. Depleting sorely-needed resources from the war effort, German forces swept across Europe, assembling and annihilating community after community, individual after individual, from their homes, ghettos and hiding places.

Mr. Speaker, during the last year of the war in Europe, German defeat was all but accomplished, and yet their hatred and bigotry survived and thrived. Consequently, the Nazis murdered more than 700,000 Jews in the last full year of the war, including most of the Jews of the last large community in Europe, Hungary. In one of the most efficient deportation and murder operations of the Holocaust, the Nazi and Hungarian regimes deported 437,000 Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau in just eight weeks, and killed tens of thousands more later that year.

Six decades have passed since Allied troops liberated the labor and death camps, and yet the memory of the horrors perpetrated against the Jewish people is seared into the collective conscious of the world. However, Mr. Speaker, sadly, we cannot undo history, and we cannot reverse the atrocities carried out by a barbarous German regime.

What remains for us is to honor and preserve the memories and lives of both the victims and the survivors of the Holocaust. Out of the great tragedy of the Holocaust emerges a tremendous object lesson for humanity: hatred and bigotry can never be taken for granted or left unchecked. We must never forget.

Mr. Speaker, memory is critical—our own and that of the victims of unprecedented evil and suffering. The Holocaust is an era we must remember not only because of the dead; it is too late for them. Not only because of the survivors; it may even be too late for them. Preserving memory is a solemn responsibility, aimed at saving men and women from apathy to evil, if not from evil itself. We must never forget.

Mr. Speaker, sixty years ago, much of the world overlooked the deadly plight of an entire people until it was almost too late. We have a sacred obligation—in order to truly keep faith with the principles upon which our great nation was founded—to remain vigilant, to remember the horrors of the past, to learn from them, and to protect against them for all eternity. We must never forget.

Mr. Speaker, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel, perhaps summed it up best when he said, "to remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all." As Americans, we must heed his call and embrace his challenge. We must never forget.

COMMEMORATION OF YOM HASHOAH, AND UPCOMING OSCE CONFERENCE ON ANTI-SEMITISM

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which memorializes the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis during their campaign of genocide in World War II. We mourn the innocent lives lost and vibrant communities destroyed while the world shamefully stood silent, and honor those heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto who faced certain death when they refused to submit to the Nazi's planned extermination of their community.

To this day, Mr. Speaker, many European countries have failed to right the past wrongs of the Holocaust by failing to adequately redress the wrongful confiscation of property by the Nazi and communist regimes. These seizures took place over decades; they were part of the modus operandi of repressive, totalitarian regimes; and they affected millions of people. The passage of time, border changes, and population shifts are only a few of the things that make the wrongful property seizures of the past such difficult problems to address today.

While I recognize that many obstacles stand in the way of righting these past wrongs, I do not believe that these challenges make property restitution or compensation impossible. On the contrary, I believe much more should have been done—and can still be done now—while our elderly Holocaust survivors are still living.

Today I also want to sound the alarm about a disturbing trend that Jews face today: a rising tide of anti-Semitism throughout the world.

I serve as the Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), commonly known as the Helsinki Commission. Later today I will travel to Europe as part of the U.S. Delegation to several meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a fifty-five national regional security organization which includes Europe, Central Asia, and North America. The Helsinki Commission has held multiple hearings on this issue, and the House and Senate have adopted resolutions strongly condemning this rising tide of anti-Semitism, as has the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

As part of my upcoming Helsinki Commission trip, I will travel to Warsaw, Krakow, and then to the death camps at Auschwitz, to see firsthand the remains of the factories of intolerance, hate, and death. From there I will travel to an OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism, which will also be attended by Secretary of State Colin Powell. I will then return to the United States, where I will host a group of constituents at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

The Berlin Conference will be instrumental in the battle against anti-Semitism, as elected officials, government leaders and executives of non-governmental organizations come together to discuss how to fight this destructive evil. Anti-Semitism still afflicts societies throughout the world, including the United States. While we have made some progress in moving governments to respond through public denunciations and vigorous law enforcement, there is much more we can do to confront and combat anti-Semitism. The Conference will specifically address the roles of governments, civil society, education and the media in combating prejudice and in promoting tolerance.

As we commemorate Yom Hashoah, let us honor the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust by pledging to fight intolerance, hate crimes, and violence in our community and around the world. We shall never be silent again.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 6 million Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. Today in the nation's Capitol, we gather to pay our respects with our Days of Remembrance ceremony. My district, the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, is home to a large number of survivors of the Nazi death camps, and this day holds deep meaning for those individuals and the entire Jewish community.

Recent events in the Middle East and around the world underscore the importance of this day. Anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric and demonstrations continue in numerous countries. And while we respect the right of every person to be heard, the hateful displays throughout the world that are directed at the Jewish people remind us that "Never Again" is not a guarantee, but a promise that we must uphold through education, dialogue, and determination. It reminds us that we must continue

to strengthen the U.S. commitment to the security of Israel. Moreover, we must redouble our efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

"Never Again" also means that we must combat hate and genocide wherever it exists. We must never turn a blind eye to terror or discrimination. We must demand that our government hold those who carry out acts of needless brutality accountable and that it take action to prevent unwarranted human misery.

We recently marked the ten year anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, a horrific period in recent history. The world, including the United States, allowed for the brutal murder of 800,000 Tutsis in just 100 days of barbaric killings. President Clinton has cited the Rwandan genocide as one of his worst regrets.

In my Congressional district last weekend, the Cambodian Association of Illinois held a groundbreaking ceremony for the first Killing Fields Memorial Museum in the United States.

While we must honor those who were lost during the Holocaust and other past genocides by carrying on and living honorable and productive lives, the most important thing we can do to honor lives lost in the past is to refuse to repeat the same mistakes today that allowed for those atrocities to occur in the past.

Today, as we mark the Holocaust and honor the lives that were lost in the world's worst murder case, and, as we reflect on other past genocides, history appears, shamefully, to be repeating itself.

Today, in the Sudan, civilians are being systematically murdered, raped and brutalized by the government and other forces. We will likely witness the loss of hundreds of thousands of innocent lives in the coming weeks if the world stands idly by and does nothing to intervene.

Some in this body may feel some comfort in pointing to the fact that a hearing has been held or that they were willing to sign a letter or cosponsor a non-binding resolution expressing concern. Those are important steps to take to put the Congress on record, but unfortunately, they will not save lives. The situation in Sudan is a human rights emergency, one that demands immediate action, not just words from the United States and the international community. "Never Again" means making tough decisions to preserve human life.

While President Bush has acknowledged the situation in Sudan and has expressed concern, he has not taken action to address it. Phone calls and press statements do not constitute action. Today, I call on President Bush in the name of human dignity and compassion to honor those who were lost in years past while the world watched in silence, to exert true leadership and take action to stop the killing in the Sudan.

Each one of us has a responsibility to condemn the senseless killing that is taking place and to demand that our great nation lead the world in bringing the bloodshed to an end.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the millions of Jews who per-

ished in the Holocaust and extend my support to today's annual Days of Remembrance ceremony at the U.S. Capitol.

The Days of Remembrance ceremony, along with the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, were established by Congress to permanently honor these victims. The lasting legacy of the museum and today's annual ceremony is not only to remember those who perished, but also to educate the world about human rights.

The 2004 Days of Remembrance asks us to pay tribute to the memory of the Jews of Hungary, who were deported 60 years ago in the final stages of World War II, and to honor those courageous individuals as well as the few organizations and countries who attempted to rescue them.

When I served in the Connecticut Senate as Senate President Pro Tempore, I had the great honor of presiding over the Days of Remembrance for 8 years. These ceremonies were incredibly moving. They inspired all in attendance to reflect on how such tremendous horror could happen in a civilized world. Every memorial candle lit by survivors and their family members was a testament that the eternal flame of life may flicker and dim, but it can never be extinguished.

One family in particular that understands this painful moment in history all too well is that of my colleague from Connecticut Senator JOE LIEBERMAN. Senator LIEBERMAN's wife Hadassah, is the daughter of Auschwitz death camp survivors. Although her father, Rabbi Samuel Freilich, has died, he bravely confronted his memories of Auschwitz by writing the book, *The Coldest Winter*.

Hadassah Lieberman was part of the U.S. delegation who attended the ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. I can't possibly begin to know what that trip must have meant to her. Yet, I do know that her courage to travel to this place of horrible evil, and the courage of every survivor and their families, is truly remarkable.

This year's Days of Remembrance theme is "For Justice and Humanity." Sadly, thousands around the world have not found justice from the crimes against humanity that they have endured.

A United Nations Commission on Human Rights statement issued yesterday indicates that human rights violations around the world are far from eliminated. The Commission agreed to assist countries that have recently experienced violence or are still combating insurgencies, such as Afghanistan, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Cambodia, Haiti, Burundi, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Liberia, Somalia and Sierra Leone.

Today's ceremony is a critical reminder that the fight against repression and violence is a difficult battle. Yet, it also reminds us that while the capacity to hate does exist in this world, an equally potent capacity for hope, for courage and for justice also exists.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the millions who lost their lives during the Hol-

ocaust as we observe Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day.

Yom Hashoah commemorates the April and May 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Led by 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, 750 Jewish resistance fighters battled heavily armed German troops and police attempting to deport the surviving ghetto inhabitants to concentration camps. In an appeal to the world community to end the atrocities of the Holocaust, the fighters wrote, "A battle is being waged for your freedom as well as ours. For you and our human, civic, and national honor and dignity." Unfortunately, their call went largely unanswered. While the fighters were able to hold out for nearly a month, the German firepower was too much. In the end, more than 56,000 Jews were captured, 7,000 were shot, and the remainder were deported to concentration camps.

Between the years of 1941 and 1945, more than 12 million innocent civilians were murdered in the Holocaust, including 6 million Jews. These people were singled out not because of any wrongdoing, but rather because of their families' religion or where they were born.

Nearly 60 years after the end of this attempt to exterminate an entire religion, anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia continue to plague humanity. People are discriminated against and even targeted for violence simply because of where they were born or who their ancestors are. Every day, this occurs not only in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, but also here in America. Now more than ever, we all must work to understand those of different cultures, races, and religions. Mutual respect for differences will lead to the end of hostilities, and only then will the opportunity for world peace exist.

As philosopher George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." I encourage my constituents to take this opportunity to visit the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, speak to a Holocaust survivor, or read a book by Eli Wiesel. I solemnly remember and honor all of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust, and I will do all in my power to ensure that similar atrocities never occur again.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of this Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah, to remember both the best and the worst of humanity. Six million Jews and millions of others were rounded up, tortured, and murdered, by the Nazis 6 decades ago. The martyrs of these indescribably vicious and inhumane deeds will never be forgotten, neither their deaths nor the principles for which they stood. We remember those who were too weak to defend themselves, who were brutally slaughtered in death camps. We remember those like Anne Frank who battled to preserve their humanity in their own unique way. We remember those who fought back, like the brave men and women who rose up against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto 60 years ago.