

MEMORY & ACTION

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM MAGAZINE | FALL 2012

The Paper Trail

Unlocking the potential of the
International Tracing Service

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

THE POWER OF TRUTH
20
YEARS
2013



from the Director

Preparations for celebrating the Museum's 20th anniversary during the coming year have brought to mind my nervous anticipation two decades ago as its opening approached. As we scrambled to finish the exhibitions, we worried—would they come? Who would come? Would they return?

We soon learned those would be the least of our worries. More than 34 million visitors from all walks of life and all parts of the world have come through our doors. Ninety percent of our visitors are non-Jews, and we have welcomed almost 100 heads of state. But our most important visitors have been the over 10 million students who have come to learn about the dangers of hate and the consequences of indifference.

Teaching these lessons over 20 years, the Museum has evolved from a building in Washington to a national institution and now a global enterprise. We started this magazine so that no matter where you are, you can know where we are—and why.

Speaking about the Museum, our founding chairman Elie Wiesel said “a memorial unresponsive to the future would also violate the memory of the past.” In this issue, you will read about how our opening of the largest closed Holocaust archive in the world, the International Tracing Service archive, has helped survivors find long overdue information about the fate of loved ones and has propelled new scholarship and greater understanding of the Holocaust. We also feature our genocide prevention initiative and outreach to North Africa, where Holocaust denial and antisemitism are growing problems.

Of course, the rise of Holocaust denial just as the eyewitness generation gradually diminishes is no coincidence. That is why our 20th anniversary tribute to survivors and World War II veterans will be especially meaningful. On April 28–29, 2013, the Museum will bring them together for a historic gathering, probably the last time they will gather in such numbers. I hope you will join us—and bring your families—for this moment when we will honor the wartime generation and pass the torch to new generations.

Cover: A card catalogue at the International Tracing Service archive in Bad Arolsen, Germany. Richard Ebrlich, US Holocaust Memorial Museum. Above: US Holocaust Memorial Museum

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United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Magazine

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seen at the Museum



Elie Wiesel and President Barack Obama light candles in the Museum's Hall of Remembrance on April 24; Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie visit the Museum for a tour and screening of her 2011 film *In the Land of Blood and Honey* in January; Erik Larson, author of *In the Garden of Beasts*, speaks at the Museum in May about prewar Berlin in conjunction with a screening of rarely seen film from the Museum's collections; former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who used to sit on the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, visits the Museum in June to view the *State of Deception* special exhibition on propaganda in Nazi Germany; in July, actress Mélanie Laurent speaks at the Museum following a screening of the film *La Rafle (The Roundup)*, in which she stars.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Studying the Holocaust in Tunisia

Jamel Bettaieb first became interested in German history as a student of hotel management in Tunisia. While interning in hotels, he encountered many German tourists and started learning about the country. “I had a good impression,” he said. “So I changed subjects to study German history, literature, and language.”

Then he started learning about the Holocaust. “How could a great nation ... raise up someone like Hitler?” Bettaieb asked. “How could this happen?”

Bettaieb, who spent last summer at the Museum as an independent researcher under the National Institute for Holocaust Education, hopes the experience will help him in his job as a high school German teacher in Tunisia. Young leaders like Bettaieb are linchpins in the Museum’s global efforts to counter antisemitism and to educate citizens worldwide about the Holocaust.

Bettaieb has the social network and motivation to be an agent for change in the Muslim world. He proved that when he spread the word about the self-immolation of a fruit vendor in his hometown, Sidi Bouzid, the act of protest that sparked the 2011 Jasmine Revolution. That activism earned him a 2011 Democracy Award from the National Endowment for Democracy and brought him to Washington, DC, a year ago as part of a *World Affairs* journal fellowship program for Arab Spring activists.

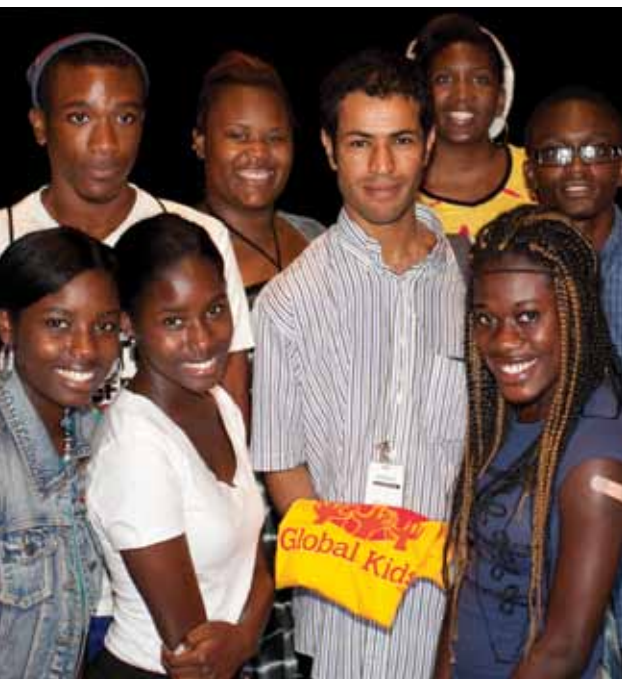
While visiting the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, Bettaieb spotted the Museum and asked about it. After a tour and a meeting with Museum education staff, he returned

with the other members of his fellowship program for an additional tour and in-depth discussion with staff. His passion was obvious.

Most Tunisians, Bettaieb explained, know little about the Holocaust and the six-month occupation of their country by Nazi Germany. They also know little about Tunisia’s Jewish community, the oldest ethnic group in the country after Berbers, he added. Using his knowledge of French, Arabic, German, and English, Bettaieb explored the Museum’s archives last summer to develop lesson plans about the history of the Jewish community and the Holocaust in his country. He will use them both in his classroom and for programs with community groups.

“In Tunisia, the catastrophe is there is no good way to teach history,” Bettaieb said. “Teachers just lecture,” while students furiously take notes. His Museum mentors helped Bettaieb discover ways to inspire and challenge his students, who are in their last two years of high school, with the history of the Holocaust and its relevance to their lives today. Meanwhile Bettaieb, whose research fellowship was made possible by The Joseph and Eda Pell Fund for Confronting Antisemitism, helped staff understand how the Holocaust is viewed in the Arab world and develop ideas for reaching people who have little or no knowledge of it.

“It’s a great experience to learn about the history of Jews and the Holocaust, to learn how to teach tolerance,” he said. “The youth are the future of the country. If you teach youth, then in a few years there will be more tolerance.” ■



Research fellow Jamel Bettaieb poses on July 17, 2012, with participants in the Museum’s Bringing the Lessons Home program, who presented him with a T-shirt. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*



“It’s a great experience to learn about the history of Jews and the Holocaust, to learn how to teach tolerance. The youth are the future of the country. If you teach youth, then in a few years there will be more tolerance.”

—Jamel Bettaieb

On one of his first visits to the Museum in November 2011, Jamel Bettaieb learns about the voyage of the *St. Louis* from Russell Garnett, coordinator for youth and community initiatives. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*

Projections of Life

In June 1939 in Warsaw, elderly men with long beards sun themselves on benches. Boys roughhouse on cobbled streets.

Benjamin Gasul, a doctor born in Latvia who moved to the United States at age 16, recorded the scene pictured at left in Warsaw's Jewish quarter using his handheld camera. Though Gasul and his wife were tourists in the city, the locals greeted them with friendly curiosity.

Shot on silent but vibrantly colored Kodachrome film, Gasul's footage captures a thriving community. The very old and the very young mingle together in a city seemingly at peace. But just a few weeks later, Germany would invade Poland, marking the beginning of World War II. Deportations, roundups, and the Warsaw ghetto's liquidation followed. Undoubtedly, many of the people we see in Gasul's film would not survive the war.

The Museum's Steven Spielberg Film and Video Archive includes many

such home movies. Shot by hobbyists, the films take viewers into the world of Holocaust victims before their lives were destroyed.

Film Researcher Leslie Swift and Archivist Lindsay Zarwell want to raise awareness about this little known and rare footage, which shows the intimate details of life before the war. They believe it can help audiences develop a personal connection with victims whose lives were soon transformed by war.

Acquiring, preserving, storing, and cataloguing a set of film like the Gasul collection can cost the Museum tens of thousands of dollars. Without expert attention, over time original reels coiled in their cans begin to stick together, causing irreparable damage. The resulting image loss renders the films unviewable—their stories lost forever. It is critical for the Museum to continue collecting film evidence, before the film can no longer be restored.

Zarwell and Swift invite audiences to witness birthdays, vacations, and



Youths vie to be recorded by Dr. Benjamin Morris Gasul, who took this footage in the Jewish quarter of Warsaw in the summer of 1939. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of the Gasul family*



Lindsay Zarwell and Leslie Swift work with the Museum's collection of film at an off-site storage facility. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*

first days of school—moments not unlike those we would record today. Undeniably poignant, these films lend a sense of fullness to the lives of victims. They serve as a “way to emphasize what was,” said Zarwell, not only what was lost. ■

View some of these home movies, including the Gasul Collection, on the Museum's website, ushmm.org/research/collections/filmvideo/. A selection will be screened at 20th anniversary national tour stops; visit ushmm.org/neveragain for more information.



Geoffrey Megargee, series editor, and Martin Dean, volume editor, discuss the *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos*, Volume II. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*. Below: A map commissioned for the *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos*, Volume II (Indiana University Press in association with USHMM, 2012) shows the ghettos in German-occupied eastern Europe.

Memorializing Every Ghetto

The panel in the Museum's Permanent Exhibition often makes visitors pause: Titled "Four Hundred Ghettos," it details the extent of ghettoization in German-occupied Europe.

That panel will soon change in response to research conducted by scholars in the Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, who documented more than 1,150 ghettos for the second volume of the *Encyclopedia*

of *Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945: Ghettos in German-Occupied Eastern Europe*, work that has been supported in part by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

"A lot of people were doing research in their own little corners and hadn't put the numbers together," said Geoffrey Megargee, a Museum scholar and editor of the encyclopedia series, explaining how dramatically the project has broadened our understanding of the Holocaust.

About a decade ago, as the overall number of sites to be covered in the seven-volume encyclopedia climbed above 11,500, the scholars working on it met to decide whether they should set a limit—and chose not to.

"We decided this will only be done once," Megargee said. "It takes someplace like the Museum with the resources to do it. We ought to get it right." Now Megargee estimates the total number of sites at 30,000 to 40,000.

Archives from the former Soviet Union, which only became available in recent decades, were particularly crucial in identifying ghettos in places like

Lithuania and the Russian Federation. The ghettos "were scarcely mentioned in the German documentation," said Martin Dean, editor of the new volume. "Many were created just before deportations or mass shootings, so they did not exist for long."

Local historians helped the editors capitalize on newly available resources. Thanks to more than 100 contributors, they were able to document at least 300 ghettos that had not previously been described in the English language.

Survivors and others with a personal connection to the Holocaust have reacted differently to the encyclopedia's second volume than to the first, which covered concentration camps, Megargee said. They were moved by the first volume, but just flipped through it. When they look at the second volume, however, "they go looking for a particular place." Ghetto residents were generally still with their families and felt a sense of community. "There was something to hold on to," Megargee said. So when people hold a copy in their hands, "they want to see where their family was." ■



HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL



Make a tax-deductible gift to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by honoring someone or celebrating a special occasion.

The honoree will receive a card with images from the Museum's collections personalized with your message. Your gift will help us honor the memory of the six million lives lost by telling their story to audiences worldwide.

Make a gift today by calling toll free at 866.998.7466 or visiting ushmm.org/tributegift.

The Paper Trail

How the International Tracing Service Answers Questions for Survivors and Raises Them for Scholars

A blur of cards written in German flips by on Sara-Joelle Clark's computer monitor. Each card refers to a record in the International Tracing Service (ITS) archive.

Clark has spent so much of the past four years working with the archive that she knows exactly where to look on the cryptic cards, printed and handwritten in German script, for helpful information such as birth dates, birthplaces, and names. It's how she found more than 51 documents related to Abraham Gersten in just two hours on a recent day.

Gersten's granddaughter, Blair Gersten, submitted one of the more than 16,000 requests for information since the Museum's effort to open the archive succeeded almost five years ago, in December 2007. About 69 percent of those requests came from survivors, and they span 71 countries. Staff members and volunteers have fulfilled 88 percent of

the requests, an effort funded through the generosity of the Braman Family Foundation and other donors. Because Blair Gersten made her request on behalf of a living survivor, it took top priority for the Museum's staff of ITS researchers.

Slowly, Abraham Gersten's story emerged from the scans of yellowed, crumbling pieces of paper. He was a Polish Jew who worked in a factory during the war's early years. In August 1944, Gersten was taken to Mauthausen concentration camp. After liberation, he lived in displaced persons (DP) camps before immigrating to the United States in November 1949.

Documents from those DP camps testify to Gersten's resilience. He was stateless, homeless, and jobless, but took a leap of faith in his ability to create a new life. When his ship departed for New Orleans in 1949, he was not alone, but accompanied by the wife he

married while living in the camps and his young daughter, Sarah, who was born in one.

Abraham and Frances Gersten had told their children and grandchildren about their lives before emigration. So why did Blair, 25, who lives in Chicago and volunteers at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, request information from the ITS archive?

Although she knew the outlines of her grandparents' war years, Blair had been trying to fill in the blanks of her family's history. Searching the Internet, she learned that our Museum had copies of the ITS archive and was offering a search service, so she submitted requests for information on her grandparents and several other relatives. The results were "astonishing."

"I sent them to all my relatives and our whole family had more of an appreciation

Right: Sara-Joelle Clark demonstrates a search for documents using the International Tracing Service archive.
US Holocaust Memorial Museum

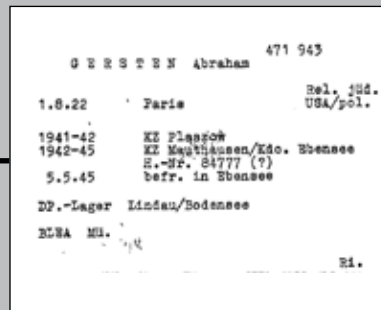


How an ITS Search Works

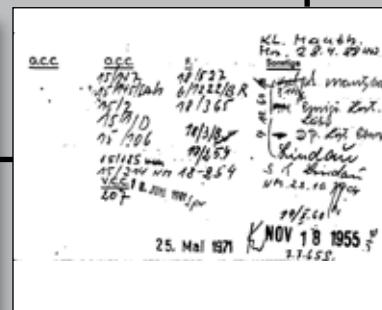
1. Inquiry Card

A Museum researcher searches the Central Name Index using the name and possible variants. The cards are arranged by German phonetics, then by birth date. There are inquiry cards, like the example below, that were created in response to third-party inquiries about a person. Others were created for names listed in documents. Museum researchers have found examples of more than 200 types of cards.

ITS workers recorded documents they found related to the person on the back of the inquiry card, as well as the date they made the search. Museum researchers use those notations to find the electronic versions of the documents.



front

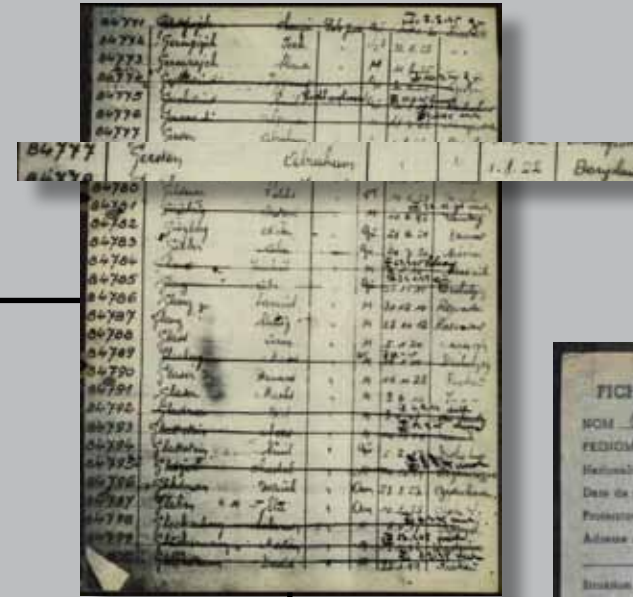


back



2. Prisoner Card

A shrunk, index-card-sized copy of this Mauthausen document also appeared in the Central Name Index. ITS workers put it there to indicate they had created a folder of Mauthausen documents related to Abraham Gersten. A copy of the document itself can be found in the Mauthausen files. It notes that Gersten was a Polish Jew and records his physical characteristics, such as eye color, hair color, and height.



3. Prisoner List

One of the documents noted on Gersten's card in the Central Name Index, as well as on a card of its own, was this Mauthausen list of prisoners. (His row is highlighted.) The left column lists prisoner numbers, which can point researchers to additional documents. Prisoners who died were crossed off the list.

4. Postwar Documents

In cases such as Gersten's, when the Museum researcher believes the prisoner survived, she or he searches documents from the Displaced Persons card file. Gersten's postwar documents are in French, because he was in Lindau, in the French occupation zone.



5. Emigration

This final document notes that Abraham Gersten emigrated to the United States in November 1949, accompanied by his wife, here spelled Vella, and his daughter, Sarah. The ITS database also includes collections of emigration lists and ship manifests.

“Every time we open an archive, it is a dagger in the heart of Holocaust denial.”

—Paul Shapiro, director of the Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies

for what our grandparents had gone through,” she said. “It helped us date where he was at what time. Survivors have no account of ‘on this date I went to that.’ It helps us piece that together. ... They will be treasured family documents.”

PRESERVING HISTORY

As World War II drew to a close, the Allies dumped those documents in a former SS training facility in Bad Arolsen, a small town in Germany that was located near the intersection of the

four occupation zones and that had not been bombed.

No one outside of ITS's small staff had access to the documents until late 2007, when years of diplomatic and political pressure by the Museum finally convinced the 11 governments that control the archive to make it available to researchers. Paul Shapiro, director of the Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, spearheaded the effort to open ITS. He says the archive has tremendous importance for survivor families that goes far

beyond individual requests for information.

“What is the greatest fear of survivors today? That when they are no longer here, what happened to them would be swept under the rug,” Shapiro said. “These millions of original documents are an insurance policy against forgetting.” In fact, ITS estimates the archive contains information on about 17.5 million people who were victimized by the Nazis and their allies.

In 1955, the Allied High Commission on Germany

transferred management of ITS to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Although ITS did a good job of answering queries for a time, its staff eventually became overwhelmed. When Shapiro took up the cause of opening the archive in 2001, there was a backlog of 450,000 requests from survivors. “I got involved because survivors told me they had written to ITS and hadn't had a response in 10 years,” he said.

After the agreement to open the archive was finally ratified in 2007, each of the 11 countries on the commission managing it had the right to request an electronic copy of the entire archive. The Museum is the United States' repository. Subsequent agreements have eliminated the ICRC's management role (as of the

end of 2012) and opened the possibility of future remote access to the archive.

“The notion of broad access to Holocaust-related archives is something the Museum stands for,” Shapiro said. “Every time we open an archive, it is a dagger in the heart of Holocaust denial.”

HISTORY'S NEXT DRAFT

Because the ITS archive was organized to respond to queries about individuals, its only index is of names. Those cards Clark used to begin her search list individual names and the documents connected to them. Other than the names index, the only way to search the archive is to dive into a collection of documents.

“It's not Google,” said Eric Steinhart, who until recently worked at the Museum's

Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies as the Curt C. and Else Silberman International Tracing Service Research Scholar. To help scholars in the “uphill battle” to use ITS, Steinhart and his colleagues organize seminars at the Museum, such as August's “Poland and Ukraine during and after World War II as seen through ITS Documentation.” ITS has a rich collection of documents about Poles and Ukrainians who were used in great numbers as forced laborers during the war.

Five years in, scholars have just begun to sample the archive's potential to enrich the field of Holocaust studies. Now the Museum is developing software to search collections that were not previously searchable, which it will share with other institutions that

Scholars, including Michal Kwiecien of the University of Illinois at Chicago, learn how to use ITS for their research. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*



have copies of the archive.

The collections in ITS offer untrodden avenues of inquiry. “For everyone studying postwar immigration, it is a goldmine,” said Diane Afoumado, chief of ITS research for the Museum’s Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center.

ITS includes questionnaires from DP camps that record residents’ answers to the question, “Do you want to go home?” “Usually the answer was ‘no,’” Afoumado said. The documents proceed to list places they would like to go.

Those records, Shapiro said, raise many questions, such as the role of governments in resettling DPs, what kind of prejudices were at play in those decisions, and how well or how poorly institutions created by the Allies cared for the people in their charge.

“Most of the records in the collection raise more questions than they answer,” Steinhart said. His recent work included looking at the Gestapo files contained in ITS. “You get stories within stories. Why was this person denounced? By whom? How did local officials respond?” The ITS research scholar’s projects advertise the potential of ITS, such as with a paper Steinhart recently presented on the records of the Linz Gestapo, which had not previously been examined by scholars. “With ITS, you don’t have to go to four different sites to study Gestapo collections.”

The scholarly potential of ITS demonstrates how much we still have to learn about the Holocaust. Holocaust Studies is still a developing field, with new primary sources becoming available to enrich both

research and teaching. The ITS archive alone offers nearly 100 million pages of new material. “Our role in opening ITS made us the place to go” for those looking to gain access to other closed archives, Shapiro said. At the moment, for example, the Museum is negotiating to obtain copies of the records of the United Nations War Crimes Commission that was active from 1943 to 1948.

This expanding trove of documents also helps the Museum connect to new audiences beyond survivors and scholars, Afoumado said. It can help those audiences develop a meaningful connection to the Holocaust and the humanity of the victims. “When you give numbers, to me, it’s very cold,” she said. “But when you explain the path of persecution of one person, it’s another story.” ■

WORLD MEMORY PROJECT

THE POWER OF TRUTH IS IN YOUR HANDS

Help families learn the truth.



Imagine not knowing your father’s fate for almost 65 years—and then finding the truth in a document you never knew existed.

By participating in the World Memory Project on your own home computer, you can help make victims’ records searchable online. Thanks to Museum researchers, Sol Finkelstein learned that his father, whom he was separated from in the closing days of World War II, survived liberation.

More than 2,500 people have participated in the World Memory Project. **Will you help too?**

Visit www.worldmemoryproject.org to get started today.

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THE POWER OF TRUTH
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A 21st-CENTURY CHALLENGE

Inspiring leaders to respond to the threat of genocide

Is genocide preventable? Do the nations of the world have a moral obligation to prevent large-scale atrocities, even if it means violating a country's national sovereignty? Should the United States deploy troops to help stop genocide?

A majority of Americans answered "yes" to each of these questions as part of a nationwide poll the Museum commissioned to gauge public knowledge of and attitudes toward genocide prevention in the 21st century. "The results are striking in that they show a deep American concern for genocide and a strong desire for global action to face this threat," said Mark Penn,

former presidential pollster, who conducted the poll while heading Burson-Marsteller and Penn Schoen Berland. "Americans believe they have a moral responsibility to prevent or stop genocide around the world, even if it means putting boots on the ground."

The Museum announced the poll findings (see sidebar on page 17) at a July 24 symposium, *Imagine the Unimaginable: Ending Genocide in the 21st Century*. Featuring a keynote address by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and presented in cooperation with the Council on Foreign Relations and CNN, this forward-looking symposium

focused on how to prevent future genocides in light of emerging global trends that threaten already at-risk societies.

"This poll gives us a better appreciation of issues that move the American public, and it provides a baseline against which we can measure the success of our efforts to increase public awareness of genocide," said Mike Abramowitz, director of the Museum's genocide prevention program, which seeks to focus high-level attention on the issue while inspiring the public to care.

"This gathering is yet another example of what the museum does so well," said

Left: Young girls leave a camp for internally displaced persons to gather firewood in Abu Shouk, North Darfur, Sudan, June 25, 2005. For some, the work will take more than seven hours and lead them past government checkpoints, leaving them exposed to attacks. All the people express fear and wish there was a more secure way to gather wood, essential for cooking in the camp. Girls as young as eight have been raped, attacked, and killed trying to get wood. Ron Haviv/VII

“The Museum...brings us face to face with a terrible chapter in human history, and it invites us to reflect on what that history tells us and how that history should guide us on our path forward.”

—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks at the Museum on July 24 before the symposium *Imagine the Unimaginable: Ending Genocide in the 21st Century*. US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Clinton of the symposium. “It brings us face to face with a terrible chapter in human history, and it invites us to reflect on what that history tells us and how that history should guide us on our path forward.”

SECURING HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION

The role of history in shaping the future both inspired and motivated the survivors and others who built the Museum just 20 years ago. As Founding Chairman Elie Wiesel wrote in the 1979 report of the President’s Commission on the Holocaust, “A memorial unresponsive to the future would also violate the memory of the past.”

Last spring, President Barack Obama commended the survivors’ efforts to make our future different from their past when he stood before a capacity crowd in the Museum’s Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Theater to announce the creation of an Atrocities Prevention Board. The board will coordinate the US response to mass atrocities and help identify and respond to the warning signs of genocide—in short, do “everything we can to prevent and respond to these kinds of atrocities—because national sovereignty is never a license to slaughter your people.”

Establishing an Atrocities

Prevention Board was one of the key recommendations of the 2008 Genocide Prevention Task Force, convened by the Museum, the United States Institute of Peace, and the American Academy for Diplomacy.

“Its creation is potentially very significant,” said Abramowitz. “From history, we know that the US government hasn’t put the proper bureaucratic attention on mass atrocities. By creating an interagency process for identifying and responding to large-scale violence against civilians, [the board] could help empower leadership to intervene and save lives.”

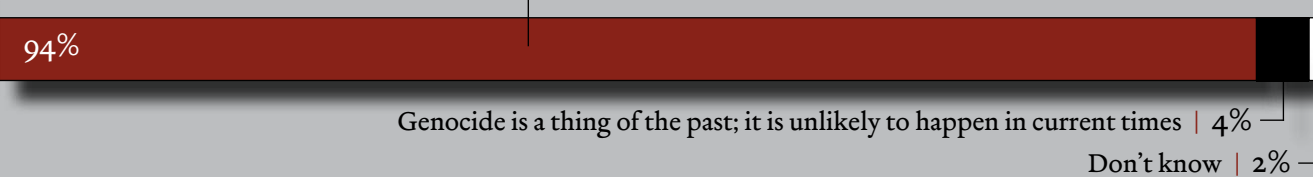
SUSTAINING INTEREST AT THE GRASSROOTS

Although leadership and commitment at the highest levels of government are essential to genocide prevention, they are only part of the equation. Often a sustained outcry from the public is a necessary catalyst for action.

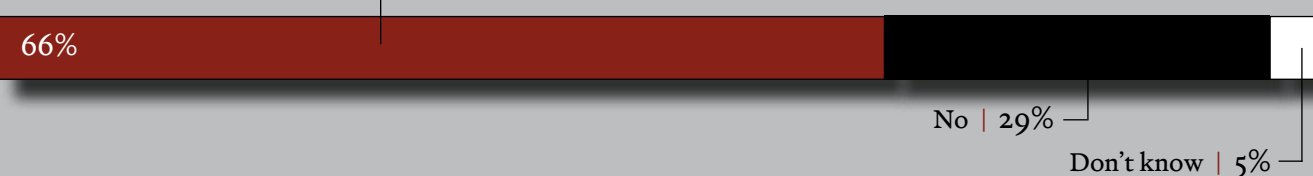
In July 2004, a diverse group of faith-based, humanitarian, and human rights organizations came together at the Museum to shine a spotlight on the emerging crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Out of that meeting, convened by the Museum and the American Jewish World Service, emerged the Save Darfur Coalition, which grew

AMERICAN ATTITUDES ABOUT GENOCIDE

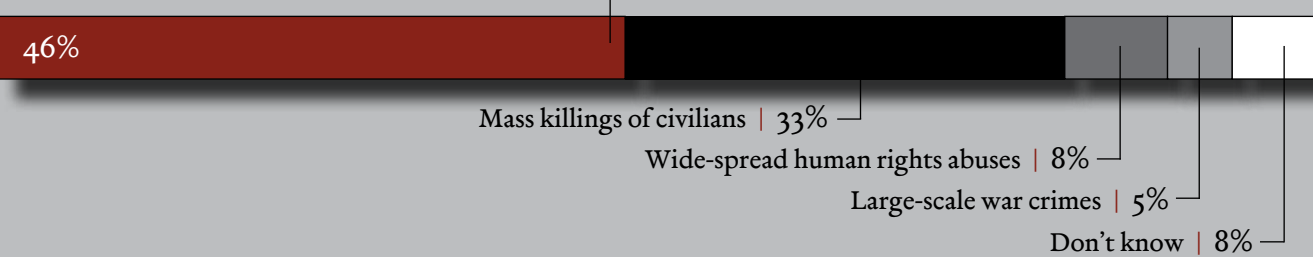
Americans overwhelmingly believe that genocide is a concern and could occur today.



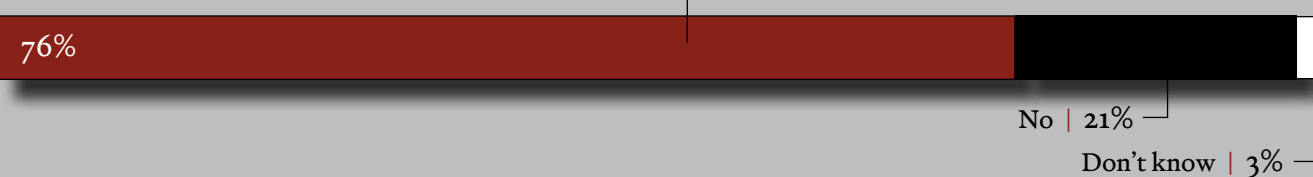
About two-thirds of Americans believe that genocide is preventable.



Almost half of Americans know the definition of genocide: destruction of a racial, ethnic, religious, or national group.



Most Americans believe that education about the history of genocides can help prevent future atrocities.



Data are from a nationwide poll conducted by phone between June 30 and July 10, 2012, with 1,000 participants who were a demographically representative sample of the US general population. The poll was conducted by Penn Schoen Berland.

More information about the July 24 symposium is available at ushmm.org/endgenocide.

to some one million activists, focused public attention on the unfolding genocide in Sudan's western region, and galvanized international pressure to end the atrocities there.

Given the power of an engaged public motivated by conscience, the Museum strives to educate an increasing number of people around the world about genocide and what they can do to prevent it. The Museum's genocide prevention website, ushmm.org/genocide, and social media are key tools in expanding its audience.

An educated citizenry and a committed leadership are most effective when alerted early, before a crisis reaches the boiling point. As the history of the Holocaust makes clear, there are always warning signs of genocide. The Museum is working to identify those signs and create systems to alert public officials when threats of genocide emerge.

Genocide can be prevented if individuals and governments choose to act. Inspiring that action is central to the Museum's work and to fulfilling the promise of "never again." ■



Brookings Institution Nonresident Senior Fellow Richard Williamson speaks as part of the panel *Innovative Solutions in Responding to Future Challenges*, part of the July 24 symposium. To his right is panelist Strive Masiyiwa, chairman and founder of Econet Wireless and member of the Committee on Conscience. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*

GENOCIDE ON TRIAL

Talking to Museum Goldfarb Fellow Michael Dobbs



Michael Dobbs, *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*

Serving as the Museum's Goldfarb Fellow, award-winning journalist **Michael Dobbs** is covering the trial of Ratko Mladic in The Hague, where the former Bosnian Serb military commander is charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia with genocide, crimes against humanity, and other war crimes. Dobbs' blog and other background information, much of it newly accessible to the public, can be read on our website at ushmm.org/mladic-files.

Memory&Action: Where does the Mladic trial stand?

Michael Dobbs: These proceedings take an awfully long time. I started covering Mladic in the pretrial phase back in September 2011. The trial opened in May this year and was delayed by discovery problems. It has started up again and could last for at least two years.

I have been twice to The Hague and also to Bosnia and Serbia, where the idea was to trace Mladic's footsteps. I am interested in the point of view of the victims but also of the perpetrators, as well as the response of the international community.

M&A: How has your understanding of Mladic evolved?

Dobbs: I've focused on the Srebrenica massacre. We know a lot more now about how the massacre was ordered and covered up afterward thanks to an exhaustive international investigation that took more than a decade.

I followed in Mladic's footsteps, visiting his birthplace in the mountains of southern Bosnia, as well as the village in Serbia where he was arrested in the spring of 2011. This has helped me understand his character and motivations. In my blog posts, I have been trying to explain how a professional Yugoslav Army officer indoctrinated in the Titoist ideology of "brotherhood and unity" came to murder 7,000 prisoners, an action found to be genocide by the war crimes tribunal.

M&A: Can this help us understand how to prevent future genocides?

Dobbs: The notion of genocide prevention assumes that you can somehow deter the perpetrators, either through talking to them or using force against them. In order to deter them, you need to understand their decision-making process. By studying past genocides and mass atrocities, we can try to answer the question: At what point could the international community have done something effective?

M&A: Tell us about the blog format of this project.

Dobbs: It's a cumulative investigation. We have put evidence online, making it more accessible to the public, created new Google maps, and zeroed in on some of the documentation to show how the genocide unfolded.

My initial inspiration was Hannah Arendt's 1961 coverage of the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem. But nowadays it's difficult to imagine a magazine hiring someone to sit at a trial for months on end and then write a book about it. It's the age of Twitter and the blog. We wanted to reach a large audience using social media. The goal was a modern-day version of the traditional courtroom coverage. ■

events & exhibitions

PLEASE JOIN US IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Overhead view of *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race* displayed at the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts, during the exhibition's run there from April 14, 2011, to July 17, 2011. *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*

CELEBRATE THE MUSEUM'S 20th ANNIVERSARY

The Museum will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a tribute in Washington, DC, and a national tour. At the tribute dinner on April 28, 2013, and at an open house at the Museum the following day, we will honor Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans. The four tour stops will educate people nationwide about the continuing relevance of the Holocaust to inspire them to act upon its lessons. Visit ushmm.org/neveragain to register and learn more.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

MIDWEST REGION

Call 847.433.8099 for more information.

Chicago and Glencoe, IL

November 14, 2012

Discussion: *The Ratko Mladic Files*, with prize-winning foreign correspondent and Museum Goldfarb Fellow Michael Dobbs and Mike Abramowitz

NORTHEAST REGION

Call 212.983.0825 for more information.

New York, NY

December 13, 2012

Discussion: *Our Responsibility to Protect: Can It Make a Difference?*, with The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, *New York Times* Columnist Nicholas Kristof, The Honorable Richard Williamson, and Mike Abramowitz, in cooperation with the 92nd Street Y

SOUTHEAST REGION

Call 561.995.6773 for more information.

Boca Raton, FL

January 9, 2013

Book Talk: *Daughters of Absence: Transforming a Legacy of Loss*, with Editor Mindy Weisel

February 21, 2013

Discussion: *Witness to History: Americans Abroad in Hitler's Europe*, with Author Andrew Nagorski, in cooperation with B'Nai Torah Synagogue

March 13, 2013

Film: *Besa: The Promise*, with survivor Johanna Neumann

WESTERN REGION

Call 310.556.3222 for more information.

San Diego, CA

February 13, 2013

Film: *Sboab: The Unseen Interviews*, at the San Diego Jewish Film Festival

San Francisco, CA

April 7, 2013

Discussion: *It's Not My Problem—Why Get Involved?*, in cooperation with Lehrhaus Judaica, at the Jewish Community Center San Francisco

UPCOMING

The Museum's new special exhibition will open in April 2013. *Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration and Complicity in the Holocaust* will break new ground by challenging common assumptions about the Holocaust.

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

Pittsburgh, PA

October 15, 2012–February 28, 2013

The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936
August Wilson Center for African American Culture, in partnership with the Holocaust Center of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

Vermillion, SD

October 25, 2012–January 6, 2013

Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race
University Libraries, University of South Dakota

West Palm Beach, FL

November 7, 2012–January 6, 2013

Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings
Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, presented by West Palm Beach Library Foundation

Lake Worth, FL

November 27, 2012–January 27, 2013

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945
Compass Community Center

Dahlonega, GA

January 17, 2013–March 15, 2013

Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings
North Georgia College & State University Library Technology Center

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibitions program is supported in part by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund established in 1990.

Twenty years ago, a bold VISION PUT A HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL on the National Mall



Original sketch of Museum Hall of Witness by architect James Ingo Freed

Today you can help
secure its global impact
by participating in the

20th Anniversary Legacy Challenge

In honor of the Museum's 20th anniversary, a generous couple will match up to 10 percent of each new planned gift to the Museum's endowment made known to the Museum before April 30, 2013. Your planned gift to secure the Museum's future—a gift that costs nothing today or provides income for life—has never had greater value.

Make safeguarding truth for future generations your personal legacy through a gift to the Museum's endowment. Please call George E. Hellman, JD, Director of Planned Giving, at 202.488.6591 to learn more.

ushmm.org/20thchallenge



ushmm.org/connect

Please join us

as we mark the Museum's 20th anniversary in Washington, DC,
and at special events around the country

20th ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND WORLD WAR II VETERANS

WASHINGTON, DC

Sunday–Monday, April 28–29, 2013

Washington Convention Center and the Museum

20th ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL TOUR

BOCA RATON

Sunday, December 9, 2012

Marriott at Boca Center

LOS ANGELES

Sunday, February 17, 2013

Skirball Cultural Center

NEW YORK

Sunday, March 3, 2013

Hyatt Grand Central

CHICAGO

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Chicago Cultural Center

Visit ushmm.org/neveragain to learn more.

**NEVER
AGAIN**
WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

Join leading national corporations and law firms in becoming a sponsor of the 20th Anniversary Tour and Tribute. For information on Individual Sponsorships, please contact Celeste Maier, director of stewardship, at 202.488.2634 or cmaier@ushmm.org. For corporate sponsorships, please contact Cara Sodos, director of corporate and foundation relations, at 202.488.6143 or csodos@ushmm.org.