

## **Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, 30 April – 1 May 2008** *Central Theme and Events at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem*

(April 29, 2008 -- Jerusalem) The central theme for this year's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day is **Holocaust Survivors in Israel-60 Years Since the Establishment of the State.**

**The Official Opening Ceremony for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day will take place on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 20:00, at Warsaw Ghetto Square, Yad Vashem, Mount of Remembrance, Jerusalem. Yad Vashem will be closed to the public as of 12 noon on April 30. It will re-open Thursday, May 1, at 8:00.**

Israel's President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will speak. Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council will kindle the Memorial Torch. Shmuel Shilo, will speak on behalf of the survivors.

**During the ceremony, Holocaust survivors will light six torches.** First torch: **Zvi Unger**; second torch: **Menachem Katz**; third torch: **Meir Brand**; fourth torch: **Ester Samuel-Cahn**; fifth torch: **Michael Maor**; sixth torch: **Noemi Shadmi**. During the ceremony, short videos of the torchlighters' testimonies will be shown (produced and directed by Shlomo Chazan).

The official memorial service will take place during the ceremony. The Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Yonah Metzger, will recite Psalms. The Rishon Lezion Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Shlomo Amar will recite Kaddish. El Ma'aleh Rahamim will be recited by Cantor Asher Hainowitz.

Participants in the ceremony include musician Rami Kleinstein and the Ramat Gan Municipality Children's Mouth Harmonica Orchestra in memory of Shmuel Gogol, as well as the IDF Paratrooper's Honor Guard. Narrative pieces: Merav Gruber. The evening's MC will be Kobi Meidan.

The ceremony will be broadcast live on television on Channels 1, 2, 10 and 33 and by radio on Kol Israel and Galei Zahal. It will last about one and a quarter hour.

**After the ceremony, at 22:00, there will be a symposium in Yad Vashem's Auditorium entitled "Uvacharta Bechaim—Holocaust Survivors, the State of Israel and the Shaping of Remembrance,"** moderated by Ehud Graf, with the participation of Holocaust survivor Israel Aviram, literary scholar Prof. Nurit Graetz, actress Hana Laszlo, educator Rabbi Dr. Chaim Burgansky and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. Guest performance by musician Aaron Razel. The two-hour discussion is open to the public and will be broadcast live on Galei Zahal radio.

Information on Holocaust Remembrance Day, as well as online exhibits, educational materials, video testimony and more is available at [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org).

## **MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Entrance for Journalists to the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, April 30, 2008**

**STILLS CAMERAS AND TV: COVERAGE OF THE OPENING CEREMONY IS BY POOL.**

PRINT JOURNALISTS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY WILL BE PERMITTED WITH A VALID 2008 GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE CARD ONLY. Journalists should arrive at Mt. Herzl by 18:15—private vehicles will not be admitted to Yad Vashem.

No firearms permitted.

It is recommended to dress warmly.

### **Entrance for Journalists to the Wreath-Laying Ceremony in the Presence of the President and Prime Minister, Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.**

Journalists will be permitted to enter the site by buses available to the public at the Mt. Herzl parking lot beginning at 7:30 a.m.

#### **Private vehicles will not be admitted to Yad Vashem.**

ENTRANCE WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED WITH A VALID 2008 GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE CARD. **THERE WILL BE NO ENTRY TO THE CEREMONY AFTER 9:15.**

From 8:00-20:00 entry will be permitted to all events at Yad Vashem, by way of transportation from Mt. Herzl.

Attached are details of the Remembrance Day events at Yad Vashem.

**Events on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day,  
Thursday, May 1, 2008**

- 10:00**            **Siren**
- 10:02**            **Wreath-laying ceremony** with the participation of Israel's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Knesset, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Mayor of Jerusalem, public figures, representatives of survivor organizations, soldiers, school children and delegations from throughout the country—**Warsaw Ghetto Square**
- 8:30 – 15:00**    **Meetings** with survivors, multimedia workshops, special tours, creative activities and more, for thousands of students, including an exhibit of artwork drawn by 4-5<sup>th</sup> graders in the course of studying about the Holocaust; musical events, and a photographic exhibit of Holocaust survivors and their families. – **International School for Holocaust Studies + Family Square**
- 10:30 – 12:30**    **“Unto Every Person There is a Name”** Recitation of Holocaust victims' names by members of the public—**Hall of Remembrance**
- 13:00**            **Main memorial ceremony—Hall of Remembrance**
- 15:00**            **Memorial ceremony for Hungarian Jews murdered in the Holocaust—Synagogue**
- 16:00**            **Memorial ceremony for former members of the Jewish Resistance in France — Auditorium**
- 17:30**            **Ceremony for youth movements with the participation of hundreds of youth** – addresses by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Holocaust survivor Yisrael Aviram and a representative of the youth movements. With the participation of Singer Ninet Tayeb, Nuri Koren of the Yad Vashem Project *Muzika* and the Youth Movement Choir, conducted by Adi Ron. MC: Tom Avni and Eliana Bakier, held in conjunction with the Ministry of Education's Youth and Social Administration —**Valley of the Communities**
- \*\*\***
- 20:30**            **Special Screening of the film *The Counterfeiters*** at the Sherover Theater, Jerusalem Center for the Performing Arts, in conjunction with the Yad Vashem Visual Center. With the participation of Avraham Sonnenfeld, survivor of the “counterfeiter's block” at Sachsenhausen, Dr. Robert Rozett, Director of the Yad Vashem Libraries, and Liat Benhabib, Yad Vashem Visual Center Director. **Tickets may be purchased at the Jerusalem Theater box office.**

**Contact:**    Estee Yaari / Foreign Media Liaison / +972 2 644 3412/0 / cell +972 50200 7072  
**fax:** +972 2 6443409 / [estee.yaari@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:estee.yaari@yadvashem.org.il) / [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)

*Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes Remembrance Authority, was established by the Knesset in 1953. Located in Jerusalem, it is dedicated to Holocaust remembrance, documentation, research and education. Press information can be found at: [http://www1.yadvashem.org/about\\_yad/press\\_room/temp\\_index\\_press\\_room.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/about_yad/press_room/temp_index_press_room.html)*