

Remarks by Tommy Lapid

I am a Holocaust survivor. I remember my Bar Mitzvah in the Budapest Ghetto and that my father was murdered in the Mauthausen Concentration camp in Austria. These memories follow me all my life. I would like to address Europe's responsibility for what happened then and what is happening now. When Hitler's Nazi program started it did not begin in Auschwitz or Buchenwald. It began with Krystallnacht, with the persecution of German Jews. Europe wanted to make the world aware of what this meant, that this was to be perceived as an 'internal German question'. By the time Europe understood that this was actually not simply an 'internal German question' it was too late, World War II had already begun.

If Europe missed the opportunity to understand what Hitler was promising, then Europe should believe what the Iranian President is saying now. He means business. This is not only a question of Israel being annihilated. Incidentally there were 6 million Jews murdered in Europe and there are currently 6 million Jews alive in Israel today. But this is not only a Jewish question or an Israeli question. The entire Judeo-Christian tradition is in a battle for survival against Radical Islam (I say Radical Islam, because I would never accuse the Islamic religion of aggression toward other faiths).

Al-Quaida will not end or even begin with Israel. They began with New York and Washington and will not end with only the U.S. and Israel. Why are the Iranians continuing to build missiles that can go further than Israel? If they are not planning to aim at Europe then why are they investing their money in atomic missiles with the ability to reach Europe?

We must join together to face our common enemy. If we do not engage Europe to combat the Iranian threat, then one day it may be too late for Europe to save itself from the efforts of a fanatic, extremist cult.