

## **Statement of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán**

68 years ago today, the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau were liberated. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Hungarian Government pays its respects to the victims. The painful anniversary compels every good-hearted Hungarian to pay their tributes.

Hungary is the home of the largest Jewish community in Central Europe, the flowering culture of which has always been an integral part of Hungarian culture, and remains so today. The 1944-45 tragedy of the Jewish people is thus also the tragedy of the Hungarian nation.

The Hungarian Government feels that it is its moral and political obligation to consistently confront the dictatorships of the 20th century and the atrocities they committed. We have introduced Holocaust Remembrance Day in every Hungarian school, established the House of Terror Museum, and it is almost ten years now since the Holocaust Memorial Center began operating in Budapest. 2014 is the 70th anniversary of the annihilation of the Hungarian Jews, in view of which the Hungarian Government has formed the Hungarian Holocaust 2014 Committee.

It is my firm belief that Hungary is a country in which people can never again suffer disadvantage or indignity because of their origin or faith. We shall protect the country's every citizen and know no compromise in this regard. We shall not tolerate and strongly condemn the stigmatising of minorities in any form, and every expression of anti-Semitism.

27 January, 2013. Budapest

Viktor Orbán

The Prime Minister of Hungary

*(Source: Prime Minister's Office)*

**President János Áder's letter on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance**

**Day**

to Péter Feldmájer, president of the Mazsihisz (Alliance of Hungarian Jewish Communities) and József Schweitzer, Retired National Chief Rabbi

Esteemed Chief Rabbi,

Distinguished President,

Death camps are memorials to disgrace.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau camp liberated on 27th January 1945 has served for 68 years as a memento to the final stage of the darkest aberration in European history so far.

Remembering those who were taken to the death camps is tantamount to facing the facts: any one of us could have been among the innocent victims. Among those who were just like us, who live today. They yearned for success, happiness and love. They yearned to stand up to the challenges of everyday struggles. Losing them was a loss for the whole of Europe.

We remember them on this day to remind ourselves and each other from time to time, where the insanity of racial discrimination leads to the insanity of total dictatorships.

This Memorial Day is not only about bereavement for us Hungarians. The message of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp is that those following nefarious ideals can never triumph over those on the side of life. Those, who seek to serve the expansion of human and civil rights in accordance with the best humanist traditions. The message of our common history and culture is that dictatorships are the sources of human suffering and death; that only democracy can create a life worthy of humans for citizens of any nation.

On International Holocaust Memorial Day, when we pay our respects to the memory of the victims, the tortured and the persecuted, we also confess our belief that every person shall have the right to human life and dignity, on which we - the Hungarians of the 21st century - shall insist in all circumstances.

Yours sincerely:

Dr. János Áder

President of the Republic of Hungary

*Source: Office of the President of the Republic*