



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

January 27 marks the beginning of this year's International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We pause to reflect upon the six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered by Nazi Germany before and during the Second World War, and the millions of others who also lost their lives to Hitler's genocide.

This day reminds us of the vital importance of remembering the dead. In one brief and powerful sentence, the writer and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel – a survivor of both Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps – pointed out how necessary remembrance is: “To forget the victims means to kill them a second time.”

The scope of such individual and collective inhumanity is staggering. We are shaken, we are sickened by what the history books record – and by a contemporary resurgence of Anti-Semitic thought and behavior. As we mourn for all the lost lives, we see more clearly than ever the need to condemn such violence; to stand on the side of the world's oppressed; and to strive for a world in which such wholesale devastation will never occur again.

The Italian poet and scientist Primo Levi's poem “Shema” – the Hebrew word for “listen” – was written in 1946, a year after his liberation from Auschwitz.

*You who live secure
In your warm houses
Who return at evening to find
Hot food and friendly faces:*

*Consider whether this is a man,
Who labors in the mud
Who knows no peace
Who fights for a crust of bread
Who dies at a yes or a no.
Consider whether this is a woman,
Without hair or name
With no more strength to remember
Eyes empty and womb cold
As a frog in winter.*

*Consider that this has been:
I commend these words to you.
Engrave them on your hearts
When you are in your house, when you walk on your way,
When you go to bed, when you rise.
Repeat them to your children.
Or may your house crumble,
Disease render you powerless,
Your offspring avert their faces from you.*

On this solemn day, let us remember. And let us renew the vow: “Never again.”

In sorrow and remembrance,

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President

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