

Holocaust Denial: A Global Survey - 2007

by Rafael Medoff & Alex Grobman

The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies

1200 G Street NW - Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
tel (202) 434-8994
www.WymanInstitute.org

Executive Summary: *Holocaust Denial - A Global Survey: 2007*

Holocaust-denial activity increased worldwide in 2007, following a temporary lull in 2006 due to the imprisonment of leading denier David Irving, in Austria. In 2007, Irving returned to the lecture circuit, and other deniers continued their efforts in various countries, including holding a conference in Italy to defend Holocaust-denial. At the same time, however, efforts by some European governments, especially Germany and Austria, to prosecute Holocaust-deniers helped curb the extent of denial activity.

In the Middle East, some Arab and Muslim regimes continued to sponsor Holocaust denial and sought to impede UN resolutions opposing denial. The government of Iran went so far as to organize a conference of Holocaust deniers in Teheran. In addition, a poll found a substantial level of Holocaust denial among Israeli Arabs.

There were also several hopeful developments: two prominent Muslims, the former prime minister of Indonesia and the president of the Islamic Society of North America, condemned Holocaust denial; the United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO both passed resolutions opposing Holocaust denial; and the European Union urged all its member-states to adopt legislation prohibiting Holocaust denial.

About the Authors

Rafael Medoff, Ph.D., is the founding director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies. He is associate editor of the scholarly journal *American Jewish History* and the author of seven books on the Holocaust, Zionism, and the history of American Jewry, the most recent of which (co-authored with David S. Wyman) is *A Race Against Death: Peter Bergson, America, and the Holocaust*. His essays have appeared in numerous scholarly journals, encyclopedias, and other reference volumes, including *Holocaust & Genocide Studies*, the *Journal of Genocide Research*, and *Holocaust Studies Annual*.

Alex Grobman, Ph.D., president of the Institute for Contemporary Jewish Life and the Brenn Institute, is co-author (with Michael Sherman) of *Denying History: Who Says the Holocaust Never Happened and Why Do They Say It?* and author of *Rekindling the Flame: Jewish Chaplains in the U.S. Army and the Survivors of the Holocaust* and *Battling For Souls: The Vaad Hatzala Rescue Committee in Post-War Europe*. His most recent book is *Nations United: How the United Nations Undermines Israel and the West*. He was the founding director of the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, and served as director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles where he was the founding editor-in chief of the *Simon Wiesenthal Annual*. He edited *Genocide: Critical Issues of the Holocaust*; *Anne Frank in Historical Perspective*; and *Those Who Dared: Rescuers and Rescued*.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
About the Authors	2
North America	3-6
Europe	6-10
Middle East	11-15
Asia	16
Australia	16
United Nations	16-17

North America

CANADA

Prof. Shiraz Dossa of St. Francis Xavier University, who participated in the December 2006 Holocaust denial conference in Iran, authored an article in the June 2007 issue of *Literary Review of Canada*, in which he claimed that criticism of his participation in the conference was “a small Spanish Inquisition ... launched by two Jewish professors and the Christian chair of the political science department” at St. Francis Xavier. Dossa argued in his essay that the event was not a Holocaust denial conference, and that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has never denied the Holocaust. According to Dossa, “It was the Zionists and the neo-Nazis who, for very different, self-serving reasons, depicted it as a Holocaust-denial conference and sold that to willing, anti-Iranian Islamophobes.” Bronwyn Drainie, editor of *Literary Review of Canada*, wrote that Dossa’s essay “gives us all the opportunity to confront some important and confrontational ideas that go to the heart of our identity as a multicultural nation.” James Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, said the treatment of Dossa by his critics was comparable to McCarthyism.¹

¹ Jewish Tribune of Canada, 7 June 2007.

UNITED STATES

On February 1, Holocaust-denier Eric Hunt, of New Jersey, assaulted Elie Wiesel and attempting to hold him in an elevator, in a San Francisco hotel. After boasting about the assault on the internet, Hunt was arrested on February 17.

* * *

The Institute for Historical Review, the most active Holocaust-denial organization in the United States, held a public meeting in Irvine, California, on March 24. IHR director Mark Weber and two other veteran Holocaust-denial activists, Bradley Smith and Tomislav Sunic, were the featured speakers.

* * *

On May 7, supporters of imprisoned Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel picketed the German embassy in Washington, D.C.

* * *

On May 10 and again on June 14, Institute for Historical Review director Mark Weber was a guest on the “Political Cesspool” show hosted by James Edwards on the Memphis, Tennessee radio station WLRM.

* * *

On May 26-27, the neo-Nazi National Alliance held an “International Holocaust Revisionist Conference” in Hillsboro, West Virginia, for the declared purpose of publicizing the “historical lies of the 'official' version of the Holocaust story and events surrounding it.”

* * *

In June, the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Operations Subcommittee rejected a request to grant an additional \$11.1-million to Al-Hurra, a U.S. government radio station that broadcasts to the Arab world. Rep. Steve Rothman (D-NJ) and other critics cited, among other things, the fact that Al-Hurrah aired speeches from the 2006 Holocaust-denial conference in Tehran without any accompanying criticism or explanation. As a result, Al-Hurra news director Larry Register resigned.²

* * *

On June 7, the Ohio chapter of the National Socialist Movement sponsored a public meeting on Holocaust denial with neo-Nazi activist John Taylor Bowles.

² Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 6 June 2007.

* * *

On June 19, John Bravos, an 81-year-old retired social anthropologist and commissioner of the Goebel Senior Adult Center in Conejo Valley, California, said in a speech at the center that “far fewer Jews were murdered by the Nazis than historians have long believed.” A flier advertising the lecture asked about the Holocaust, “Did it Happen?” In a subsequent newspaper interview, Bravos said he believed 3.5-million Jews, not six million, had been killed in the Holocaust.³

* * *

On June 30, the group Good Information Advocates sponsored a lecture in Fresno, California, by Holocaust-denier Ingrid Rimland Zundel, wife of imprisoned Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel. Her talk was titled "Liberty Found; Liberty Lost: A Refugee Revisionist Recalls."

* * *

On July 4-5, the group Good Information Advocates sponsored a two-day conference in San Jose, California, advocating Holocaust denial. Speakers included Ingrid Rimland Zundel, Michael A. Hoffman II, and Bruce Leichthy.

* * *

The Summer 2007 issue of *IHR Update*, published by the Institute for Historical Review, included an article by Daniel McGowan, leader of Deir Yassin Remembered, a group that accuses Israel of massacring Arab civilians in the 1948 war. In the article, McGowan charged that Holocaust-deniers such as Ernst Zundel, Germar Rudolf, and Robert Faurisson have been “demeaned” and subjected to “virile hate.” McGowan questioned the existence of “homicidal gas chambers” at Dachau, and also claimed that “The Holocaust narrative ... has been an important tool to drive the United States into Iraq and now into Iran.” Referring to Yad Vashem’s project to collect the names of all Holocaust victims, McGowan wrote: “Yet only three million names have been collected, and many of them died of natural causes. So why is it so wrong to doubt that fewer than six million Jews were murdered in the Second World War?”

* * *

In October, the board of directors of GrassRoots TV, a community-access channel in Aspen, Colorado, voted to reject a request to air a Holocaust-denial film called “Judea Declares War on Germany: A Critical Look at World War II.” The film stars Australia-based Holocaust denier Frederick Toben. The request to show the film was made by Steve Campbell, leader of Citizens for 9/11 Truth, who said, “I think there’s a lot of preconceived ideas that have been indoctrinated

³ *Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*, 20 July 2007.

into people's minds as to what the Holocaust is all about.”⁴

* * *

On November 3, Mark Weber, director of the Institute for Historical Review, spoke at the University of Oregon as part of the Pacifica Forum, a public affairs discussion group on campus. Pacifica Forum founder (and retired UO faculty member) Orval Etter introduced Weber. According to the IHR, 40 to 45 people attended the meeting. While in Eugene, Weber was interviewed on the Lars Larson radio show.

* * *

On December 16, the president of the Islamic Society of North America, which describes itself as the largest Muslim group in North America, Dr. Ingrid Mattson, speaking at the annual conference of the Union for Reform Judaism, said that the Holocaust “is one of the greatest tragedies of modern history and ISNA will witness to this truth, anytime and to anyone in the Muslim world who denies it.”⁵

MEXICO

Veteran Holocaust denier Bradley Smith presented a Holocaust-denial film, “The Great Taboo,” at the Corto Creativo 07 film festival in Mexico on June 8. The festival was held at Universidad de las Californias, in the north Mexican city of Baja California.

Europe

AUSTRIA

On November 15, the European Court of Human Rights, in Salzburg, found Austrian Jewish journalist Karl Pfeifer not guilty of "causing the suicide" of a German professor who had claimed that the Jewish people declared war on Germany in 1933. Pfeifer had written an article in 1995, accusing Pfeifenberger of "underrating the crimes of the Nazi regime." Pfeifenberger then sued Pfeifer for libel, in 1997 and again 1998, but lost. In 2000, the Austrian government charged Pfeifenberger with violating the law against Nazi activity. Pfeifenberger then committed suicide. A rightwing weekly, Zur Zeit, accused Pfeifer of causing the suicide. Pfeifer sued the newspaper and won, but Austria's highest appeals court ruled that Pfeifer bore "moral responsibility for the

⁴ *Aspen Times*, 16 October 2007.

⁵ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 18 December 2007.

suicide.” Pfeifer then appealed to the European Court of Human Rights, which ruled in his favor.⁶

* * *

In December, Gerd Honsik, 67, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for denying the Holocaust. Honsik authored books in 1986 and 1989 questioning the existence of the gas chambers. Honsik fled to Spain after being convicted, and published neo-Nazi literature there. He was captured and extradited to Austria in October 2006.⁷

BULGARIA

On September 19, Bulgaria's Deputy Parliamentary Speaker, former prime minister Filip Dimitrov of the Union of the Democratic Forces, proposed that fines be imposed on Holocaust deniers.⁸

DENMARK

On July 18, the Simon Wiesenthal Center urged the Ministry of Culture's Arts Council to revoke a research grant given to self-described “Holocaust skeptic” Erik Haaest for his research on Danes who volunteered to served in the SS. Haaest has questioned the existence of the gas chambers at Auschwitz and described the diary of Anne Frank as “a swindle.”⁹

FRANCE

On January 20, Bruno Gollnisch, deputy head of the far-right National Front Party and a member of the European Parliament, was given a three-month suspended sentence and a fine of \$6,450 after being convicted of Holocaust denial.¹⁰

* * *

On April 4, a Paris court ruled that former Justice Minister Robert Badinter did not defame Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson when, on Arte TV last year, he characterized Faurisson as a “forger of history.” Faurisson, in suing Badinter, claimed that although he has been convicted of Holocaust denial, the court's official ruling in his 1981 conviction did not use the phrase “forger of history,” and that therefore Badinter's statement constituted defamation.¹¹

⁶ Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv U. - www.tau.ac.il - News

⁷ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 4 December 2007.

⁸ Novinite (Sofia News Agency), 19 September 2007.

⁹ Simon Wiesenthal Center news release, 18 July 2007.

¹⁰ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 21 January 2007.

¹¹ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 5 April 2007.

GERMANY

On January 9, German Justice Minister Brigitte Zyprie announced that Germany, which now holds the presidency of the European Union, hopes to make Holocaust denial a crime in all EU member-states. Zyprie said that Italy, which had previously obstructed efforts to standardize Holocaust denial laws, would no longer object.¹² On April 27, European Union Justice Commissioner Franco Frattini announced that laws against racism and xenophobia, including Holocaust denial would be included, although the proposed laws need to be ratified by the parliaments of the individual EU member-states.¹³

* * *

On February 15, a German court sentenced Ernst Zundel to five years in jail Holocaust denial and racist incitement. Zundel, 67, had fled to Canada to avoid prosecution, but was extradited back to Germany in 2005. On September 17, Germany's highest appeals court upheld his conviction¹⁴

* * *

On August 7, Marcell Woll, leader of the Hessen branch of the extremist National Democratic Party, was sentenced to four months in prison for Holocaust denial and assaulting political opponents.¹⁵

* * *

In August, Holocaust denier Horst Mahler, 71, was released from prison in Germany after serving a nine months in jail for incitement. In November, the German edition of Vanity Fair magazine published an interview with Mahler. The interview triggered two lawsuits, one by historian and Holocaust survivor against the magazine, the other by the interviewer, attorney Michael Friedman, against Mahler. In the meantime, however, Mahler returned to prison to serve a six-month sentence for yelling "Heil Hitler" and giving the Nazi salute when he was taken to jail last year.

* * *

On December 10, Udo Voigt, leader of a German neo-Nazi party, the National Democratic Party, said in an interview on German Television's Report Mainz program: "Six million cannot be right. At most 340,000 people could have died in Auschwitz. The Jews always say: 'Even if one Jew died that is a crime.' But of course it makes a difference whether one has to pay for 6 million people or for 340,000. And that also puts paid to the uniqueness of this big crime, or so-called big crime." The National Democratic Party, established in 1964 by former Nazis, holds seats in local parliaments in the regions of Saxony and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.¹⁶

¹² *European Jewish Press*, 10 January 2007.

¹³ Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv U. - www.tau.ac.il

¹⁴ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 15 February 2007; Bloomberg News, 18 September 2007.

¹⁵ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 8 August 2007.

¹⁶ Agence France Press, 10 December 2007.

GREAT BRITAIN

On January 25, British Holocaust-denier David Irving said in an interview on Italy's Sky TG24 News program "Controcorrente" that Auschwitz "was a tourist attraction," and that "At Auschwitz they did not have gas chambers, or at least there is no proof that I am satisfied with."¹⁷

* * *

On March 20, David Irving addressed an audience of about 250 in a Budapest theater. Hosted by the far-right Hungarian Justice and Life Party, Irving was promoting the Hungarian-language edition of his new book, which alleges that the defendants at the Nuremberg Trials did not receive fair trials.¹⁸

* * *

On March 25, David Irving appeared in an Italian Television program, which showed him visiting Auschwitz recently and claiming that mass gassing of people there was not possible.¹⁹

* * *

In April, a government-commissioned report by the Historical Association, on "Teaching Emotive and Controversial History," noted that some British schools "are dropping the Holocaust from history lessons to avoid offending Muslim pupils... Some teachers are reluctant to cover the atrocity for fear of upsetting students whose beliefs include Holocaust denial." The report also mentioned a "secondary school in a northern city that had avoided selecting the 'Holocaust as a G.C.S.E. [school matriculation] topic for fear of confronting 'antisemitic sentiment and Holocaust denial among some Muslim pupils'." The report referred to the Holocaust as an example of "highly contentious or charged versions of history in which pupils are steeped at home, in their community or in a place of worship."²⁰

* * *

On November 26, David Irving spoke at the Oxford University Union debating society's Free Speech Forum, prompting British Defense Secretary Des Browne and three Members of Parliament to cancel their scheduled appearances at the Free Speech Forum in protest, and Shadow defense minister and Conservative Party MP Dr. Julian Lewis resigned his life membership in the Union. Labor Party MP Denis MacShane, explaining his cancellation, referred to Irving as "a notorious Jew-hater" and "the Holocaust Denier-in-Chief."²¹

¹⁷ Associated Press, 25 January 2007.

¹⁸ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 21 March 2007.

¹⁹ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 26 March 2007.

²⁰ Simon Wiesenthal Center news release, 13 April 2007.

²¹ Associated Press, 25 November 2007.

GREECE

Extremist author Costas Plevris went on trial December 4 for writing a book that denies the Holocaust and includes other anti-Semitic statements. Jewish leaders said that attacks on Jewish sites in Greece increased following the publication of Plevris's book, *The Jews: The Whole Truth*. This is the first trial in Greece on the charge of inciting racial hatred.²²

ITALY

On January 25, Italy's parliament rejected a proposal to outlaw Holocaust denial. The ban had been proposed by Justice Minister Clemente Mastella.²³

* * *

On April 17, 18 and 19, a conference entitled "The Gagged History" was held at the University of Teramo in central Italy, on the legitimacy of denying the Holocaust. It was organized by Claudio Moffa, a professor of Asian and African history at the university, who claims that "the Jewish lobby in Italy" prevents questioning of the Holocaust. Robert Faurisson, the French Holocaust-denier, was a featured speaker at the event. On May 18, the university administration decided to shut down part of the campus, citing "security reasons," in order to prevent a second speaking appearance by Faurisson, again under Prof. Moffa's auspices.²⁴

SWITZERLAND

On May 31, the Swiss daily *Weltwoche* reported that the previous December, Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Jalili and proposed that Switzerland hold an international conference in Geneva on "Selective Perceptions of the Holocaust."²⁵

²² Associated Press, 6 December 2007.

²³ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 26 January 2007.

²⁴ Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv U. - www.tau.ac.il

²⁵ Simon Wiesenthal Center news release, 31 May 2007.

Middle East

IRAN

On January 28, Hossein Shariatmadari, who is editor of the Iranian daily newspaper *Kayhan* and is close to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, wrote in his newspaper:

“The Holocaust, or the slaughter of Jews during of WWII by German Nazis, is a myth and a contrived story. Up until now, many well-known European and American historians have denied that it occurred, by presenting irrefutable historical documents and records. Despite the fact that Holocaust denial is considered a crime in some European countries, including France, and despite the fact that a number of famous researchers and historians, like Robert Faurisson and Roger Garaudy, have been tried and convicted on this charge in the French courts, their condemnation has not become an obstacle to the denial of this great historical lie by other famous researchers and historians, who see silence in the face of the myth of the Holocaust as a great crime. And despite the consequences of publishing their research, they do not refrain from expressing their scientific opinion on this topic.

"The myth of the Holocaust is an excuse [used by] West to establish the illegal Zionist regime, and denial of it is an irrefutable attestation – in addition to many other attestations – that clearly testify to the illegality of the existence of the Zionist regime.

"If America and its allies claim so fervently that the Holocaust should be considered a historical reality, they should provide proof and documents that prove their opinion, which [has become] the cause of the occupation of Palestine and the countless crimes of the Zionists... However, despite this rational and scientific [demand], not only have they not provided and are not providing documents and records to prove the Holocaust – as they have none – but they also threaten those who deny this myth with condemnation.”²⁶

* * *

In an address at Columbia University on September 24, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said:

“If, given that the Holocaust is a present reality of our time, a history that occurred, why is there not sufficient research that can approach the topic from different perspectives? Our friends refer to 1930 as the point of the departure for this development; however, I believe the Holocaust, from what we read, happened during World War II after 1930 in the 1940s. So, you know, we have to really be able to trace the event ... There are researchers who want to push the topic from a different perspective. Why are they put into prison? Right now there are a number of European academics who have been sent to prison because they attempted to write about the Holocaust, so researchers from a different perspective, questioning certain aspects of it -- my question is, why isn't it open to all forms of research? I have been told that there's been enough research on the topic. And I ask, well, when it comes to topics such as freedom, topics such as democracy,

²⁶ MEMRI Dispatch 1443, 30 January 2007.

concepts and norms such as God, religion, physics even or chemistry, there's been a lot of research, but we still continue more research on those topics. We encourage it. But then why don't we encourage more research on a historical event that has become the root, the cause of many heavy catastrophes in the region in this time and age? Why shouldn't there be more research about the root causes? ... given this historical event, if it is a reality, we need to still question whether the Palestinian people should be paying for it or not ... I'm not saying that it didn't happen at all. This is not (the ?) judgment that I'm passing here. I said in my second question, granted this happened, what does it have to do with the Palestinian people? This is a serious question.”²⁷

* * *

On October 6, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad delivered a public speech, which was also aired on Iranian TV-Channel 1, in which he said, in part:

“The leaders of several Western superpowers comprise the Zionist party. They are the ones who pull the strings. They created something called Zionism, and invented the so-called 'oppression' of the Jews. They themselves created the background for this, and today as well, it is they who are running the show. (...)

“After World War II, they invented the so-called 'genocide of the Jews.' Throughout Europe, and in countries under the control of the Western superpowers, they established an anti-Jewish movement. By means of propaganda and a certain psychological atmosphere, and by using the issue of the so-called 'crematoria,' they created the sense that the European Jews were oppressed. They used the pretext that some Jews were oppressed and were harmed during World War II and by the wave of anti-Judaism in order to lay the foundations for the establishment of the Zionist regime. Later, of course, they called it 'the massacre of the Jews,' and only after World War II did they call it 'the Holocaust.' They made this issue more sacred than all the sacred things in the world.” (...)

“How can it possibly be that you have turned this phenomenon - a phenomenon which you yourself invented after the war, and which you began calling 'Holocaust' only in 1975 - into something so sacred that nobody is permitted to even raise questions about it? In World War II, there were several incidents similar to a plane crash. Later, under the pretext of these incidents, they have been perpetrating an ongoing genocide of historic proportions in Palestine....They permit themselves, under the pretext of the Holocaust, to commit every type of crime. They even built secret prisons in Europe, and they kidnap people and publicly announce that they would kill them.”²⁸

ISRAEL

In March, a public opinion poll, carried out by Haifa University, found that 28 percent of Israeli Arab citizens “say they do not believe the Nazi genocide took place.” Among younger Israeli

²⁷ Transcript of his remarks: <http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/hourlyupdate/202820.php>

²⁸ Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) Dispatch 1748, 25 October 2007.

Arabs, the percentage was higher: 33 percent of Israeli Arabs of school age deny the Holocaust.²⁹

* * *

In April, the Anti-Defamation League criticized the Arab Institute for Holocaust Research and Education, a museum in Nazareth that teaches Israeli Arabs about the Holocaust, for comparing Israel's policies to those of the Nazis. According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the museum "juxtaposes the Holocaust with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by placing pictures of Nazis threatening or killing Jews next to pictures of Palestinian refugees, Palestinian victims of violence and the Palestinian flag." Arieh O'Sullivan spokesman for the ADL office in Jerusalem, said that museum founder and director Khaled Mahameed "is equating the two and yo can't equate those things." Officials at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust museum and research center, said Mahameed's approach "contributes to the misappropriation of the Holocaust as a tool against Israel." The JTA quoted an 18 year-old Israeli Arab visitor to the Arab museum, Amin Abu Lashin, as saying, "In the Shoah they killed a lot of people, and now with Palestinians it's like the same. The Arab people are being killed there in Palestine." His friend, 17 year-old Rana Odeh, said, "It's not the same, but you can say it's kind of the same. The Jews are doing the same that was done to them."³⁰

LEBANON

On October 22, the Lebanese station NBN, which is affiliated with Speaker of the Parliament Nabil Beri, aired a television program on drug abuse which included this statement: "Drugs were the Jews' method of wearing down the German people, which led to the Nazi extremism, in which the Jews themselves played a role. In addition, they carried out widespread drug dealing in Czarist Russia, from the 17th century. This was in accordance with the Jewish Talmud, which says that the Jews must devote their greatest efforts to prevent other nations from ruling the land, so that the rule would be in the hands of the Jews alone."³¹

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

On July 16, Al-Jazeera Television aired a speech by Hamas leader Khaled Mash'al, at a conference honoring his colleague Sheikh Yousef Al-Qaradhawi: "I want to make it clear to the West and to the German people, which is still being blackmailed because of what Nazism did to the Zionists, or to the Jews. I say that what Israel did to the Palestinian people is many times worse than what Nazism did to the Jews, and there is exaggeration, which has become obsolete, regarding the issue of the Holocaust. We do not deny the facts, but we will not give in to extortion by exaggeration. As for the Zionist holocaust against the Palestinian people, and against the peoples of the Arab and Islamic nation --this is a holocaust that is being perpetrated in broad daylight, with the coverage of the media of globalization. Nobody can deny it or claim that it is being exaggerated."³²

²⁹ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 19 March 2007.

³⁰ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 6 April 2007.

³¹ MEMRI Dispatch 1754, 31 October 2007.

³² MEMRI Dispatch 1672, 2 August 2007.

* * *

Speaking at a U.S. Senate hearing on February 8, 2007, Itamar Marcus, director of Palestinian Media Watch, explained how the new series of Palestinian Authority school books described the Nazis: “The books create a World War Two without the Holocaust. There are extensive details about the history of World War Two -- they teach about the "race theory" of the Nazi movement: “Race theory evolved during the thirties of the previous century, when the Nazi movement appeared in Germany in 1933 and divided the nations into superior and others who were inferior. It espoused the superiority of the Aryan race, from which the Germans originated, passed racist laws...” [The History of the Arabs and the World in the 20th Century, grade 12, p. 123] They even talk about the trials of the Nazi war criminals at the end of the war: “The Allied states established an international court to bring to trial the senior Nazi leaders as war criminals.” [The History of the Arabs and the World in the 20th Century, grade 12, p. 46] ...but they don’t teach why they were on trial. They teach the history of WW2, the Nazi racism, and the trial of war criminals. But the Holocaust is not a part of that history.”³³

* * *

On November 27, the Palestinian Authority’s official radio station, Voice of Palestine, aired a quiz which depicted the life of Adolf Hitler in a favorable light and omitted any mention of the Holocaust. The quiz, which was the 20th installment of the Ramadan Educational Quiz, required listeners to guess the subject of the description, who was said to be “a leader and politician, born in 1889 in Braunau, Austria. He served in the German army during the First World War, was wounded in service and awarded two Medals of Honor. He joined a small right-wing party in Munich and became the head of this party without a struggle within two years. In 1923, he attempted to execute a coup but failed. He was arrested, imprisoned and released after serving a year in prison. In 1933 he became his country’s Chancellor, and used the state's mechanisms to crush his political opponents. He earned his popularity by succeeding to lower unemployment rates and to generate an economic recovery in his country. Later he prepared his country for the Second World War. His golden year was 1940, when his armies invaded Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, Holland, and Belgium and defeated France in June 1940. That year Britain managed to withstand the attacks of his Air Force and he missed the victory over Britain. His armies conquered Greece and Yugoslavia in 1941. That year he violated the non-belligerency treaty and attacked Russia. His armies took control of vast Soviet areas. His armies were defeated in Stalingrad. He declared war on the United States in 1941. By mid 1942, his country controlled the largest land area in Europe and large parts of North Africa. The turning point of the war occurred late in 1942, when his forces were defeated in the Battle of Al-Alamein. He refused to surrender and continued to fight for two more years, but, his bitter end came in the spring of 1945 when he took his own life, and his country surrendered a week later. Who is he?” The first prize winner received approximately \$150.³⁴

³³ Palestinian Media Watch - www.pmw.org.il

³⁴ Palestinian Media Watch, www.pmw.org.il

SAUDI ARABIA

On October 23, Al-Jazeera Television aired a debate between Dr. Mahmoud Al-Mubarak, whom it described as a Saudi Arabian international law expert, and Egyptian-American writer Magdi Khalil. Al-Mubarak remarked: “The annihilation of the Jews in the alleged Nazi Holocaust, about which there is still much debate and to this day, we do not know the truth about it... When Iran held the international [Holocaust] conference, there was a great uproar in America and Europe about it: ‘Why do you even consider and raise this question?’ What kind of ‘media freedom’ do they want for our peoples, when they do not allow them to even think, and consider everything to be facts that came down from heaven? ... Your guest said that [the Americans] apologized and built museums for [the Indians]. This is not enough. What have they done for the Jews with regard to the alleged Holocaust in Germany? They gave them billions in compensation. Even in Switzerland... Up until 10 years ago, Switzerland paid hundreds of billions to Jews who claimed that their money had been lost or stolen in Switzerland, because the [Swiss] had stood alongside the Germans.”³⁵

SYRIA

On May 13, the Iranian News Channel aired an interview with Syrian author Muhammad Nimr Al-Madani, in which he said: “The secret about which few people talk today is that Europe wanted to get rid of the Jews. The Jews in Europe --and I emphasize Europe-- were not very popular. Therefore, in order to get rid of the European Jews, the European countries had to accept the Zionist plan that was formulated, and to agree to the transfer of Jews to Palestine. Hitler agreed to this and agreed to the transfer of these Jews to Madagascar. This was Hitler's idea, in order to create a Jewish state on Syrian land. When Hitler occupied territories in East Europe, the idea of establishing a homeland and a state for these Jews arose. But the Europeans did not agree to this, because both Germany and England were each searching for ways to get rid of their Jews. Therefore, Hitler was falsely accused of committing genocide against the Jews. This is a lie, and we know full well that Hitler never did such a thing. It was a premeditated lie by the Zionist regime.

³⁵ MEMRI Dispatch 1770, 20 November 2007.

Asia

INDONESIA

On June 11, the former president of Indonesia, Abdurrahman Wahid, speaking at an interfaith conference in Bali, said: "I visited Auschwitz's Museum of Holocaust and I saw many shoes of the dead people in Auschwitz. Because of this, I believe Holocaust happened. Although I am a good friend of Ahmadinejad, I have to say that he is wrong. This is important, courage to ³⁶ say the right thing. I don't have favoritism here. The Jews, Europeans, Arabs are all the same."

JAPAN

In June, Holocaust-denier Richard Koshimizu established a political party, the Independence Party. Koshimizu's web site espouses a variety of conspiracy theories regarding the Holocaust, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and other topics. On June 9, Koshimizu spoke at Campus Plaza, which is run by the state-funded Kyoto University Union, in the city of Kyoto.

Elsewhere

AUSTRALIA

On November 27, Holocaust-denier Frederick Toben apologized to an Australian court for violating a 2002 court order prohibiting him from publishing Holocaust-denial material. Jeremy Jones, former president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, had filed suit in Federal Court after discovering that Holocaust-denial material was appearing on the website of Toben's Adelaide Institute. Toben's apology, and the removal of the material from his web site, were the agreed-upon terms for resolving the Jones suit. After making the apology in court, Toben reporters outside the courtroom that the apology did not constitute any kind of change in his view of the Holocaust. "I have a very firm belief on Holocaust matters and I should be able to express it," he said. "Anyone who disagrees should then, in fact, engage me in a debate ... the other side who holds on to the Holocaust does not debate. There are so many contentious issues on this so-called Holocaust that it still needs to be looked at and investigated."³⁷

UNITED NATIONS

On January 26, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution, coinciding with

³⁶ Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 12 June 2007.

³⁷ *The Australian*, 28 November 2007.

International Holocaust Commemoration Day, condemning Holocaust denial. The resolution was passed by general consensus, with only Iran explicitly dissociating itself. The resolution called on all 192 UN member-states to “unreservedly to reject any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event, either in full or in part, or any activities to this end.” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed “his strong desire to see this fundamental principle respected both in rhetoric and in practice.”³⁸

* * *

On October 23, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) passed a resolution urging efforts to promote Holocaust education and combat Holocaust denial. Seventy-two UNESCO member-states co-sponsored the resolution. Egypt and other Arab states, and Iran, attempted to change the wording of the resolution but were unsuccessful.³⁹

³⁸ UN News Centre, 26 January 2007.

³⁹ State Department news release, 4 November 2007; Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv U. - www.tau.ac.il