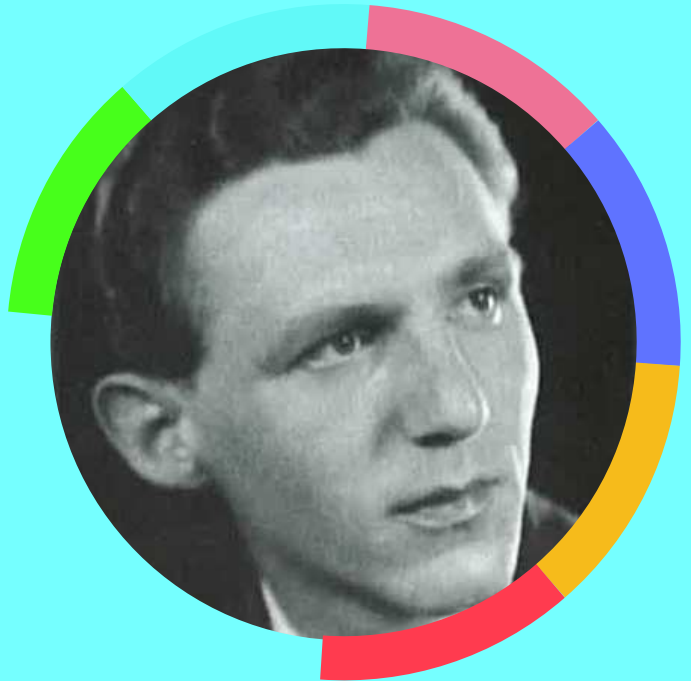
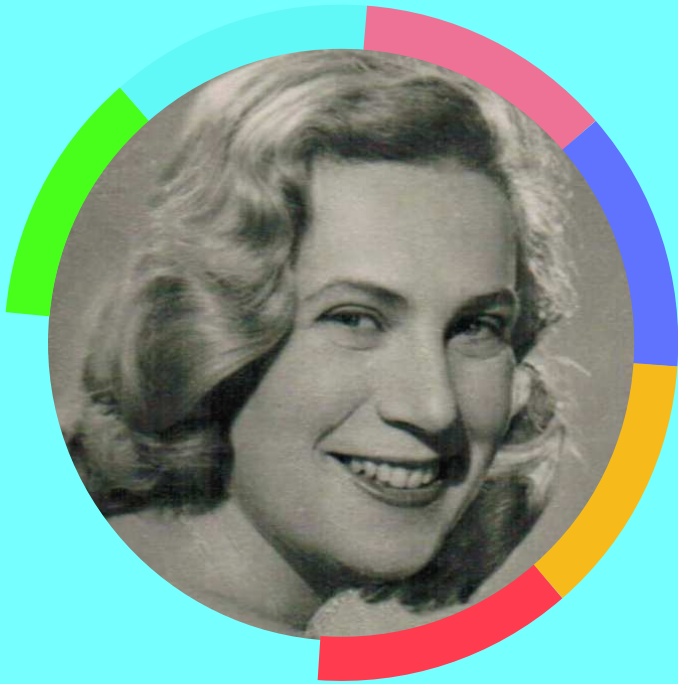


Learning path 3

Life stories



Life stories

A collection of all ten life stories

This document contains all the information of the ten life stories which students can explore in learning path 3. Each story has a short biography, a timeline, quotes and sources for each person.



Ágnes Bartha - Life-saving friendship

26 October 1922 – Dunaföldvár, Hungary



Miep Gies - Trusted helper

15 February 1909 – Vienna, Austria | 11 January 2010 – Hoorn, the Netherlands



Krystyna Gil - Voice for remembrance

5 November 1938 – Szczurowa, Poland



Sophie Haber - Fleeing from danger

10 July 1922 – Cracow, Poland | 24 August 2012 – Vienna, Austria



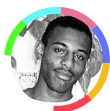
Ilan Halimi – Wake-up call

11 October 1982 – Paris, France | 13 February 2006 – Paris, France



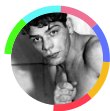
Stefan Kosiński - Lost lover

1 January 1925 – Toruń, Poland | 4 November 2003 – Warsaw, Poland



Stephen Lawrence - Seeking justice

13 September 1974 – London, UK | 22 April 1993 – London, UK



Johann Trollmann – Forgotten champion

27 December 1907 – Gifhorn, Germany | 9 March 1944 – Wittenberge, Germany



Selahattin Ülkümen – The wily diplomat

14 January 1914 – Antakya, Turkey | 7 July 2003 – Istanbul, Turkey



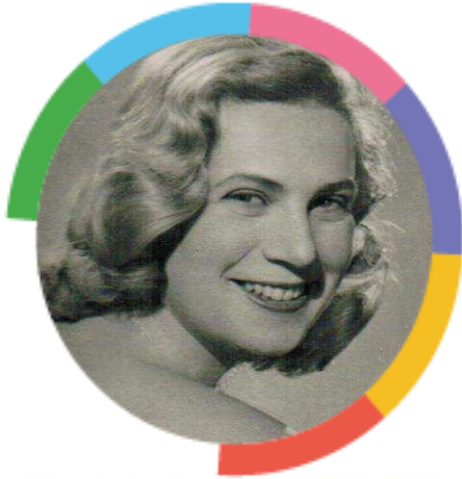
Simone Veil – Determined pioneer

13 July 1927 – Nice, France | 30 June 2017 – Paris, France

Life stories

Ágnes Bartha / Life-saving friendship

born 26 October 1922 - Dunaföldvár, Hungary



Ágnes Bartha and Edith Kiss were Hungarian Jews who became friends during the Second World War when they shared a blanket on a forced march to Germany. As slave workers for Daimler-Benz, they gave each other the strength to survive.

Restrictions on Jews and their property were imposed by the Hungary authorities, from 1941, the year Ágnes married her childhood sweetheart. Antisemitism could be found everywhere in Hungarian society. Ágnes' marriage only lasted a year as her husband's Catholic parents didn't want a Jewish daughter-in-law. Ágnes moved to Budapest and worked for a Jewish photographer – until the Nazis occupied Hungary in 1944. Deportations began within weeks. She met Edith, an artist who was 18 years her senior, at the very start of their long journey to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. When Ágnes was selected for forced labour assembling aircraft engines, Edith managed to go with her. By sharing and looking out for each other they survived. In 1945, as the Allied forces advanced, they were marched to Ravensbrück, where the gas chamber had been destroyed. They escaped and survived six weeks on the run, but were not able to avoid sexual assaults by the liberators, Russian soldiers.

The friendship lasted all their lives, although neither women could talk about the war years. Edith killed herself in 1966. After her paintings were discovered, Ágnes began to tell their story in schools, keeping Edith's memory alive.



1922

26 October. Ágnes Schwartz is born into a Jewish family in Dunaföldvár, Hungary.

1936

She is sent to school in Vienna, Austria.

1938

12 March. Austria is annexed into the German Reich.

1941

Ágnes marries a Catholic in secret. His parents object and they divorce.

26 June. Hungary enters the Second World War on the side of the Axis Powers.

1942

Hungary's prime minister orders that all Jewish property be handed over. He proposes a 'final solution of the Jewish question', calling for the resettlement of 800,000 Jews.

1943

Ágnes goes to Budapest to study photography.

The Hungarian government holds secret talks with the Allies and tones down its antisemitic rhetoric.

1944

19 March. Germany occupies Hungary. In May, the deportation of Hungarian Jews begins, including Ágnes' parents.

22 November. Ágnes is sent to Ravensbrück, in Germany. She meets Edith Kiss. They are picked as forced labour assembling aircraft engines.

1945

13 February. Soviet forces liberate Buda. The last German units and collaborators are driven out of western Hungary by early April.

30 April. Ágnes and Edith escape a 'death march' from Ravensbrück. They are attacked by Russian soldiers, but eventually get home to Budapest.

22 September. Edith cannot speak or write about their experiences, but produces a series of paintings, *Deportation*, which are exhibited.

1947

Edith remarries and moves abroad. They keep in touch by letter.

1964

Edith and Ágnes meet up.

1966

27 October. Edith commits suicide in Paris.

1992

Ágnes tells her story for the first time to Helmuth Bauer, who later found Edith's paintings.

2010

The Two of Us, is the bilingual (Hungarian English) memoir of Ágnes' story published by Zachor Foundation for Social Remembrance.

Ágnes Bartha



“My father used to say: ‘Nothing matters my child – not religion, nor colour of your skin. The only thing is to stay a person in all circumstances.’ I still remember that saying, it stayed with me all throughout hell. It helped me live through a lot.”

“I don’t know what gave me the strength to survive. I always told Edith that we needed to survive so someone would speak about what had happened. And yet, when I came back, I couldn’t talk about these things. For some time, we met every week with seven people with whom I had been together. But we kept talking about the deportation. And then a girlfriend and I decided we would not keep in touch, because we couldn’t go on living if that’s all we’re concerned with. It was Helmuth Bauer, a researcher, who persuaded me that my memories had to be preserved. And now I know that he was right.”

Ágnes Bartha, from *The Two of Us*, Zachor Books, 2010
(www.zachor.hu)

Ágnes Bartha



1 _____
Ágnes, 1943 in Budapest
in the workshop of József
Forray.
© Zachor Foundation,
Hungary



5 _____
Edith before the war.
© Zachor Foundation,
Hungary

2 _____
Photo camera from
the 1930's.
© Cj's Classic
Cameras



6 _____
Painting by Edith Kiss,
1945.
© Zachor Foundation,
Hungary

3 _____
Ágnes and her sister
Erna at a school dance
performance.
© Zachor Foundation,
Hungary



7 _____
Founding members of
the Photographers'
Association at Siófok in
the summer of 1949.
© Zachor Foundation,
Hungary

4 _____
Ágnes, April 1944 in
Budapest.
© Zachor Foundation,
Hungary



8 _____
Ágnes in Ravensbrück
in 2004.
© Zachor Foundation,
Hungary

9 _____
Soviet soldiers in
Budapest, 1945.
© CC BY-SA 3.0,
Creative Commons
Attribution-Share Alike,
version 3.0
Unported:
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Ágnes Bartha



Ágnes, 1943 in Budapest in the workshop of József Forray. @ Zachor Foundation, Hungary

Ágnes Bartha



Photo camera from the 1930's. © Cj's Classic Cameras

Ágnes Bartha



Ágnes and her sister Erna at a school dance performance.
©Zachor Foundation, Hungary

Ágnes Bartha



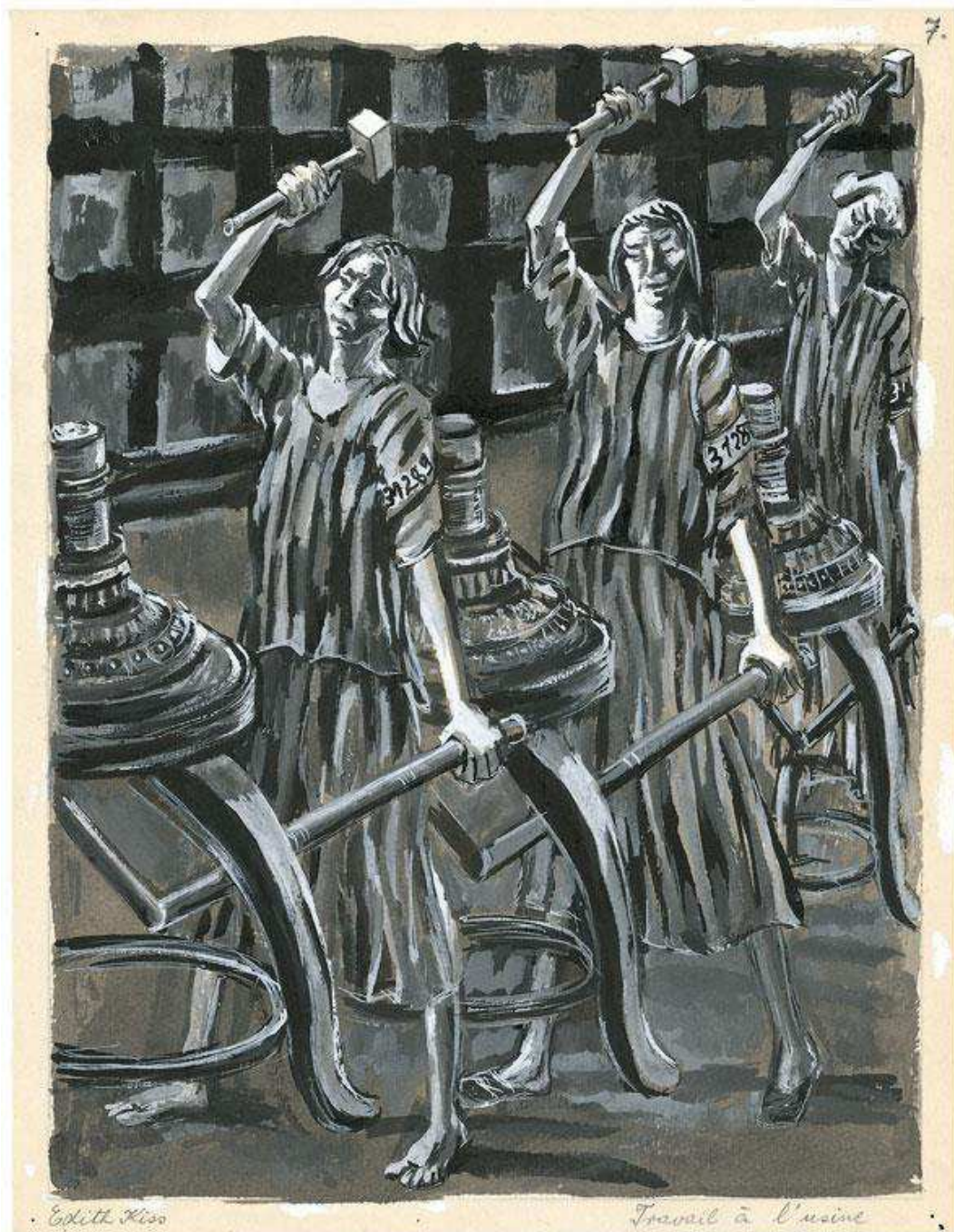
Ágnes, April 1944 in Budapest. ©Zachor Foundation, Hungary

Ágnes Bartha



Edith before the war. @Zachor Foundation, Hungary

Ágnes Bartha



Painting by Edith Kiss, 1945. @Zachor Foundation, Hungary

Ágnes Bartha



Founding members of the Photographers' Association at Siófok in the summer of 1949. @Zachor Foundation, Hungary

Ágnes Bartha



Ágnes in Ravensbrück in 2004. @Zachor Foundation, Hungary

Ágnes Bartha



Soviet soldiers in Budapest, 1945.
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Life stories

Miep Gies-Santrouschitz / Trusted helper

born 15 February 1909 - Vienna, Austria | died 11 January 2010 - Hoorn, the Netherlands



Germany invaded the Netherlands in May 1940, and the first antisemitic measures were introduced. Jews had to register, they couldn't own businesses, and Jewish children had to go to separate schools. In May 1942 they were ordered to wear yellow stars, marked 'Jew'. Otto Frank asked Miep Gies if she would help his family go into hiding at his company building, and she agreed. She continued to work for Opekta and ensured that Otto, his wife, Edith, their daughters, Margot and Anne, and four other Jewish refugees from the Nazis were supplied with food and essential provisions daily. She worked with three other people to help all eight hidings. After the hiding place in the annexe of No. 263 Prinsengracht was raided in August 1944 and the eight Jews were arrested, Miep found the pages of Anne's diary on the floor in the attic and hid them in a drawer of her desk.

Sent to the Netherlands from Austria as a child to recover from malnutrition after the First World War rationing. She stayed and settled in Amsterdam with her foster family, who called her Miep. In 1933, she got a job in Otto Frank's company and she and her future husband, Jan Gies, became friends of the family.



1909

15 February. Hermine Santruschitz is born in Vienna, Austria. In the Netherlands her name became Miep and the spelling of her last name became Santrouschitz.

1918

End of the First World War.

1920

December. Hermine is sent to the Netherlands with a group of other Austrian children to recover from hunger and tuberculosis.

1924

She moves from Leiden to Amsterdam with her foster family, who call her Miep.

1933

Miep becomes an assistant to Otto Frank in his firm, Opekta.

1941

16 July. Miep marries Jan Gies.

1942

Spring. Otto Frank asks Miep if she will help if he and his family go into hiding in the annexe of his office building at No. 263 Prinsengracht in Amsterdam.

1944

4 August. The people in hiding are arrested. Miep and fellow helper Bep Voskuijl are not taken. They find Anne Frank's diary in the annexe and save it.

August. Miep goes to the German security service (Sicherheitsdienst) office in Amsterdam to seek the release of the two other helpers who had been arrested.

1945

June. Otto Frank survives the war and moves in with Miep and Jan Gies. July. When they learn that Anne died in the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen, Miep gives him Anne's diary.

1952

Miep has a son, Paul.

1987

She publishes her story in a book, 'Memories of Anne Frank'.

1993

26 January. Jan Gies dies.

2010

11 January. Miep dies in Hoorn, the Netherlands, aged 100.

Quotes

Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



“Miep has so much to carry she looks like a pack mule. She goes out nearly every day to scrounge vegetables and then bicycles back with her purchases in large shopping bags. She’s also the one who brings five library books with her every Saturday. We long for Saturdays, because that means books. We’re like a bunch of little kids with a present.”

Anne Frank, from the Diary of Anne Frank, 11 July 1943

“It seemed perfectly natural to me. I could help these people. They were powerless, they didn’t know where to turn.”

Miep Gies, Interview 1994, Anne Frank House

Sources

Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



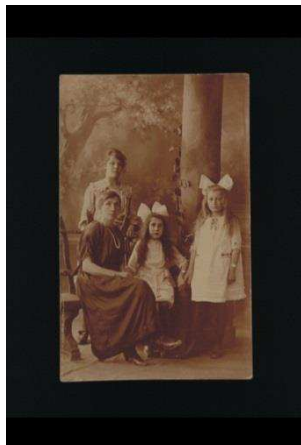
1 _____
Miep Santrouschitz around 1928.
© Anne Frank House, the Netherlands



2 _____
Rucksack that Hermine (Miep) had with her when she travelled from Vienna to Leiden, in the Netherlands, in 1920.
© Paul Gies, The Netherlands



3 _____
Miep Santrouschitz with her foster mother, sister-in-law and foster sister in the Netherlands around 1921.
© Anne Frank House, The Netherlands



4 _____
Miep's wartime identity card.
© Anne Frank House, The Netherlands



5 _____
Pre-war photo of Riek van Hoeve in front of her store, 1938. During the war she provided potatoes and vegetables to the helpers.
© Van Hoeve Private Collection, The Netherlands



6 _____
Jan, Miep and their son Paul Gies with Otto Frank in their home in Amsterdam, 1951.
© Anne Frank House, The Netherlands



7 _____
Miep in the restored kitchen of the annexe of 263 Prinsengracht in Amsterdam, 2003.
© Anne Frank House, The Netherlands



8 _____
Ration coupons for butter and other groceries, 1942.
© Anne Frank House, Allard Bovenberg, The Netherlands



9 _____
The diary of Anne Frank.
© Anne Frank House, The Netherlands



Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Miep Santrouschitz around 1928. © Anne Frank House, the Netherlands



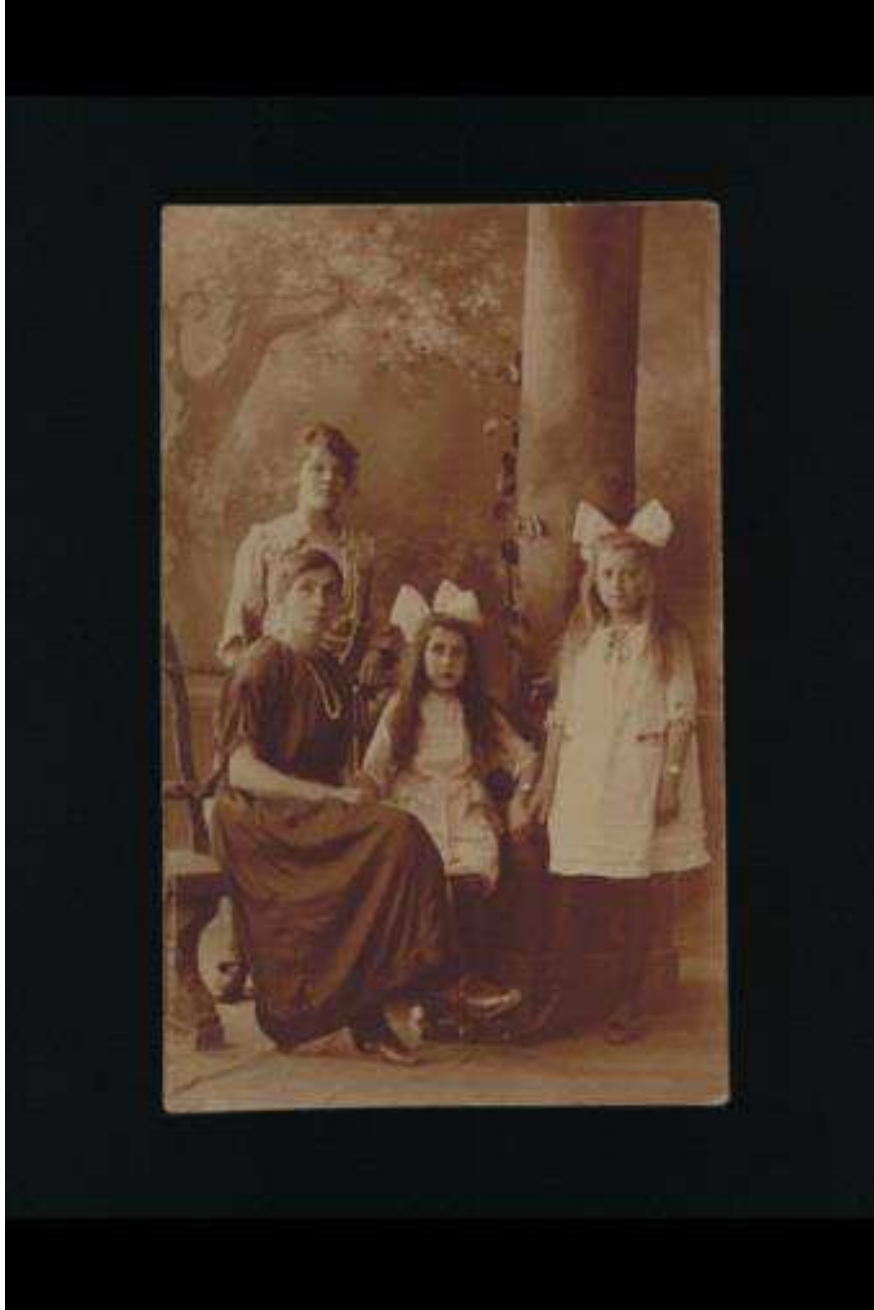
Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Rucksack that Hermine (Miep) had with her when she travelled from Vienna to Leiden, in the Netherlands, in 1920. © Paul Gies, *The Netherlands*



Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Miep Santrouschitz with her foster mother, sister-in-law and foster sister in the Netherlands around 1921. © Anne Frank House, The Netherlands

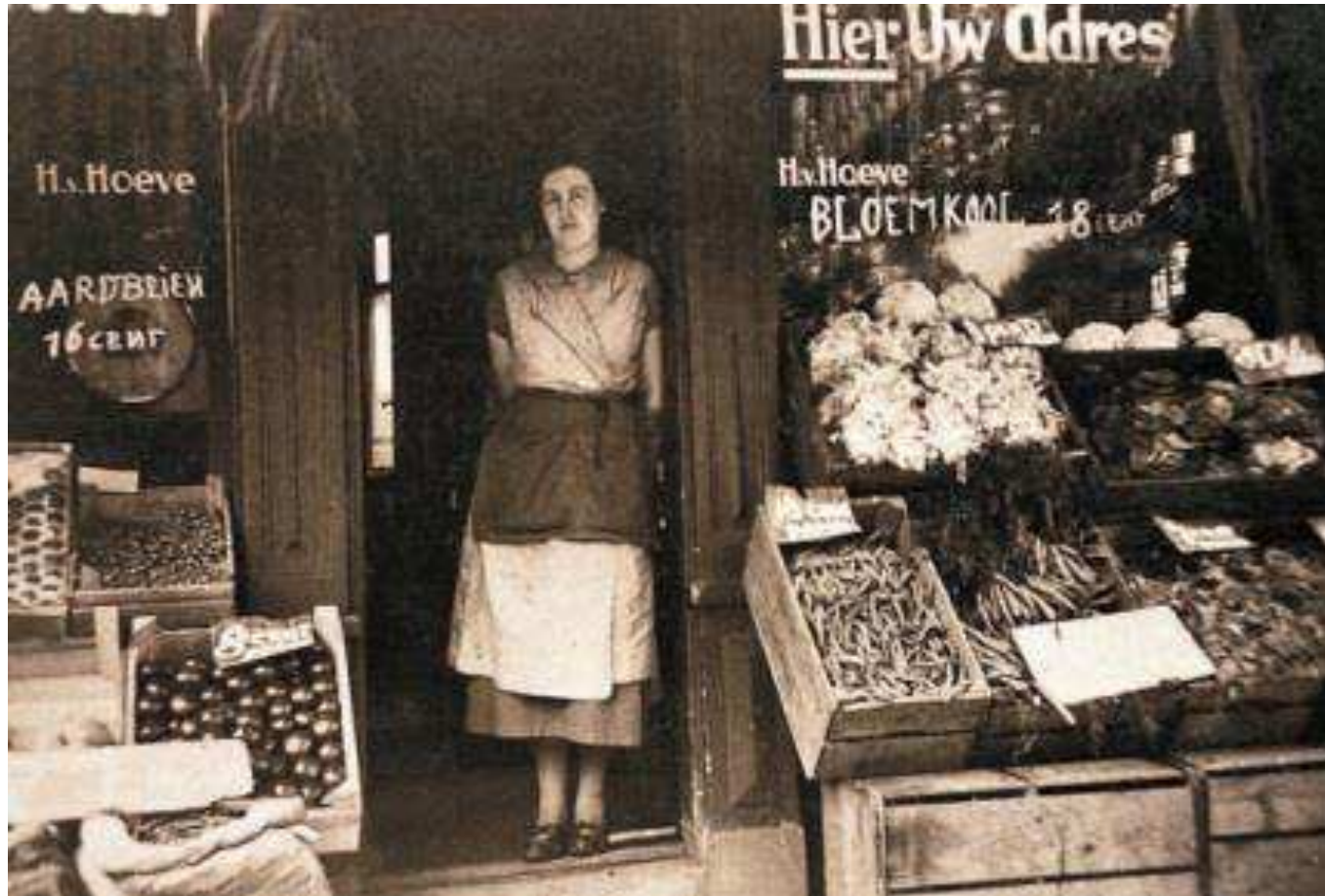
Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Miep's wartime identity card. © Anne Frank House, The Netherlands



Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Pre-war photo of Riek van Hoeve in front of her store, 1938. During the war she provided potatoes and vegetables to the helpers. ©
Van Hoeve Private Collection, The Netherlands



Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Jan, Miep and their son Paul Gies with Otto Frank in their home in Amsterdam, 1951. © Anne Frank House, The Netherlands

Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Miep in the restored kitchen of the annexe of 263 Prinsengracht in Amsterdam, 2003. © Anne Frank House, The Netherlands



Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



Ration coupons for butter and other groceries, 1942. © Anne Frank House, Allard Bovenberg, The Netherlands



Miep Gies-Santrouschitz



The diary of Anne Frank. © Anne Frank House, The Netherlands

Life stories

Krystyna Gil / Voice for remembrance

born 5 November 1938 - Szczurowa, Poland



Child rescued by her Polish grandmother during a Nazi massacre of Roma.

Germany invaded Poland in 1939. Szczurowa, a village of some 2,000 inhabitants, included a couple of hundred Polish Jews and Roma. The Jews were deported by the Nazis in September 1942 and in July 1943 local farmers were ordered by the Gestapo to round up all the Roma onto farm wagons. Four-year-old Krystyna was among those put onto the carts, but her mother managed to pass her down to her non-Roma grandmother unnoticed. Krystyna's mother, brother, and other relatives were shot in the church yard and buried in a mass grave. It was not an isolated incident: there are more than 180 documented sites in Nazi-occupied Poland where Roma were executed in large groups. Afterwards, their houses were burned, but the dead of Szczurowa were not forgotten. In 1956, a memorial stone was placed on the mass grave, the first monument in Poland dedicated to victims of the Roma genocide.

After the war, Krystyna settled in Nowa Huta, in Cracow, where many young Polish Roma settled after the communist authorities banned nomadic life in 1964. She married, raised a family and was one of the first women in Poland to drive a tram. After she retired, she took up social work for the Roma minority and she founded the Association of Romani Women, working for equal rights for women.

Timeline

Krystyna Gil



1938

5 November. Krystyna Ciuron is born in Szczurowa, Poland.

1939

1 September. Poland is invaded by the Nazis.

1942

All the Jews from Szczurowa are deported to Bełżec camp and killed.

1943

3 July. 93 Roma are murdered in Szczurowa.

1944

2 August. All the Roma and Sinti in Auschwitz-Birkenau – 2,879 people, mostly women and children – are taken to the gas chambers there and murdered.

1956

A memorial is put up in Szczurowa.

1993

A cross is added to the monument in Szczurowa.

1996

The travelling International Roma Caravan memorial is founded.

2011

2 August becomes an official Polish day of commemoration and the president of the Polish parliament attends the ceremony in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

2012

Krystyna's story is included in a digital exhibition, www.romasinti.eu.

2014

On the 70th anniversary of 2 August 1944 a commemoration is held with Roma and Sinti survivors, state officials from many countries and about a thousand young people, Roma and non-Roma from more than 20 countries around the world.

Quotes

Krystyna Gil



“When I was a child, Grandma took me every year to Szczurowa, to the place where almost all of our family was killed. She said: ‘When I die, you have to remember what happened here. You must not forget it!’ It’s been many years, and I still remember. That’s why I am here with you and I share my story. It depends on you, how the future of the world will look.”

Krystyna Gil - International Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust of the Roma, Auschwitz-Birkenau, 2 August 2014

“Krystyna Gil’s life and attitude are inspiring. She worked hard, she was the first Roma driver of the tram here in Cracow. She managed to educate her children. Everyone who knows her, respects her knowledge and activity, and just her as a good person. She is well-integrated into mainstream Polish society, which helps us (all Roma activists) combat stereotypes and prejudices, we can always show her as an example. She takes care of the memory of her murdered family in Szczurowa. Every year she takes part in the International Roma Caravan Memorial. These commemorations are very touching and emotional especially for her. [But] Krystyna is a very positive person, she has a large family and enjoys her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.”

Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz, a Roma activist from Cracow, interview 2013, Anne Frank House

“My mother, my ten-year-old brother, my two-year-old sister, an aunt with four children and two other aunts were also on the farmer’s cart. My grandmother, a Pole, was standing by the side of the road with a few other people. My mother managed to lift me out of the cart unnoticed. She told my grandmother: ‘If you survive, you will at least still have her’. My brother didn’t want to get off the cart. He was already a bit older and he said that if mummy died, he wanted to die with her. Then they were taken to the churchyard.”

Krystyna Gil (interview Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Heidelberg)

Sources

Krystyna Gil



1 _____
Krystyna at her first holy communion after the war.
© Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany



5 _____
Map showing the 1941 borders of German-occupied Poland, known as the General Government, and sites where mass executions of Roma and Sinti took place, often together with executions of Jews.
© Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany

2 _____
A communion candle is a special gift given to young Catholics on the day they are first accepted into the church and their faith.
© Kerzenstudio Eichhorn, Germany



6 _____
Belzec concentration camp, 1940. Polish Roma and German Sinti were imprisoned here. Many of them died during a typhoid epidemic in the winter of 1942.
© Institute of National Remembrance, Poland

3 _____
Roma musicians from Szczurowa at a wedding in the 1930s. The violin player in the front row on the left is Krystyna's grandfather, who was killed in the war.
© Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany



7 _____
The unveiling of the monument in Szczurowa on 8 May 1956.
© Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany

4 _____
Sinti or Roma children photographed by a German soldier in the Warsaw ghetto.
© United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, United States



8 _____
Annual wreath-laying ceremony at the monument in Szczurowa to commemorate the mass murder in 1943.
© Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany



9 _____
Krystyna Gil.
© Fundacja Prom, Poland

Krystyna Gil



Krystyna at her first holy communion after the war.
© Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany

Krystyna Gil



A communion candle is a special gift given to young Catholics on the day they are first accepted into the church and their faith.
© Kerzenstudio Eichhorn, Germany

Krystyna Gil



Roma musicians from Szczurowa at a wedding in the 1930s. The violin player in the front row on the left is Krystyna's grandfather, who was killed in the war. © Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany

Krystyna Gil



Sinti or Roma children photographed by a German soldier in the Warsaw ghetto.
© United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, United States



Krystyna Gil



Map showing the 1941 borders of German-occupied Poland, known as the General Government, and sites where mass executions of Roma and Sinti took place, often together with executions of Jews.

© Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany



Krystyna Gil



Bełżec concentration camp, 1940. Polish Roma and German Sinti were imprisoned here. Many of them died during a typhoid epidemic in the winter of 1942.
© Institute of National Remembrance, Poland



Krystyna Gil



The unveiling of the monument in Szczurowa on 8 May 1956. © Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany



Krystyna Gil



Annual wreath-laying ceremony at the monument in Szczurowa to commemorate the mass murder in 1943.

© Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Germany

Krystyna Gil



Krystyna Gil. © Fundacja Prom, Poland

Life stories

Sophie Haber/ Fleeing from danger

born 10 July 1922 - Cracow, Poland | died 24 August 2012 - Vienna, Austria



Fled Vienna as a teenager in 1938. Her parents were murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau, but she was helped to get into Switzerland with false papers after the border was closed.

Sophie Haber was Jewish, born in Cracow in Poland to a Polish father and a Czech mother. In 1930, the family moved to Austria and Sophie was apprenticed to a Jewish tailor in Vienna when she was 14. She first experienced antisemitism in school in Vienna, when a classmate called her a 'Jewish pig'. In March 1938, after Nazi Germany annexed Austria, her home and the shop were taken over by the Nazis. Her three brothers escaped to Switzerland just before the border was closed in 1938. Later that year Sophie followed them, and managed to enter illegally with the help of a Swiss police chief, Paul Grüninger. Ordered to turn Jewish refugees away after the border was closed, he falsified papers to let them in. He managed to help hundreds of people, including Sophie. However, he was found out and sentenced to pay a penalty. Afterwards, he found it hard to get another job. He died in poverty in 1972.

In Switzerland, Sophie married another refugee from Vienna, Karl Haber, and became an activist against Nazism. They had two children. After the war they returned to Austria and Sophie was active in the Communist Party until the 1970s. She was especially committed to honouring Paul Grüninger and getting the Swiss government to recognise his heroism.



1922

Sophie Mehl is born in Cracow, Poland.

1930

The family moves to Vienna, Austria.

1938

March. 'Anschluss' - Austria is annexed by Nazi Germany.

October. Sophie escapes to Switzerland and crosses the border with the help of Paul Grüninger.

November 9 and 10. Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass). An organised anti-Jewish pogrom throughout Germany and Austria in which synagogues were burned, shops destroyed and 371 Jews were murdered.

1939

Tipped off by the Germans, Paul Grüninger is sacked by the Swiss police and tried and convicted of illegally permitting the entry of hundreds of Jews into Switzerland.

1941

Sophie marries Karl Haber in St Gallen, Switzerland.

1944

Sophie's parents are taken to Auschwitz.

1945

Sophie and Karl return to Vienna.

1971

Paul Grüninger is recognised by Yad Vashem in Israel as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.

1972

Paul Grüninger dies.

1995

The Swiss government annuls Paul Grüninger's conviction.

Sophie Haber



“A girl at school called me a ‘Jewish pig’. So I smacked her. The head mistress asked me: ‘What got into you? How could you hit another girl?’ And I’m actually proud of my answer. I said: ‘She called me a Jewish pig. I am a Jew, and I am not ashamed of it, but I’m not a pig. And that’s why I smacked her. Because of the word pig.’ The matter was settled there and then.”

Sophie Haber interview: archive of the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation – the Institute for Visual History and Education

“The next day [after the annexation] I still got up at six, because I had to be at work by half past seven. I was going to walk. In the 20th district [Vienna] you didn’t notice much, but closer to the centre there was a huge crowd, and columns of German soldiers. I could not get through. I wanted to take the tram, which I never did, to be on time. But no trams were running. There were crowds on the streets, 90% wearing the arm bands, many in SA uniforms ... and the streets were full, that’s why I came into work trembling, at about half past nine, and I said sorry a hundred times. My boss just said, ‘It is not your fault, it is the invasion’.”

“I had luck, and the luck had a name, it was called Paul Grüninger. He saved my life.”

Sophie Haber interview: archive of the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation – the Institute for Visual History and Education

“It was basically a question of saving human lives threatened with death. How could I then seriously consider bureaucratic schemes and calculations?”

Paul Grüninger, interview 1954

Sources

Sophie Haber



1 _____
Sophie in the uniform in the
Zionist movement Haschomer
Hazair, around 1936.
© *erinnem.at, Austria*



5 _____
Feast of the Passover in St
Gallen or Degersheim, about
1939 – Sophie and Karl
Haber.
© *erinnem.at, Austria*

2 _____
The closed and guarded border
bridge between neutral
Switzerland and German
Ostmark (former Austria)
around 1939-1940.
© *Dokumentensammlung der
Johann August Malin
Gesellschaft, Austria*



6 _____
People in Vienna welcoming
German troops, March 1938.
© *United States Holocaust
Memorial Museum, United
States*

3 _____
Sophie in Cracow, about
1927.
© *erinnem.at, Austria*



7 _____
'Hitler - Ja' posters in Vienna,
April 1938.
© *United States Holocaust
Memorial Museum, United
States*

4 _____
Sophie with her parents and
brothers, Vienna, before
1938.
© *erinnem.at, Austria*



8 _____
Paul Grüniger before the
war.
© *Paul Grüniger Foundation,
Switzerland*

Sophie Haber



Sophie in the uniform in the Zionist movement Haschomer Hazair, around 1936. @
erinnem.at, Austria



Sophie Haber



The closed and guarded border bridge between neutral Switzerland and German Ostmark (former Austria) around 1939-1940.
© *Dokumentensammlung der Johann August Malin Gesellschaft, Austria*



Sophie Haber



Sophie in Cracow, about 1927. @ *erinnem.at*, Austria



Sophie Haber



Sophie with her parents and brothers, Vienna, before 1938. © *erinnem.at*, Austria



Sophie Haber



Feast of the Passover in St Gallen or Degersheim, about 1939 – Sophie and Karl Haber.
© *erinnem.at, Austria*



Sophie Haber



People in Vienna welcoming German troops, March 1938.
© United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, United States

Sophie Haber



'Hitler - Ja' posters in Vienna, April 1938.
© United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, United States

Sophie Haber



Paul Grüninger before the war.
© Paul Grüninger Foundation, Switzerland

Life stories

Ilan Halimi / Wake-up call

born 11 October 1982 - Paris, France | died 13 February 2006 - Paris, France



A young French Jew who was kidnapped and horribly murdered for money.

Ilan Halimi was a young mobile phone salesman from a Moroccan-Jewish family. In 2006, he was lured into a 'honey trap' meeting with a girl, and tortured for three weeks by a criminal gang of French youths who believed 'the Jews' had money and would pay up. He was eventually dumped, dying, by a railway line in Paris.

During the whole three weeks Ilan was missing, officers of the French serious crimes squad failed to follow up clues that antisemitism was a major motive. Twenty-seven people were eventually put on trial, but more are thought to have known about the kidnapping. Twenty-four people got sentences between 6 months suspended and 18 years, and two were acquitted. The leader of the gang, Youssouf Fofana, 28, was found guilty of murder and jailed for life. The criminals had used the same technique several times before, the police discovered, and all the victims of these failed attempts were Jewish. Some of the twenty-five were also convicted over these other attempts. The French minister of justice demanded a retrial and on 5 March 2016 seven of Fofana's accomplices had their sentences increased as the judges ruled that antisemitism had played a role in the murder. The court also highlighted antisemitism in the 'cité', the deprived areas of Paris.

France was shocked by the murder. Politicians and church groups joined tens of thousands of people in Paris protesting against racism and antisemitism, and lighting candles in Ilan's memory. A Jewish student leader called it a wake-up call. A park was named after Ilan, and an award was launched. However, a year after Ilan's funeral, his family moved his body to Jerusalem, fearing attacks on his grave. The family lives in France, and attended a presentation of a film ('24 jours' - 24 Days) about Ilan in 2014.



Timeline

Ilan Halimi

1982

11 October. Ilan Halimi is born in Paris, France.

2006

January. He gets a job in a mobile phone shop.

21 January. He is kidnapped.

13 February. He is found, badly injured, and dies in an ambulance.

15 February. A girlfriend of one of the gang that tortured Ilan goes to the police.

22 February. Youssouf Fofana is arrested in Ivory Coast, and sent back to France for trial. Twenty seven people are charged.

2009

After a murder trial from April to July, Fofana is found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. Twenty-four accomplices are given shorter sentences of up to 18 years.

16 July. The French minister of justice, Michèle Alliot-Marie, demands a retrial.

2010

25 October. Hearings begin for 17 of Fofana's accomplices. Seven sentences are increased.

2011

2 May. The mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, opens the renamed Jardin Ilan Halimi [Garden of Ilan Halimi] – where Ilan played as a child.

2014

The Prix Ilan Halimi is created, for projects fighting antisemitism and discrimination. The first award goes to the Collège Charles Péguy in Paris for a project using art to teach about the Holocaust, equality and liberty.

The film '24 Days' is released, telling the story of Ilan Halimi.



Quotes

Ilan Halimi

“It’s important for French society to realise that little antisemitic and racist prejudices can have terrible consequences.”

Roger Cukierman, head of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France, 26 February 2006, BBC news

“This antisemitism certainly is not based on philosophical, historical or religious criteria, but on crude clichés that first associated money and Jews, then associated Jews, the West and evil when they were looking for an alibi for their barbarism.”

Jean Balan, lawyer for one of the accused

“They believed, and I quote, ‘that Jews have money’. That’s called antisemitism.”

Nicolas Sarkozy, interior minister, addressing the French parliament, 21 February 2006

“They chose a victim by way of the old stereotype that Jews have money and a united community, which they chose to exploit, and it’s unforgivable.”

Alexandre Arcady, director of '24 Days', 14 January 2015

“The life sentence imposed on Youssouf Fofana is fair. However, the court has been particularly lenient towards the other defendants. This crime is a challenge for France and society. The punishment should have set an example.”

Francis Szpiner, Halimi family lawyer, 2009

“Ilan’s death may be an isolated action, but it is also a wake-up call.”

Sarah Aizenman, a representative of the French Union of Jewish Students, 25 February 2006, Washington Post Foreign Service



Sources

Ilan Halimi

1

Book with quote Jean Balan, defence lawyer.

© Éditions du Seuil, France



Ruth Halimi
Emilie Frèche
24 jours
LA VÉRITÉ SUR LA MORT
D'ILAN HALIMI
Seuil

2

Ilan Halimi. © Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau, The Netherlands



4

Ilan's grave in Jerusalem.
© Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau, The Netherlands

5

Ilan's mother, Ruth Halimi, opening the Jardin Ilan Halimi in Paris in 2011.

© Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau, The Netherlands



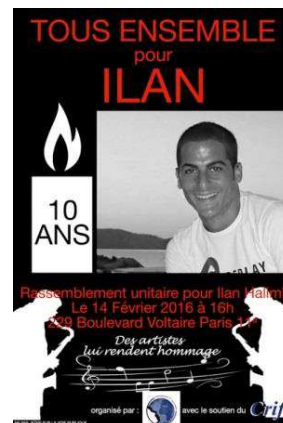
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Demonstration in 2006 after Ilan's death.

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6

Flyer Federation Internationale des Juifs Noires.

© Representative council of jewish institution of France, France

Ilan Halimi



Ruth Halimi
Emilie Frèche

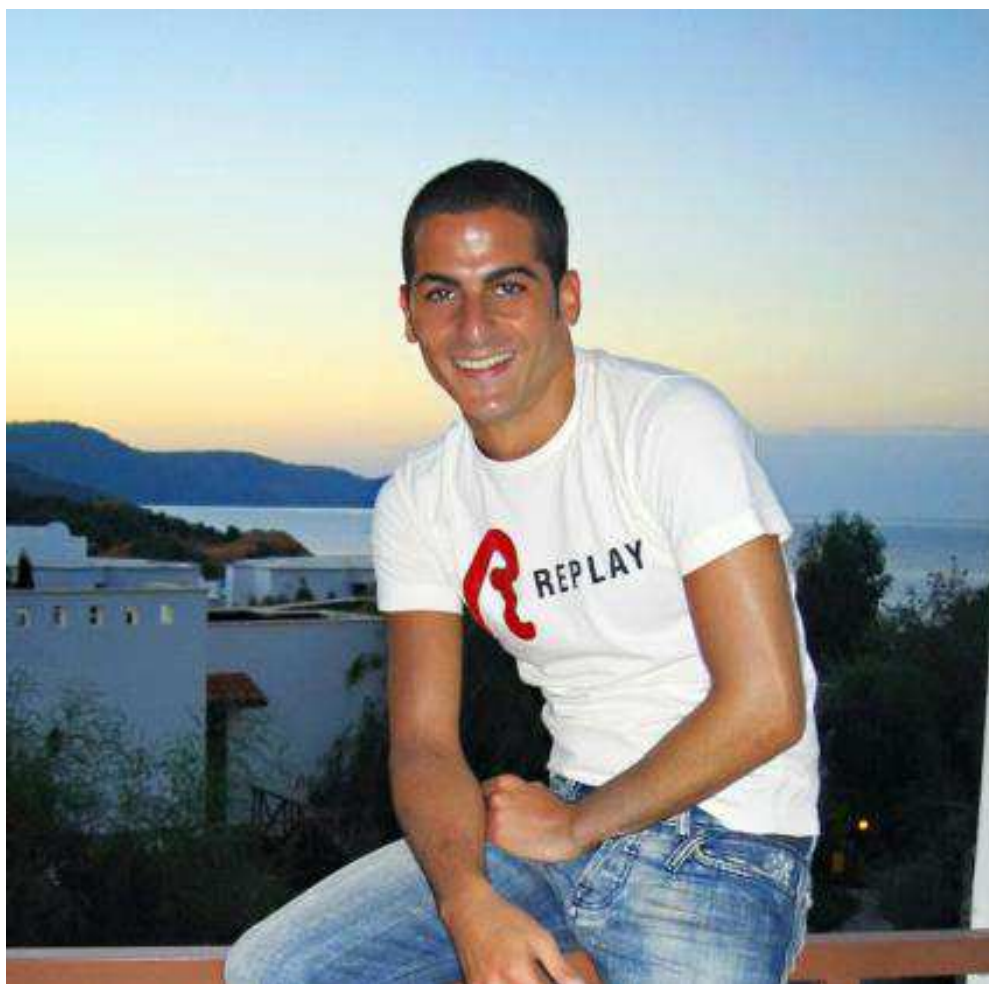
24 jours

LA VÉRITÉ SUR LA MORT
D'ILAN HALIMI



Book with quote Jean Balan, defence lawyer.
© Éditions du Seuil, France

Ilan Halimi



Ilan Halimi. © Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau, The Netherlands



Ilan Halimi



Demonstration in 2006 after Ilan's death. © CC BY-SA 3.0, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike, version 3.0
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Ilan Halimi



Ilan's grave in Jerusalem. © Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau, The Netherlands



Ilan Halimi

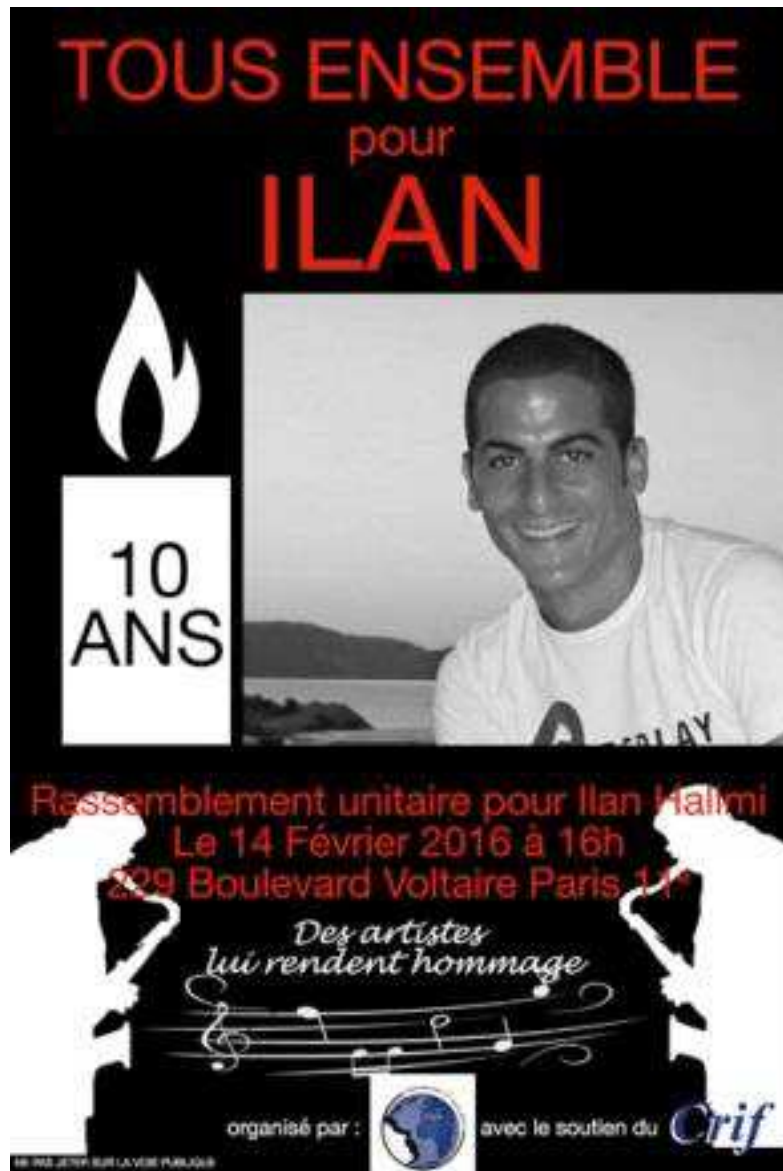


Ilan's mother, Ruth Halimi, opening the Jardin Ilan Halimi in Paris in 2011.

© Algemeen Nederlands Persbureau, The Netherlands



Ilan Halimi



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Life stories

Stefan Kosiński / Lost lover

born 1 January 1925 - Toruń, Poland | died 4 November 2003 - Warsaw, Poland



A Polish youth who fell in love with an Austrian soldier during the German occupation of Poland. He was sent to a labour camp because homosexuality was illegal.

Stefan Kosiński's family home in Toruń in Poland was taken over by soldiers when Germany invaded in 1939 and his father was transported to Germany as forced labour. Stefan, then 14, was no longer allowed to go to school and found a job as a delivery boy for a German baker, which helped him feed the family. He met Willi Götz, a young soldier from Vienna, in November 1941. When Willi was sent to fight the Russians, Stefan wrote to him. The letter was opened by the Gestapo. In September 1942 Stefan was arrested, interrogated, beaten up and sentenced to five years imprisonment for homosexuality under Paragraph 175 of Nazi-German law. He was also convicted of 'demoralising the German military'.

He was sent to a number of Nazi labour camps. Before the end of the war he was deported to Hahnöfersand near Hamburg. In May 1945 he and three other prisoners escaped. He had two years of his sentence left and if he had still been in prison when the war ended he would have been kept in prison, as laws forbidding homosexuality were not amended after the war.

Stefan Kosiński



1871

Wilhelm I, new emperor of Germany, created a constitution and penal code based on the Prussian model. The Prussian code prohibited sexual contact between men, making it punishable by up to four years in prison. This law was adopted unchanged in the newly formed German penal code as Paragraph 175.

1925

1 January. Teofil Kosiński is born in Toruń, in northern Poland. Later he uses the pseudonym Stefan.

1930

The Nazi leader Ernst Röhm becomes the leader of the paramilitary Sturmabteilung (SA) or Storm Troopers.

1931

Röhm's homosexuality is denounced by political opponents.

1934

Night of the Long Knives: Hitler orders the murder of more than 100 political opponents, including Röhm, who is charged with treachery. His homosexuality is highlighted. Large-scale arrests of homosexuals begin.

1935

The Nazis widen the range of 'offences' covered by Paragraph 175.

1936

The Reich Central Office for the Combating of Homosexuality and Abortion is founded.

1939

1 September. Germany invades Poland.

1940

German police chief Heinrich Himmler orders that men arrested under Paragraph 175 'who have seduced more than one partner' must be transferred from prison to a concentration camp.

1941

November. Stefan and Willi fall in love.

1942

September. Stefan is arrested and sent to prison.

1945

May. Stefan escapes from Hahnöfersand.

1947

Stefan returns to Poland.

1991

Stefan's story is published anonymously as 'Verdammt starke Liebe' (Damned Strong Love) by Lutz van Dijk.

1994

Germany abolishes Paragraph 175.

1995

Stefan's story is published in America. He travels to the US for a reading tour.

2000

Paragraph 175, a documentary film by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, is released. It tells the history of the persecution of homosexuals under Nazi rule through archival film, family photographs, and interviews with half a dozen elderly survivors of the Nazi-German concentration camps.

2002

The German parliament pardons homosexuals convicted by the Nazis under Paragraph 175.

2003

Stefan dies, aged 78.

2015

Lutz van Dijk publishes 'Endlich den Mut' (Finally the Courage) based of his correspondence with Stefan over 12 years. His full name, Stefan T. Kosiński, is introduced for the first time.

2016

Decision taken by the German government to annul the convictions of tens of thousands of men who were criminalised under paragraph 175 during and after the Second World War.

Stefan Kosiński



“What was Mikolai talking about exactly? Yes, damn it, I was sixteen years old as of today, and naturally I’d heard other boys talking about girls from way back. But that had been more joking or bragging. I would usually think at those times, ‘Oh well, that will all come later, later when you’re grown up.’ Then the grownups drive each other crazy and call it love. I simply hadn’t felt I was capable of something like that.”

“So then, you admit that you wrote this letter in your own hand and sent it?’ He began almost in a monotone. Why should I lie? I admitted that I’d written the letter to Willi because I was very concerned about him. He’d been a good friend to me, and we’d met a few times in the city near the railroad station. Naturally, I said not a word about the shed. ‘Did you have sexual intercourse with each other?’ he asked in exactly the same monotone voice. From his mouth the words sounded so nasty that I answered with a clear conscience, ‘No!’ We’d loved each other more than once – but what would this fellow know about that?”

“To this day I have Willi to thank for my being able to experience feelings of love as something beautiful from the beginning ... People in all the countries of this world must grasp that it is always a crime to punish love and to tolerate violence.”

Stefan Kosiński, from ‘Damned Strong Love’ by Lutz van Dijk, 1991

Stefan Kosiński



1 _____
Stefan aged 23 in Poland, 1948.
@Lutz van Dijk, the Netherlands



2 _____
Wehrmacht uniform.
@Nationaal Militair Museum, the Netherlands



3 _____
The Homomonument in Amsterdam, unveiled in 1987 to inspire and support LGBT people in their struggle against denial, oppression and discrimination. It is the first monument in the world dedicated to the LGBT+ community, and to the men and women of the past who were oppressed and persecuted because of their homosexual feelings.
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4 _____
Stefan in 1936 by the town hall in Toruń, Poland.
@Lutz van Dijk, the Netherlands/South Africa



5 _____
Prisoner card for Stefan (Teofil is his real name) showing his conviction for sodomy.
@Lutz van Dijk, the Netherlands/South Africa



6 _____
Stefan aged 71 with Lutz van Dijk in Amsterdam, January 1996.
@Lutz van Dijk, the Netherlands/South Africa

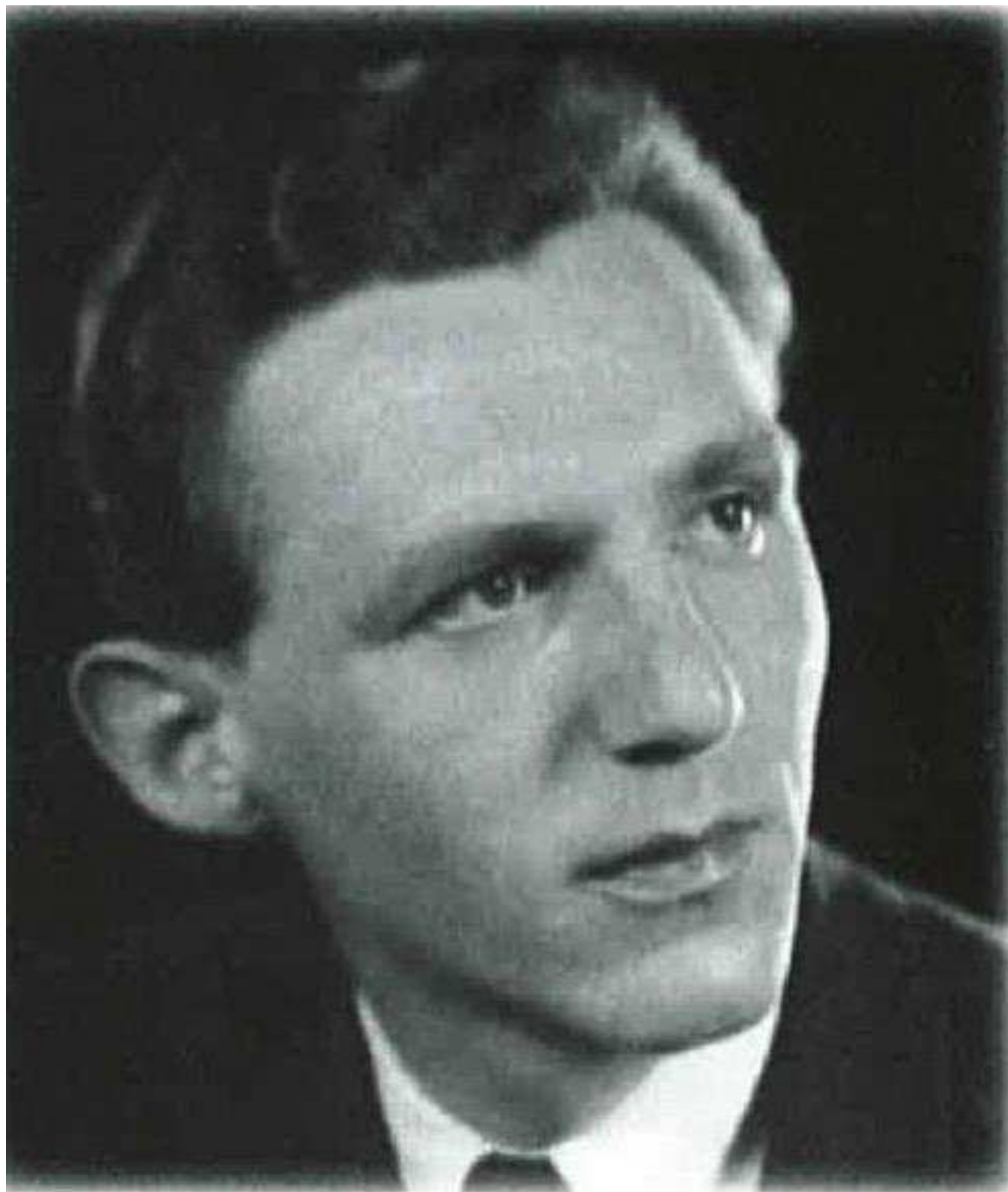


7 _____
The pink triangle sign that homosexual prisoners had to wear in the Nazi concentration camps.
© Ralph Ponfil Collection - Dallas Holocaust Museum, United States



8 _____
Stefan in July 1941 in Poland.
@Lutz van Dijk, the Netherlands/South Africa

Stefan Kosiński

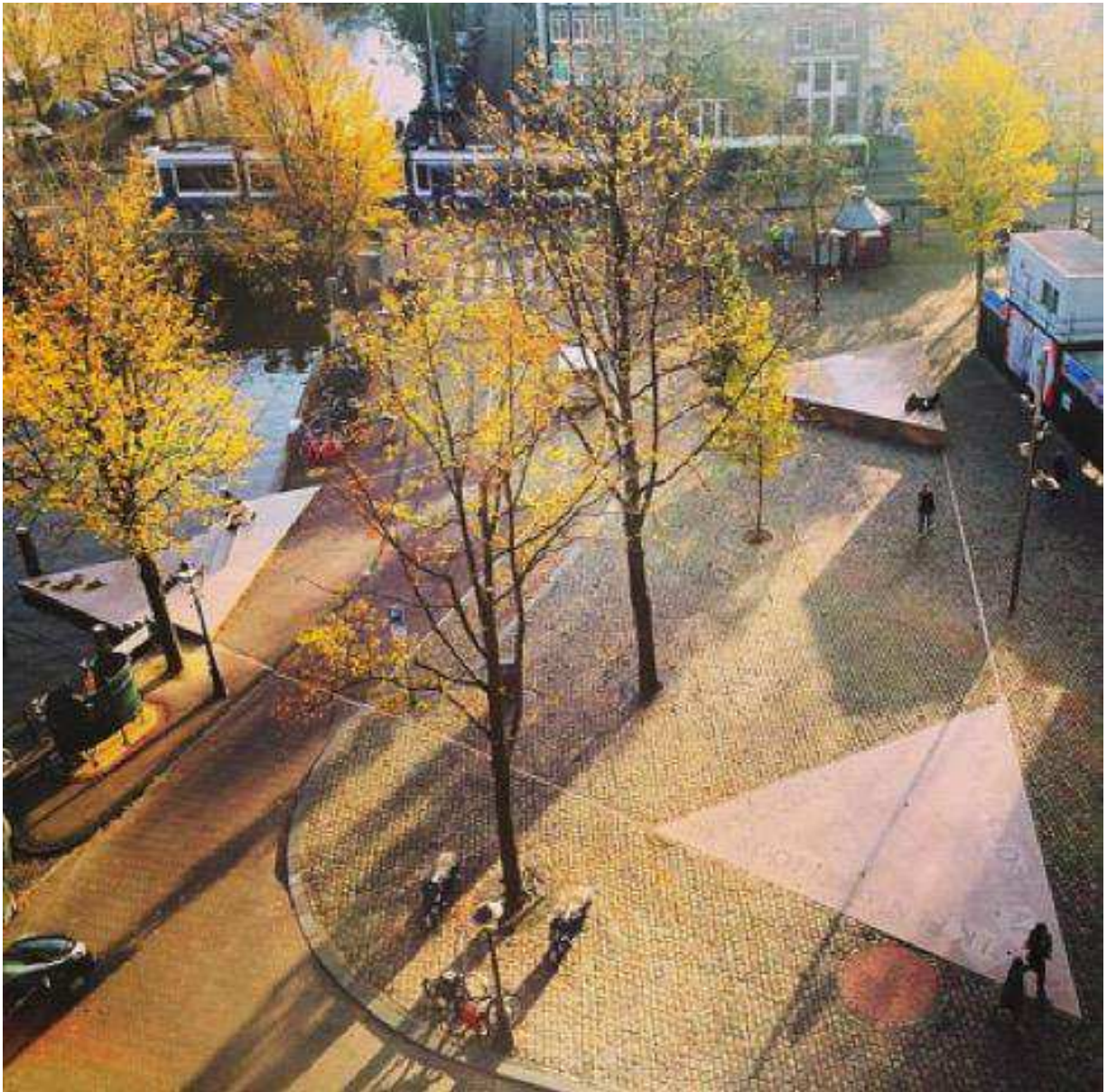


Stefan aged 23 in Poland, 1948. ©Lutz van Dijk, Netherlands/South Africa

Stefan Kosiński



Wehrmacht uniform. ©Nationaal Militair Museum, the Netherlands



The Homomonument in Amsterdam, unveiled in 1987 to inspire and support LGBT people in their struggle against denial, oppression and discrimination. It is the first monument in the world dedicated to the LGBT+ community, and to the men and women of the past who were oppressed and persecuted because of their homosexual feelings.

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Stefan Kosiński



Stefan in 1936 by the town hall in Toruń, Poland. @Lutz van Dijk, Netherlands/South Africa

Stefan Kosiński



Handwritten: feldmarch

Stefan Kosiński
 Geburtsort: **KAMKA**
 am **29.11.44** um **10** Uhr
 in **Stuhl**

Theofil Kosiński
 geb. am **1.1.25.** in **Thorn**
 so **Burolehrling**
 Thorn, Lindenstr. 10
 wie vor

ledig

Vater: **Boleslaus A. Adr. wie oben**
 Mutter: **Fransiska geb. Brodzorski**

Teilstrafen besitz oder besitz von Geldstrafen erregende Strafen	Straf- maß- zahl abw.	Strafart -Zusätze	in der Zeit von bis für ein bestimmtes Verbrechen oder mehrere Verbrechen in unvollständiger Reife	Straf der Verurteilung		Straf- maß- zahl abw.	Straf- maß- zahl abw.
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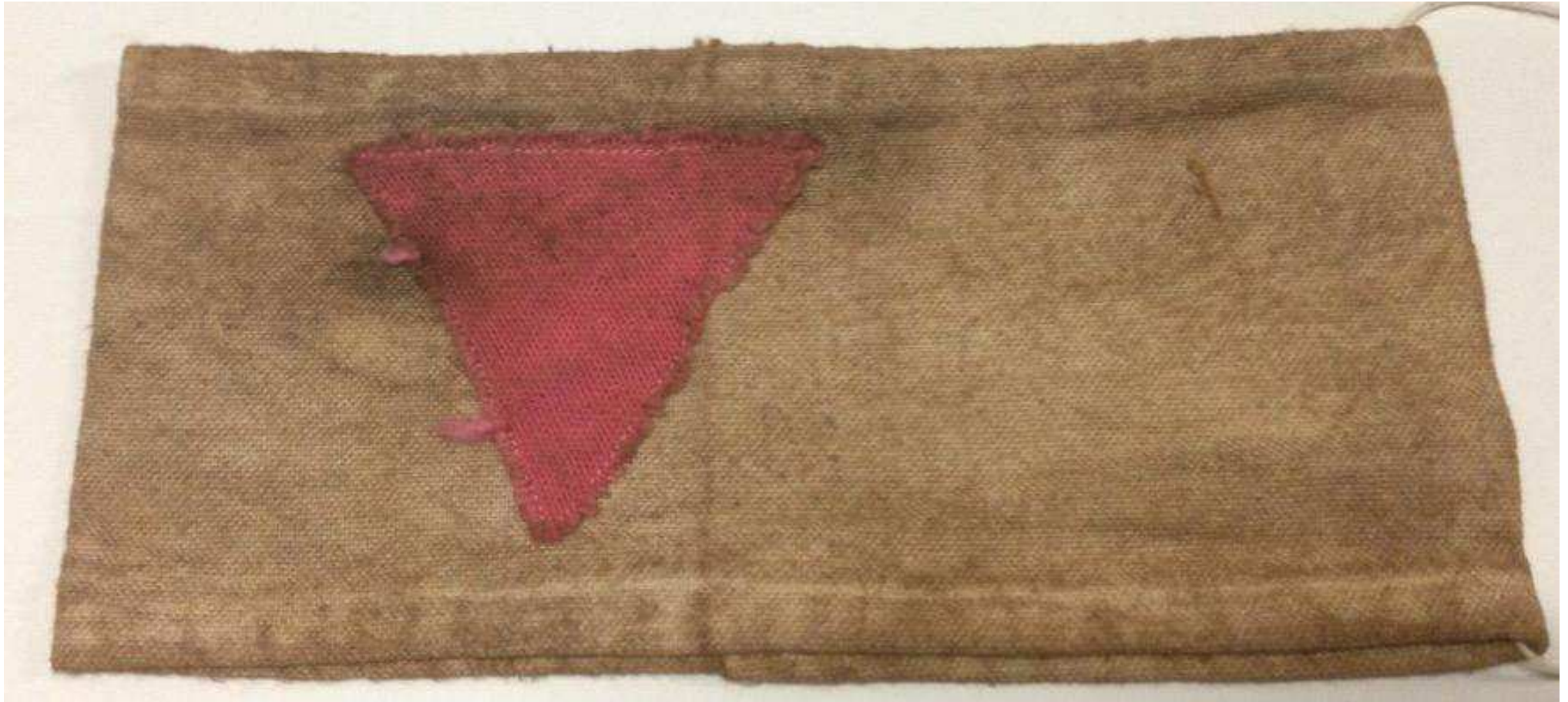
Prisoner card for Stefan (Teofil is his real name) showing his conviction for sodomy.
 © Lutz van Dijk, Netherlands/South Africa

Stefan Kosiński



Stefan aged 71 with Lutz van Dijk in Amsterdam, January 1996. @Lutz van Dijk, Netherlands/South Africa

Stefan Kosiński



The pink triangle sign that homosexual prisoners had to wear in the Nazi concentration camps. *@ Dallas Holocaust Museum, United States*

Stefan Kosiński



Stefan in July 1941 in Poland. @ Lutz van Dijk, Netherlands/South Africa

Life stories

Stephen Lawrence / Seeking justice

born 13 September 1974 - London, UK | died 22 April 1993 - London, United Kingdom



British teenager who was stabbed to death at a bus stop in London by a group of white youths, but no one was charged. His mother fought for justice, exposing racism in the UK police. Two men were eventually found guilty of the racist murder and jailed for life in 2012.

Stephen Lawrence was 18 when he and a friend were attacked on their way home one evening. The friend survived the attack and later testified in court. Stephen was a good student, had set up his own small art business and even worked as a film extra in the movie *For Queen and Country*. He wanted to be an architect. At first, the police treated his murder as a gang crime.

Within days of Stephen's death five local suspects had been named, but the police said there was 'not enough evidence'. Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen, protested publicly and have continued to lobby for justice ever since. Eventually, in 1998, an official inquiry ruled that 'institutional racism' in the Metropolitan police meant that the investigation had not been handled properly. In 2011 new techniques revealed DNA evidence and in 2012 two men were finally convicted of Stephen's murder and jailed for life. Since then allegations of police corruption and even undercover spying on the Lawrence family have been brought to light, and are still being investigated in 2017.

Stephen's murder sparked deep investigation and reform of the British police, and it challenged racial attitudes across the UK. Doreen Lawrence, who campaigned tirelessly for justice for her son and other victims of racism, was made a baroness and is now a law maker in the House of Lords.



Timeline

Stephen Lawrence

1974

13 September. Stephen is born in London.

1993

22 April. Stephen is murdered. He is 18. An anonymous letter names five suspects.

May. Stephen's parents, Doreen and Neville, publicly highlight lack of police action. Nelson Mandela backs them. The suspects are arrested, but charges are dropped.

1994

3 July. 93 Roma are murdered in Szczurowa. The Lawrence family brings a private prosecution against three suspects, but they are acquitted in 1996.

1997

Stephen's death is ruled 'unlawful killing', although the five suspects refuse to speak at the inquest. A newspaper headlines its report 'Murderers', but the five do not sue. An official inquiry is ordered into the police investigation.

1999

Sir William Macpherson reports, highlighting 'institutional racism' in the police. He recommends lots of changes.

2003

Doreen Lawrence, who has continued to campaign for victims of racism, is awarded the Order of the British Empire.

2012

David Norris and Gary Dobson are convicted of murdering Stephen after new DNA evidence is found. Jailed for life.

2013

Doreen is made a baroness.

2015

October. An investigation is launched into claims that police corruption blocked the original murder inquiry.

Quotes

Stephen Lawrence



"There was only one reason for his murder. Stephen was black."

British Home Secretary Jack Straw, speaking to parliament on 24 February 1999

"The events have come to represent an aspiration, an aspiration of a family and a community for justice, to see justice done. But also the aspiration of a bright, able black young man, to make something of his life, the tragedy has been that he has had to lose his life in order to make something of that name, Stephen Lawrence."

Lord Paul Boateng, British government minister 1999-2001, from the documentary 'Stephen Lawrence: Time for Justice', first shown on UK television on 3 January 2012

"It is every parent's responsibility to discuss these issues and to ensure that their children are tolerant of those around them. This country was never a country for some mythical English white people; it has always been a mix. I would just say that people need to know their history."

Doreen Lawrence, quoted in 'Doreen Lawrence: I could have shut myself away, but that's not me', The Observer newspaper, 20 April 2013

"I am being targeted because of the colour of my skin. I don't think it's because I am Stephen's brother. Whenever I have been stopped, I have never subsequently been charged with anything, and nothing has ever been found to be wrong with my car. I have never, ever, done anything wrong. I have never been in trouble with the law. I have paid my road tax and my insurance. Of the 25 or so occasions on which I have been stopped, only two have been at police checkpoints – where they are verifying people's tax and insurance. The rest have been random stops. There can be no other reason, apart from racism, for me being stopped so often."

Stuart Lawrence, 9 January 2013 to the BBC

"What I see is that black people are still dying on the streets and in the back of police vans. For me, institutional racism is ingrained and it's hard to think how it will be eradicated from the police force."

Doreen Lawrence, statement to the press on 24 February 1999



Sources

Stephen Lawrence

1 _____

Stephen Lawrence.

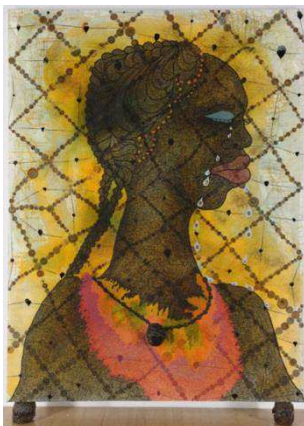
© Private collection family Lawrence, United Kingdom



2 _____

No women, No Cry, a painting by Chris Ofili, 1998.

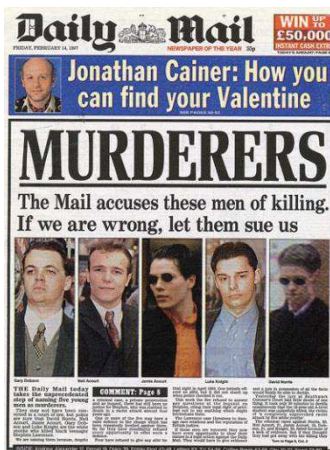
© Chris Ofili, courtesy Victoria Miro Gallery, United Kingdom



3 _____

Daily Mail Front Page, 'Murderers: The Mail accuses these men of killing. If we are wrong, let them sue us', 14 February 1997.

© Daily Mail, United Kingdom



4 _____

Metropolitan police officers 'stop and search' on the street.

© Getty Image, United States



5 _____

Doreen Lawrence with the Metropolitan police commissioner, Bernard Hogan-Howe, at a service on the 20th anniversary of Stephen's murder, 2013.

© ANP, the Netherlands



6 _____

Doreen Lawrence with her Order of the British Empire medal, presented by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 12 June 2003.

© Operation black vote, United Kingdom



7 _____

Neville and Doreen Lawrence with the Macpherson Report the day it was published in February 1999.

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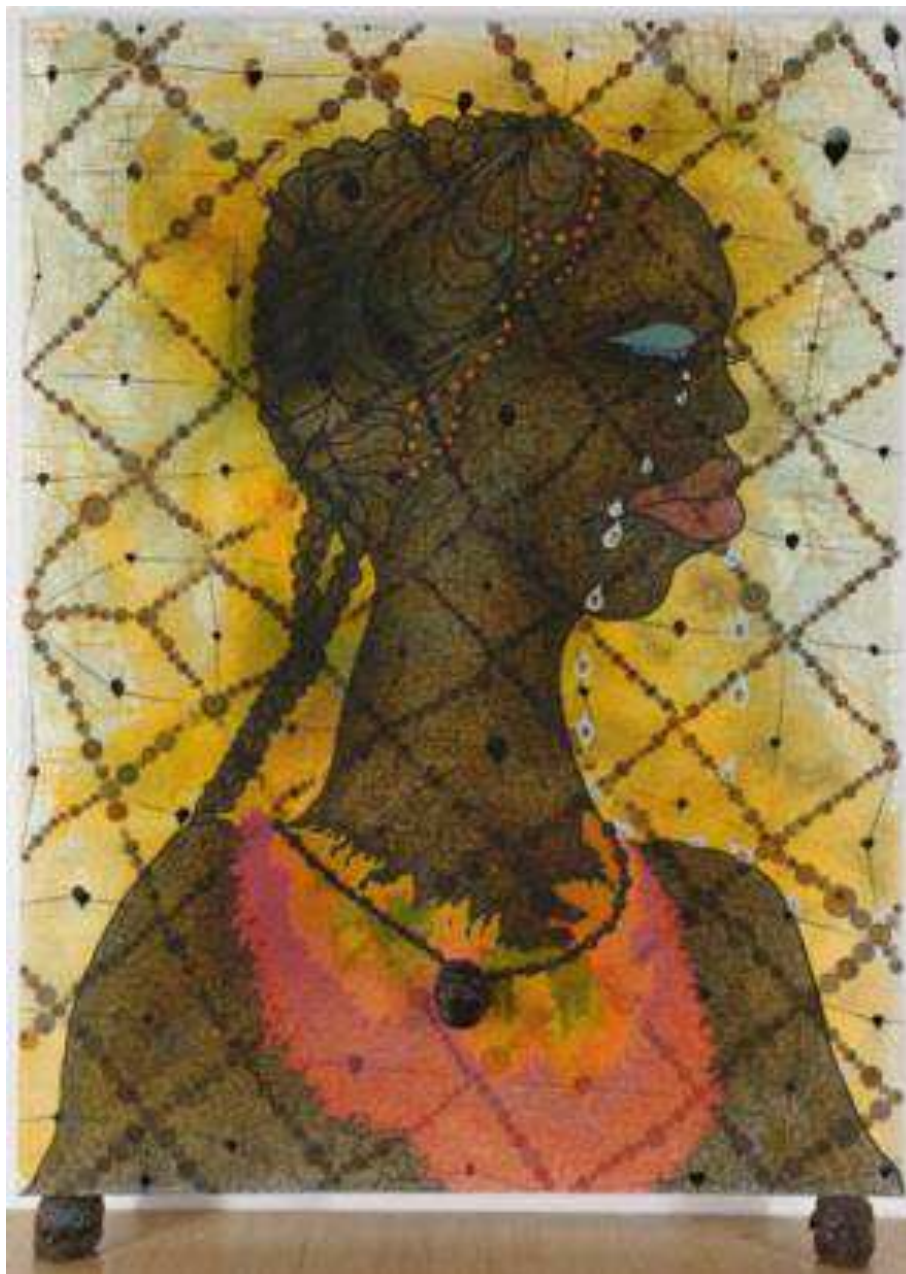


Stephen Lawrence



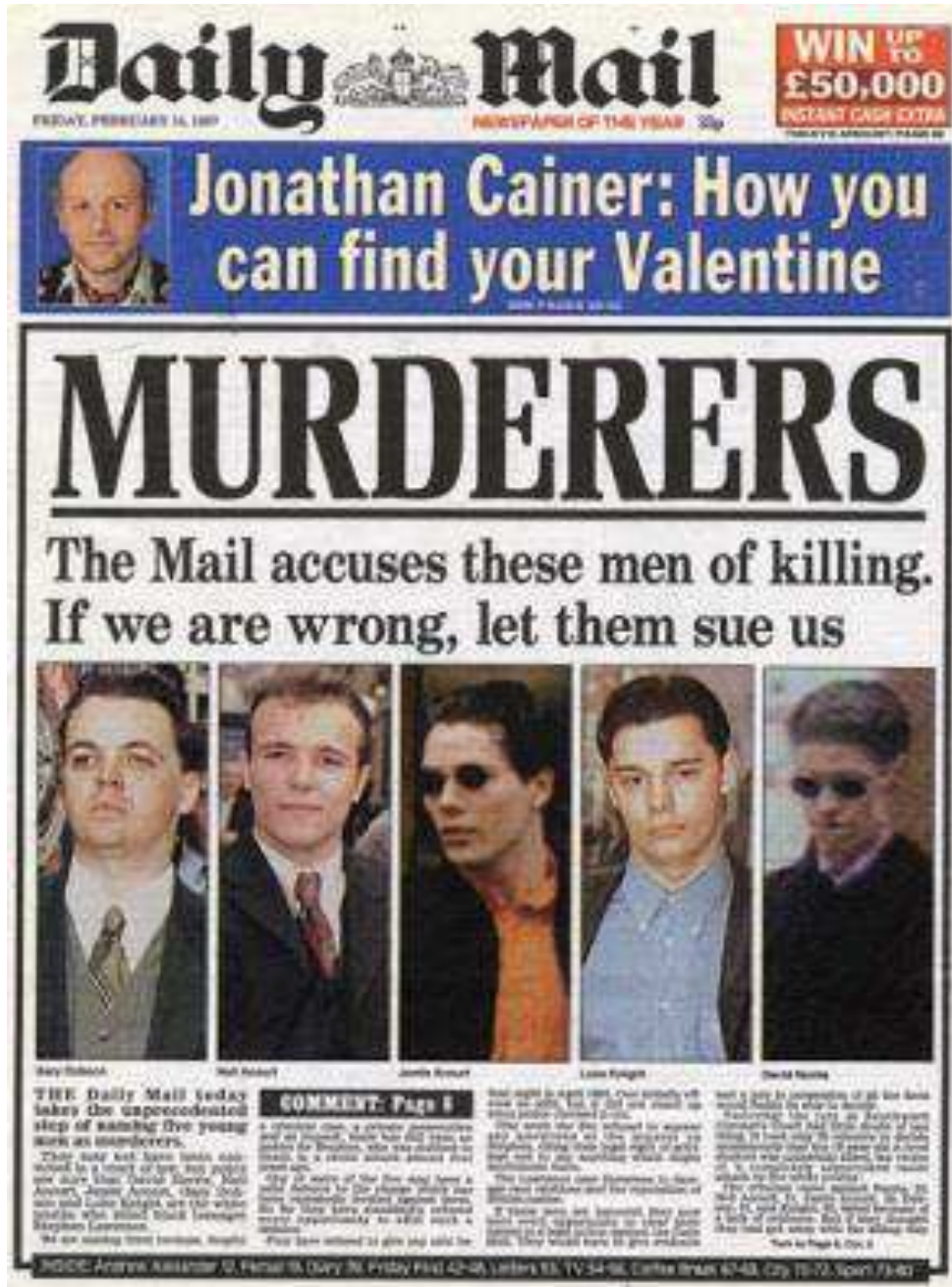
Stephen Lawrence.
© Private collection family Lawrence, United Kingdom

Stephen Lawrence



No women, No Cry, a painting by Chris Ofili, 1998.
© Chris Ofili, courtesy Victoria Miro Gallery, United Kingdom

Stephen Lawrence



Daily Mail Front Page, 'Murderers: The Mail accuses these men of killing. If we are wrong, let them sue us', 14 February 1997. © Daily Mail, United Kingdom



Stephen Lawrence



Metropolitan police officers 'stop and search' on the street. © Getty Image, United States

Stephen Lawrence



Doreen Lawrence with the Metropolitan police commissioner, Bernard Hogan-Howe, at a service on the 20th anniversary of Stephen's murder, 2013.
© ANP, the Netherlands



Stephen Lawrence



Doreen Lawrence with her Order of the British Empire medal, presented by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 12 June 2003. © Operation black vote, United Kingdom



Stephen Lawrence

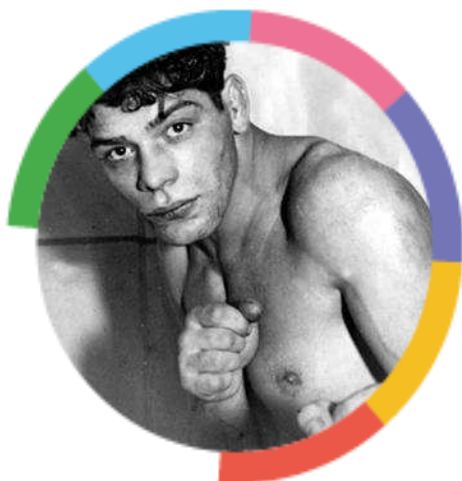


Neville and Doreen Lawrence with the Macpherson Report the day it was published in February 1999. © Press Association, United Kingdom

Life stories

Johann Trollmann / Forgotten champion

born 27 December 1907 - Gifhorn, Germany | died 9 March 1944 - Wittenberge, Germany



A top German boxer known by his Sinto nickname 'Rukeli', from the Romanes word for tree, because of his height and light fighting style. He was robbed of his title and murdered by the Nazis.

Johann Trollmann was born into a Sinto family in northern Germany and began boxing when he was eight as a way to escape poverty. But a 'Gypsy' champion was unwelcome in the Third Reich. He was persecuted, drafted into the army, forced out for 'racial political reasons', and died boxing for his life in a labour camp.

The Nazis came to power in 1933, the year 'Rukeli' won the German light-heavyweight boxing title. But he only held it for eight days. He was warned his licence would be withdrawn if he continued with his 'un-German' fighting style – a dancing technique ahead of its time. Knowing his career was over, he turned up in protest at his next match with blond hair and his face covered in flour: the caricature of an Aryan. In 1939, he was drafted into the Wehrmacht and fought in Poland, Belgium, France and on the Eastern Front. When the Nazis decided in 1942 to remove all Roma and Sinti from the army for racial-political reasons, many were immediately imprisoned. Johann was deported to Neuengamme concentration camp, where he was recognised by a former boxing referee, SS officer Albert Lütkemeyer, and - weakened by hunger and forced labour – was made to 'train' SS officers. He was murdered after defeating a brutal Kapo or prisoner 'officer' in 1944. His death was logged as 'an accident at work'.

In 2003 – almost sixty years after Rukeli's death - the Association of German Professional Boxers reinstated him as German middleweight champion 1933, and in 2010 a memorial was put up in Berlin near the site of the fight.

Timeline

Johann Trollmann



1907

27 December. Johann Trollmann is born to a Sinto family in Gifhorn, Germany.

1928

He becomes amateur boxing champion of northern Germany, but is not picked for the Olympic Games in Amsterdam. It seems likely that the authorities did not want the national Olympic team represented by a Sinto. An opponent he had previously defeated is selected instead. Johann turns professional.

1932

He defeats international stars including Rienus de Boer (the Netherlands) and Onofrio Russo (Argentina).

1933

9 June. Johann wins the German light heavyweight boxing championship. Eight days later he is stripped of his title, accused of 'unmanly behaviour'.

1934

The Nazis force Johann to end his professional boxing career.

1935

Johann marries Olga Frieda Bilda, who is not a Sinto, and they have a daughter, Rita.

1938

Johann divorces Olga, hoping to save her and their daughter from Nazi persecution. We know little of what happened to Olga and Rita, except that Rita didn't learn her father's identity until she was a teenager. Her mother remarried and would never speak of him.

1939

Johann is forced to join the Wehrmacht. He fights in Poland, Belgium and France, and is injured fighting on the Eastern Front in 1941.

1942

The Wehrmacht supreme command bans Sinti and Roma servicemen for 'racial-political reasons'. Johann is discharged from the army. In June he is arrested and taken to Neuengamme concentration camp.

1944

Transferred to the Wittenberge sub-camp, Johann defeats a prisoner 'Kapo', Emil Cornelius, in a boxing match and is killed.

2003

Seventy years after being robbed of his title, Johann is reinstated by the Association of German Professional Boxers.

2004

A street in Hannover was renamed Johann-Trollmann-Weg.

2012

A documentary on Johann Trollmann is released. 'Gibsy' tells the story of the man who won the German light-heavyweight championship in 1933 but was stripped of the title shortly afterwards because he was a 'gypsy'.

2015

19 January. The theatre play 'Der Boxer' by Felix Mitterer opens, telling the story of Johann Trollmann.



Quotes

Johann Trollmann

“Lie down, Gypsy, or we will get you and your family.”

German Nazi at one of Johann’s fights, (quoted in ‘Leg dich, Zigeuner’, by Roger Repplinger 2008)

“Der Boxer reminds us of all the Sinti and Roma who were killed and shows us a victor who never let the Nazis get him down, although they murdered him in the end. Rukeli is alive.”

Felix Mitterer, author of the play ‘Der Boxer’

“When you see how he suffered: banned from his profession, ostracised, disenfranchised, finally sent to a concentration camp and murdered. It is an example of the entire holocaust of the Sinti and Roma.”

Silvio Peritore of the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg, Spiegel Online, 30 June 2010

“I think that the sad story of my granduncle had to be told for all the Roma and Sinti who lived in Nazi Germany. He was one of the best boxers in Germany, but he was not allowed to be a German champion because the Nazis did not want to have a Sinto as a German champion. In 2003, after the belt was presented, I said to myself ‘you have to do something’, that is when I first put a page on to the internet to tell the story. It has been a lot of work but I wanted to do it for Rukeli, to honour him after his horrible death.”

Manuel Trollmann, 11 September 2016 in correspondence with the Anne Frank House

“I felt ashamed of being a Sinto woman. But today it is making me proud. I am the daughter of this glorious man.”

Rita Vowe-Trollmann, 19 January 2013

“We want to remember Johann Trollmann - we want to give him back his respect and honour. But we also want to be sure such a rogue regime can never be repeated, we want to avoid any form of discrimination and exclusion. Respect for other people is an important step for peaceful cooperation and respectful dealing in Hannover.”

Mayor Stephan Weil, 12 May 2011, Hannover

“Lots has happened since then. Books have been written in many different languages, there are movies, and plays have been staged in many countries and much more, and that is how Rukeli became world famous.”

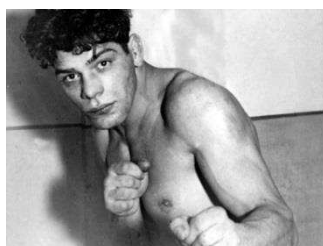
Manuel Trollmann, 11 September 2016 in correspondence with the Anne Frank House



Sources

Johann Trollmann

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Rukeli Trollmann in 1931.
© Manuel Trollmann,
Germany



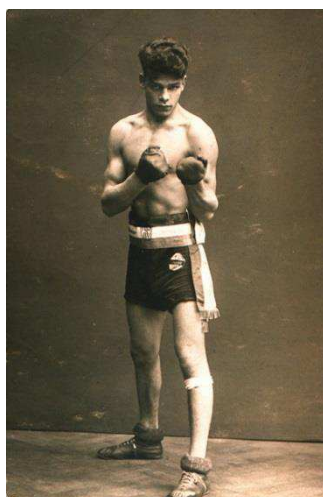
5 _____
Johann in training,
1940.
© Manuel Trollmann,
Germany

2 _____
A replica of the German
Boxing Championship belt
awarded to Johann
'Rukeli' Trollmann, 2003.
© Dokumentations- und
Kulturzentrum Deutscher
Sinti und Roma, Germany



6 _____
Johann, second from
left, 1940.
© Manuel Trollmann,
Germany

3 _____
Johann in Hannover,
1928.
© Manuel Trollmann,
Germany



7 _____
Temporary memorial to
Johann Trollmann
unveiled in Berlin in
2010 near the site of
the infamous 1933 title
fight.
© Von Ribbeck / CCBY-
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8 _____
Street name in
Hannover.
© Manuel Trollmann,
Germany

4 _____
Johann in Rennes
(right), France, 1940.
© Manuel Trollmann,
Germany



9 _____
There are two memorial
cobblestones, known as
'stumbling stones',
dedicated to Johann,
one in Berlin and one in
Hamburg.
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Johann Trollmann



Rukeli Trollmann in 1931. © *Manuel Trollmann, Germany*

Johann Trollmann



A replica of the German Boxing Championship belt awarded to Johann 'Rukeli' Trollmann, 2003.
© Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Germany

Johann Trollmann



Johann in Hannover, 1928. © Manuel Trollmann, Germany

Johann Trollmann



Temporary memorial to Johann Trollmann unveiled in Berlin in 2010 near the site of the infamous 1933 title fight. © Von Ribbeck / CCBY-SA 3.0, Germany

Johann Trollmann



Johann, second from left, 1940. © Manuel Trollmann, Germany

Johann Trollmann



Johann (right) in Rennes, France, 1940. © Manuel Trollmann, Germany

Johann Trollmann



Johann in training, 1940. © Manuel Trollmann, Germany

Johann Trollmann



Street name in Hannover. © Manuel Trollmann, Germany

Johann Trollmann



There are two memorial cobbles, known as 'stumbling stones', dedicated to Johann, one in Berlin and one in Hamburg.

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Life stories

Selahattin Ülkümen/ The wily diplomat

born 14 January 1914 - Antakya, Turkey | died 7 July 2003 - Istanbul, Turkey



Turkish consul-general in German-occupied Rhodes who saved 50 Jews.

Selahattin Ülkümen was the Turkish consul-general on the occupied Greek island of Rhodes. In 1944, when the Germans began deporting Jews, he saved 50 people by falsely claiming they were all Turkish citizens.

Jews had been relatively safe on Rhodes until Germany occupied the island in September 1943. However, on 19 July 1944 they were all ordered to the Gestapo headquarters. Selahattin, the Turkish consul-general, demanded that the Germans release all the Turkish Jews, adding their non-Turkish relatives to his list. When the Gestapo demanded identity papers he claimed that under Turkish law anyone married to a Turkish citizen became a Turkish citizen. No such a law existed. In the end, all those on Selahattin's list were released. All the rest of the 1,700 Jews on Rhodes were deported to Auschwitz. When Turkey renounced its neutrality and broke off diplomatic relations with Germany in August 1944, Turkey sided with the Allies and declared war on the German Axis. In response, the Nazis arrested Selahattin in Rhodes. He was taken to Athens, and jailed in Piraeus for the rest of the war. The Germans discovered the law Selahattin had referred to did not exist. His home was bombed and his pregnant wife died of her injuries after giving birth to their son Mehmet.

Selahattin remained in the Turkish diplomatic service for many years and was honoured with the title 'Righteous Among the Nations', awarded by Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.



1914

14 January. Selahattin Ülkümen is born into a Muslim family in Antakya, in Turkey.

1943

He enters the Turkish diplomatic service and is appointed Consul-General of Rhodes, in Greece.

The Nazis occupy Rhodes, which has a Jewish population of about 1,700.

1944

18 July. The Gestapo orders all the island's Jews to report for 'temporary transportation to a small island nearby', although the plan is to take them to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Selahattin acts.

August. Turkey cuts off diplomatic relations with Germany. Selahattin is deported to Piraeus, and spends the rest of the war in jail.

3 October. German soldiers begin to pull out of Greece.

1988

Selahattin is presented with the Courage to Care award by the Anti-Defamation League, an international Jewish NGO.

1990

Selahattin is awarded Israel's Righteous Among the Nations medal by Yad Vashem - the only Turk to receive it.

2001

Turkey awards him its highest honour, the Supreme Service Medal.

2003

7 July. Selahattin dies in Istanbul, aged 89.

Quotes

Selahattin Ülkümen



“I wish to express my deeply felt desire that Mr Ülkümen’s efforts be recognised and acknowledged. I witnessed his efforts to save the lives of many Jews, and I know that he was personally responsible for saving the lives of my family.”

Mathilde Turiel, Yad Vashem, Righteous Among the Nations Department, Act 4128

“At a time when the Nazi war machine was brutally killing millions of people, Ülkümen stood up to challenge it. And at a time when too many people sought only to protect themselves, Ülkümen placed the safety of others before his own.”

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Anna, 2 June 2006

“In both Judaism and Islam it is said that saving one life is like saving the world. Thanks to Mr Ülkümen, several family trees flourish today that otherwise would have been eliminated forever. He put his life – and that of his family – at risk rather than compromise his belief in equality and his commitment to the sanctity of human life.”

Congressman Tom Lantos, speech in the US House Of Representatives, 8 October 2004

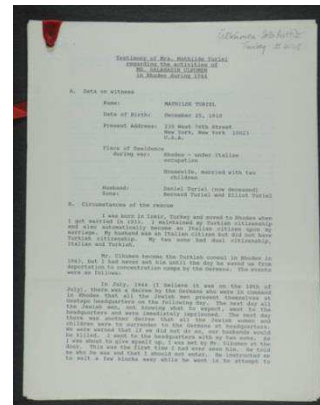
Selahattin Ülkümen



1 Medal Righteous Among the Nations awarded by Israel, 1990.
 © Righteous Among the Nations' Yad Vashem, Israel



2 Photograph of Selahattin (left) as a child.
 © Private collection Altug Ülkümen, Turkey



5 Testimony of Mathilde Turiel on the activities of Selahattin on Rhodes in 1944.
 © Righteous Among the Nations' Yad Vashem, Israel

3 Commemorative Turkish postage stamp from 2008.
 © Private collection Altug Ülkümen, Turkey



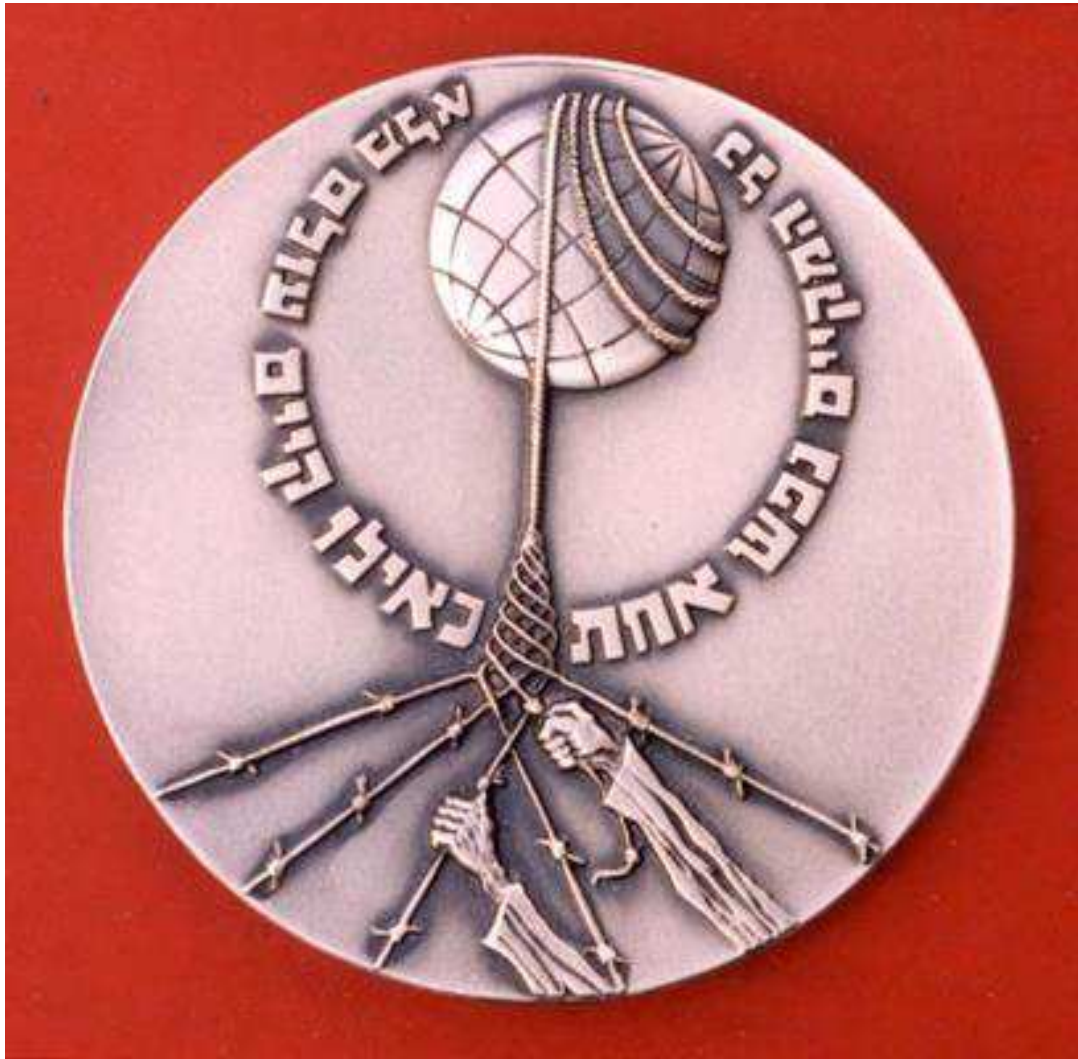
6 Map of Europe showing Rhodes and the former concentration camp Auschwitz (then in Occupied Poland, the General Government).
 © Anne Frank House, The Netherlands

4 Selahattin planting a tree at Yad Vashem, 1990.
 © Righteous Among the Nations' Yad Vashem, Israel



7 Selahattin Ülkümen with his grandson Altug Ülkümen, aged 8 years old, together in Geneva around 1977.
 © Private collection Altug Ülkümen, Turkey

Selahattin Ülkümen



Medal Righteous Among the Nations awarded by Israel, 1990
© *Righteous Among the Nations' Yad Vashem, Israel*

Selahattin Ülkümen



Photograph of Selahattin (left) as a child. © Private collection Altug Ülkümen, Turkey



Selahattin Ülkümen



Commemorative Turkish postage stamp from 2008. © Private collection Altug Ülkümen, Turkey



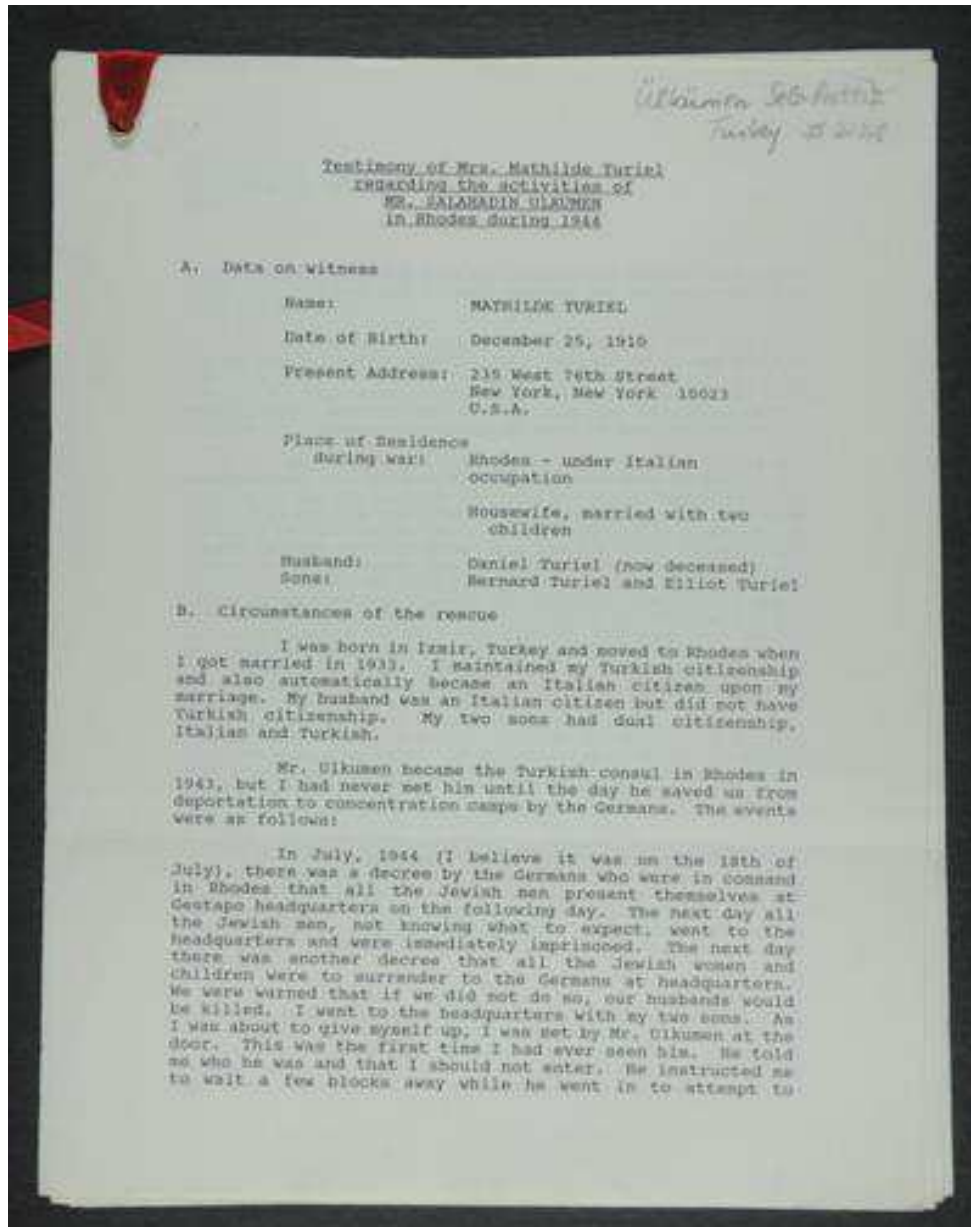
Selahattin Ülkümen



Selahattin planting a tree at Yad Vashem, 1990. © *Righteous Among the Nations' Yad Vashem, Israel*



Selahattin Ülkümen



Testimony of Mathilde Turiel on the activities of Selahattin on Rhodes in 1944.
© Righteous Among the Nations' Yad Vashem, Israel



Selahattin Ülkümen



Map of Europe showing Rhodes and the former concentration camp Auschwitz.
© Anne Frank House, The Netherlands

Selahattin Ülkümen



Selahattin Ülkümen with his grandson Altug Ülkümen , aged 8 years old, together in Geneva around 1977.

© Private collection Altug Ülkümen, Turkey

Life stories

Simone Veil / Determined pioneer

born 13 July 1927 - Nice, France | died 30 June 2017 - Paris, France



Survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen and as French minister of health revolutionised the lives of her countrywomen by legalising abortion.

Simone Veil was a Jewish lawyer and politician who survived Nazi persecution to become the first president of the European Parliament. She was also the first female cabinet minister in France. A law legalising abortion is named after her.

Antisemitic laws, introduced in Vichy France on 4 October 1940, obliged all Jews to register and increasingly eroded their rights as citizens. One of the first measures to affect Simone's family was the ban on Simone's father working as an architect.

A few days after sitting her final exams in March 1944, Simone was arrested on the street during an SS check. She was sent to Drancy transit camp, outside Paris, with her mother and older sister Milou and put on transport 71 to Auschwitz in April 1944. She was 16, but on arrival she claimed to be 18 – which saved her from the gas chambers. In January 1945 they were deported to the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. Simone, Milou and their sister Denise, who was in the Resistance, survived the war, but their mother died in Bergen-Belsen and their father and brother were deported to Lithuania, and they never saw them again.

After the liberation, Simone moved to Paris to study law and politics. She met her husband, Antoine Veil, worked as a magistrate and went into politics – becoming France's first female minister. In November 1974 she put through a controversial bill to legalise abortion. Comparisons were made with the Nazis and gas chambers, and swastikas appeared on her car. Much of the aggression was aimed personally at Veil; it came from all sides, in speeches in parliament and in anonymous letters to her office and her home. She later said it was her mother's bravery in Auschwitz that gave her the strength to bear the abortion debate. The law was passed in 1975.

Simone continued to be active in politics until 2007, fighting for women's legal rights, contraception and childcare. She also pressed for commemoration of the Holocaust, becoming president of the French Foundation for the Remembrance of the Shoah. In 2008, she was made a member of the Académie Française, a guardian of French cultural life.

Timeline

Simone Veil



1927

13 July. Simone Jacob is born in Nice, France

1940

October. The Vichy government in unoccupied southern France orders Jews to register and imposes restrictions on them.

1944

28 March. Simone finishes high school.

30 March. She is arrested in Nice by two SS officers. The rest of the family is arrested the same day by the Gestapo.

13 April. Simone, her sister Milou and her mother are sent to the concentration camps Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, where her mother dies days before they are freed.

1945

Simone moves to Paris to study law and political science.

1946

She marries Antoine Veil. They have three children.

1974

Simone becomes minister of health from 27 May 1974 to 4 July 1979.

26 November. She presents a bill to make abortion legal up to 12 weeks. The act comes into force in January 1975.

1979

Simone becomes the first president of the European Parliament.

1984

She is re-elected in 1984 and becomes leader of the Liberal Democrat group until 1989. She stands down in 1993.

2000

She is appointed president of the Foundation for the Remembrance of the Shoah.

2004

She returns to Auschwitz for the first time, with her family.

2005

Simone campaigns to establish a European constitution.

2007

Her autobiography is published, 'Une Vie' [translated into English as "A life", 2009].

2008

Simone becomes a member of the Académie Française.

2017

Simone dies at the age of 89.

Quotes

Simone Veil



"We carry in us that past, the loss of our loved ones, but being here is a victory - that we had the energy and the will to live. In the camp we used to say, 'Those who return must tell of this. But they must also live.' Many did. I have done."

Interview with Simone Veil in *le point*, 25 October 2007

"I liked nothing better than staying at home with Mother. I felt my greatest happiness was being in harmony with her. I pressed myself against her, held her hand, snuggled in her lap, I didn't let her go. I would gladly have lived an exclusive relationship just with her."

Simone Veil, from 'Une Vie', 2009

"It is my most ardent wish that remembering the Holocaust is not just a matter of good faith but that it always inspires respect for human dignity and fundamental values."

Simone Veil, at the inauguration of the Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, 2003

" I would first like to share a very female conviction. I apologise for doing this in this almost exclusively male parliament. No woman takes abortion lightly. It's a tragedy and will always be so."

Simone Veil, addressing the National Assembly in Paris on 26 November 1974

Simone Veil



Simone Veil in 1984.

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Simone Veil



Drancy transit camp. © Crif, France

Simone Veil



No: 500929.01 Date: 00.00.0000 Credit: PUECH/SPA
Headline: France, Paris : Manifestation pour la liberté d'avortement
Caption: Manifestation pour la liberté d'avortement et de contraception. Paris, FRANCE - 1973.
Sipa Press

Demonstration in France for legalisation of abortion, 1974. © SIPA Press, France

Simone Veil



Simone presenting her bill to legalise abortion to the French parliament, 26 November 1974.
© ANP, The Netherlands

Simone Veil



Simone in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 2005, to commemorate the liberation of the camp in 1945.

© ANP, The Netherlands

Simone Veil



French President Jacques Chirac and Simone at the Wall of Names at the Shoah Memorial in Paris. The wall bears 76,000 names of Jews deported from France during the Holocaust, 2005.

© Getty Images, United States

Simone Veil



Simone is made a member of the Académie Française in 2008, only the sixth woman to be so honoured. © ANP, *The Netherlands*