

## CALL

### A European Day of Remembrance for the Righteous

The Righteous saved Europe's honour at the time of the Holocaust: in a period dominated by passive onlookers and slaughterers they allowed us not to despair of mankind, because they did not hesitate to risk their own lives to save those of their fellow human beings. In France, in Italy, in Poland, even in Germany itself, all over Europe there were men and women who hid, protected and rescued thousands of Jews from the Nazi fury.

The Righteous have also acted in other situations, opposing the Armenian genocide, helping victims in Rwanda, in Cambodia or during the ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia.

The Righteous are also the men and women who defended dignity and freedom in totalitarian regimes, who denounced the gulag and who, with their courage, flung the doors wide for the reunification of Europe.

Such examples have a universal value, their deeds constantly remind us that Good can prevail, they exhort us to emulate their heritage and their steadfast opposition to all forms of racism and discrimination on ethnic, social, political and religious grounds.

The deeds of the Righteous stand as warnings against persecution and for the prevention of genocide wherever its pernicious seeds are sown.

In the violent world we live in, remembering the deeds of the Righteous, paying tribute to Good, demonstrating that every individual, however humble, can make a gesture that will save the life of another human being, has a huge educational value for today's youth!

For these reasons we are appealing to the European Union and the Council of Europe to institute a day of remembrance for the Righteous.

By **GABRIELE NISSIM**, Historian, essayist and Chairman of *Gariwo, the forest of the Righteous* and **PIETRO KUCIUKIAN**, Honorary Consul of Armenia in Italy and

### First signatories:

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**SERGIO COFFERATI**, Member of the European Parliament

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**LENA KOLARSKA-BOBINSKA**, Member of the European Parliament

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**BRIAN SIMPSON**, Member of the European Parliament

**PATRIZIA TOIA**, Member of the European Parliament

**GIOMMARIA UGGIAS**, Member of the European Parliament

**FAIZA ABDUL-WAHAB**, Daughter to Khaled Abdul-Wahab, rescuer of Jews in Tunisia

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**ZBIGNIEW BUJAK**, Former Solidarnosc Member, Former Member of the Polish Parliament, professor at Warsaw University

**IWO BYCZEWSKI**, Former

Viceminister and Ambassador of Poland in Belgium, Member of the Executive Board of the Polish Diplomatic Academy

**TADEUSZ CHUDECKI**, Polish actor and writer

**PIERANTONIO COSTA**, Italian Consul in Kigali, nominated for the 2011 Peace Nobel Prize

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**HAN DONGFANG**, Independent unionist in China, director of organization *China Labour Bulletin*

**ANNA DRABIK**, Chairwoman of the *Association Children of the Holocaust*, Poland

**MARC-HENRI FERMONT**, Economist and historian, Villefranche sur Mer, France

**KONSTANTY GEBERT**, War correspondent and former Solidarnosc activist

**DAVID GLASSER**, Director Ben Uri Art Gallery, London

**DANIEL J. GOLDHAGEN**, Essayist, author of *Hitler's Willing Executioners* and *Worse than War*, United States

**AGNES GRUNWALD-SPIER**, Holocaust survivor, author of *The other Schindlers*, *Trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust in the United Kingdom*

**MAREK HALTER**, Writer and human rights activist,

**AGNES HIRSCHI**, Daughter to Carl Lutz, Swiss Viceconsul in Budapest from 1942 to 1945, recognised as *Righteous among the Nations* in 1964

**RICHARD G. HOVANNISIAN**, Historian, US

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**ANDREAS MAISLINGER**, Founder and chairman of the *Austrian Holocaust Memorial Service*

**TOMASZ MAKOWSKI**, Director General of the National Library of Poland

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**ESMOND SIDNEY ROSEN**, Author of educational booklet '*The Role of Righteous Muslims*', Birmingham

**ANDRZEJ ROTTERMUND**, Director of Warsaw Royal Palace

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**PAULA SAWICKA**, Chairwoman of the Association *Otwarta Rzeczpospolita* (Open Republic), Poland

**VICTORIA SHALDOVA**, Executive director of Riga ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum

**RADOSLAV SIKORSKI**, Ministero of Foreign Affairs, Poland

**DORIS STIEFEL**, Associate Professor Emeritus, School of Dentistry, University of Washington

**KRZYSZTOF STRZALKA**, Poland's Consul General in Milan

**ANNA STUPNICKA - BANDO**, Chairwoman of the Polish Association of the Righteous Among the Nations

**JERZY TRELA**, Polish Actor

**ANDRZEJ WAJDA**, Director, Poland

**RAFAL WIECZYNSKI**, Director, Poland

**EWA WIERZYNSKA**, Director of the Jan Karski Project of the Museum of Polish History, Warsaw

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**RAGIP ZARAKOLU**, Publisher, journalist and human rights activist, Turkey

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**ASSOCIATION CITY ANGELS**, Italy

**ASSOCIATION ROMANO VIVIANI**, Ideas and practices for territory governance and development, Italy

**ASSOCIATION MIGRARE**

**BENE RWANDA**, Italy

**BRONISLAW GEREMEK FOUNDATION**, Poland

**COMMITTEE FRIENDS OF THE CIVIC TEMPLE**, Busto Arsizio, Italy

**MILAN CITY COUNCIL**

**MILAN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

**EMERGENCY NGO**, Italy

**BIANCA GAUDIANO**, Director of Asteria Culture Centre

**KARTA**, Documentation center on the history of Poland and Eastern Europe, Warsaw

**LIBERA**, Associations, names and numbers against the Mafia

**MEMORIAL ITALIA**, Association for the preservation of the remembrance of historical sources of the 20th Century

**HOUSE OF TERROR**, Budapest

**GIORGIO PERLASCA FOUNDATION**, Padua

**SENZA CONFINI (WITHOUT BORDERS)**, Association for Human Rights, Peace and Memory, Meda - Monza and Brianza

**VACLAV HAVEL FOUNDATION**, Czech Republic

**VACLAV HAVEL LIBRARY**, Czech Republic

**UMBERTO VERONESI FOUNDATION**, ITALY

**ZNAK**, Foundation for Christian Culture, Cracow

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**MISCHA WEGNER**, Son to *Righteous among the nations* and Righteous for the Armenians Armin T. Wegner

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