

PEYLIM ORGANIZATION
YAD L'ACHIM
 ISRAEL TORAH ACTIVISTS



ארגון פעילים
יד לאחים
 פעילי המחנה התורתי בישראל

יו"ר ומייסד - הרב"ג רבי שלום דוב ליפשיץ זצ"ל (תש"י - תשע"א)

- הצלה ממסיון וכתות
- הצלה מטמיעה
- חינוך
- קליטה רוחנית

January 23, 2020

**His Royal Highness
 The King of the Netherlands
 Willem-Alexander**

On the occasion of your visit to Israel to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and as one who holds dear the topic of the Shoah, we appeal to you on a matter of great importance and sensitivity relating to the fate of our people.

As is widely known, during the Holocaust, many Jewish parents deposited their children with partisans who transferred them to Dutch Christian families to protect them from the Nazis, fully intending to return them to their Jewish families and people.

Tragically, a very high percentage of those parents didn't survive the war and many of the foster families refused to reveal to the children their true identities and return them to the embrace of their people. In this, they had the backing of the Dutch government.

We are speaking of many hundreds of children whose descendants today number in the thousands.

In Holland there is a central registry of Jewish youths who were orphaned in World War II kept in the Commissie van Oorlogspleegkindren (OPK). This government agency, established a few years after the war, refused to share its list with the Jews in order to keep them from being able to retrieve the children.

OPK went so far as to arbitrarily decide which of the children should be identified as Jews. It registered as Christians those who were baptized during or after the war, or whose fathers were Christian and mothers Jewish, or whose parents were nonobservant or regarded as having no religion.

Contrary to Dutch family law, according to which every child must be educated according to the faith of his deceased parents, the OPK decided that the physical and psychological state of the child would be the sole consideration taken into account on matters relating to adoption.

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Allowing these Jews to remain cut off from their people, unaware of their identity, prolongs the suffering of our nation and constitutes a victory for the Nazis.

Every year sees the passing of many thousands of Holocaust survivors. Time is not on our side in our effort to finally bring justice to these children and their parents who, in their final moments, counted on the foster families to return their beloved treasures to the embrace of their nation and faith.

We are pleading on behalf of all those parents who never returned from the worst slaughter in the history of our people. Every day that passes with these children being unjustly denied their true identity is a terrible day.

Jewish tradition has a saying that has been passed from generation to generation: "As long as the candle is burning there's still time to work and repair!"

We ask that you act, while the candle is still burning, to reveal to these Holocaust orphans their true identity.

**On behalf of the Yad L'Achim organization, I remain
 Rabbi Shmuel Lifschitz**

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