

Jewish World

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March 2025

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Holocaust Remembrance and Ongoing Conflict: April 20, 2025 April 20, 2025

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80th Anniversary of Bergen-Belsen Liberation

On April 15, 2025, the world marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp by British forces. Survivors like Lola Hassid Angel, who was deported from Athens to Bergen-Belsen at the age of seven, shared their harrowing experiences to educate future generations about the horrors of the Holocaust. Angel emphasized the importance of remembrance to prevent history from repeating itself. [1]

Upcoming March of the Living

The International March of the Living is scheduled for April 24, 2025, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. This year's march will include Holocaust survivors, descendants, and participants from around the world. Notably, Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Poland's President Andrzej Duda will lead the march. The event serves as a powerful reminder of the atrocities committed and the resilience of those who survived. [2]

Amsterdam's Apology for Holocaust Role

Amsterdam's Mayor, Femke Halsema, is set to issue a formal apology on April 24, 2025, acknowledging the city's role in the persecution and deportation of Jews during World War II. The apology coincides with Yom HaShoah, Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day. Additionally, the city will announce a €25 million fund to support Jewish cultural life and address rising antisemitism. [3]

Ongoing Conflict in Gaza

Amid these commemorations, the conflict in Gaza continues. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz has stated that Israeli troops will remain in designated security zones within Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria indefinitely. He emphasized that humanitarian aid to Gaza will be contingent upon the establishment of a civilian mechanism to bypass Hamas, aiming to prevent the militant group from exploiting aid resources. [4]

Conclusion

As the world reflects on the atrocities of the Holocaust and honors the resilience of survivors, ongoing conflicts and rising antisemitism underscore the importance of remembrance and education. Events like the March of the Living and official apologies serve as reminders of the past and calls to action for a more just and tolerant future.

As Holocaust remembrance events unfold worldwide, including the upcoming March of the Living on April 24, the ongoing conflict in Gaza intensifies. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has reaffirmed the continuation of military operations until Hamas is dismantled and hostages are released. Recent Israeli airstrikes have resulted in significant casualties, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. International calls for a ceasefire are growing, with Pope Francis urging for peace during his Easter address. The juxtaposition of commemorating past atrocities while witnessing current conflicts underscores the persistent challenges in achieving lasting peace and the importance of remembering history to inform present actions.

References

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- [2] The Jerusalem Post. (2025, April 19). *Grapevine April 20, 2025: Historic March of the Living*. Retrieved from <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-850685>
- [3] The Times. (2025, April 13). *Amsterdam mayor to apologise for persecution of Jews during Holocaust*. Retrieved from <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/amsterdam-femke-halsema-apologise-second-world-war-6q07fxcwh>
- [4] Associated Press. (2025, April 16). *Israeli defense minister says troops will remain in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria indefinitely*. Retrieved from

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