

Commemorate the Holocaust by remembering

This week, leaders from throughout the world converged on Washington, D.C., to discuss nuclear proliferation and how to rein in rogue nations. Much of the discussion focused on Iran, a country led by Holocaust denier and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

It is appropriate to focus this week on Iran's dictatorship and the dangers posed by despots and deniers. This is a week comprised of Days of Remembrance, established by the United States Congress as our nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust.

When U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower heard of the Nazi concentration camps, he traveled to Buchenwald so he would be "in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to 'propaganda.'"

It's obvious there is a tendency today.

In addition to establishing the Days of Remembrance, Congress created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims. In accordance with its congressional mandate, the museum is responsible for leading the nation in commemorating the Days of Remembrance and for encouraging and sponsoring appropriate observances throughout the United States.

The Museum's national Days of Remembrance ceremony will be [webcast](#) live from the U.S. Capitol Rotunda at 11:30 a.m. EST, this Thursday, April 15, 2010. General David Petraeus, who led the 101st Airborne Division, a WWII liberating division, will be the featured speaker. There will also be related activities all week at the [Museum](#).

Ahmadinejad is proof that anti-semitism is still alive in the hearts of those who have an agenda against the Jewish people. For some, images of the iron gates bearing the slogan "Arbeit Macht Frei" present an opportunity to grandstand and attract the world media's attention. For the rest of us they should serve as a cold reminder of the atrocities that were committed in the shadows in many European towns and cities throughout the war; these events should never be forgotten, and it is only by keeping the past alive that we can prevent similar atrocities in the future.

Authorized by Pat Herryty for Congress
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