



B'nai B'rith lodge "Gavro Schwartz" Zagreb

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Statement for the public

B'nai B'rith Croatia, Lodge "Gavro Schwartz" Jewish NGO in Croatia, is a branch of the large and prestigious organization B'nai B'rith International and the European branch of the B'nai B'rith. The task and purpose of these organizations, which have their observers in the highest bodies of world and European forums is to point to occurrences of retaliation, neo-Nazism, anti-Semitism, religious, racial and ethnic intolerance.

The recent unfortunate event with the inscription in Jasenovac, a place near former notorious concentration camp during WW II, refers to the desire for rehabilitation of Nazism and the Ustasha movement and causes our concern and displeasure. Croatia is a state based on anti-fascism, its borders and independence was won in hard battles during WW II were majority of Croats took part on the side of anti-Nazis. Only a minority of Croats during these war years were on the side of Nazi, the Ustasha movement, in roots of which were racial persecution, cruel killing and ethnic cleansing.

We are concerned that 70 years after the defeat of this darkest ideology, there are still groups in Croatia who in strange way, like inscriptions in Jasenovac, deny the horrors of Nazi ideology. Such incidents are making damage to the reputation of Croatia in the world, among people who long ago condemned Nazism. Authors of the inscription in Jasenovac put a notorious Nazi salute on a monument devoted to their comrades. They gave their lives for a free democratic Croatia in the recent war in 1991-95. We are concerned that these authors were not aware that it is inappropriate action which is harmful to all Croatian citizens.

To our friends in Europe and the world we will try to explain, that these outburst, associated also with anti-Semitism, is only an individual case, atypical for Croatian society. At the same time we wish to emphasize the need for government, NGOs, the media and Croatian society

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in whole to act that the unfortunate events like the Ustasha signs on public places like in Jasenovac do not appear any more. We expect primarily from the government to take effective measures in condemnation of such outbursts and prevent them in future.

B'nai B'rith lodge "Gavro Schwartz" Croatia

Darko Fischer, president



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