

Ricordiamo Insieme  
OCTOBER 15TH 2018

***Translation of address by Ambassador Oren David at  
Memorial to the 1,022 Jews taken by the Nazis  
In October of 1943***

We are gathered in this highly symbolic place to remember the suffering of the Roman Jews during the Shoah: the most horrible catastrophe in the history of humanity. It is impossible for us to answer the question raised by Mr. Terracina, survivor of the Shoah: "WHY?"

Unfortunately, despite the fact that more than 70 years have passed since these terrible events, anti-Semitism is still widespread and on the increase in some European countries.

It saddens me to see that in the twenty-first century in Europe, Jewish children, women and men, because of their being Jews, are still the target of hate: sometimes violent hate.

We should also take into consideration that frequent attacks against the State of Israel sometimes become a means of expressing anti-Semitic prejudices.

This was also acknowledged by Pope Francis who, in October 2015, to a delegation of the World Jewish Congress, on the occasion of the fifty years of Nostra Aetate said:  
"Attacking the Jews is anti-Semitism, but even a deliberate attack on the State of Israel is anti-Semitism."

In this regard, I am convinced that religious leaders can play an important role in helping to combat the plague of anti-Semitism by educating the faithful in dialogue and respect for other faiths.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for initiatives like this that contribute to combating the plague of anti-Semitism.

I would therefore like to congratulate you, Federica and Tobias Wallbrecher, who have for years been very active in the dialogue between Christians and Jews, dedicating themselves to the memory of the Shoah.

I would also like to conclude with the hope that light can always prevail against darkness and indifference.

Shalom.