

Youth Ambassadors for Peace Meet Auschwitz Survivors

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Moscow, Russia - Ambassadors for Peace had the opportunity to meet concentration camp survivors on the 70th anniversary of their liberation from Auschwitz.

On Jan. 27, 2015—International Holocaust Remembrance Day—the young adults visited the Central Museum of the Great Patriotic War, a history museum dedicated to World War II, where the Moscow city government and the Russian Jewish Congress had organized a "Week for Remembering the Victims of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp."

The U.N. General Assembly created International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005, choosing January 27 because it was on that date in 1945 that Soviet troops liberated the Auschwitz concentration camp, located in Poland.

In the presence of Auschwitz survivors who had gathered in the museum's great hall, students of senior and junior classes as well as teens from the "Patriot" club recited touching poems and sang songs that caused a storm of emotions in the public. After words of gratitude were spoken, all participants laid flowers at the monument for Holocaust victims in the Hall of Wailing. A minute of silence that followed

filled the hearts with pain for the suffering of innocent children, the elderly, women and men and for all that had happened to them.



Participants of the event shared their impressions:

Catherine Minsafina: "For me, it was a historic day! To meet such legendary people who are few now, and to hear their life stories—it was a rich experience. Unfortunately, there were not as many people as we had expected. It would be better if the younger generation showed more interest in such living history. After all, it is our duty—to proudly cherish our heroic past and make it a part of our present and future!"

Marina Sokolova: "We couldn't restrain our tears. It is impossible to

stay indifferent while listening to the stories of those who managed to survive this hell. Only foolish and naive people could surmise that this would never be our concern, or never occur in our circumstances. The tragedy in Auschwitz was a real, barbaric homicide that resulted in more than 1 million victims. It was caused by unlimited human arrogance combined with excessive pride, the qualities still nourished by modern Nazism, racism and extremism. We cannot choose the time to be born and the conditions to live in. So why not appreciate what we already have: life and freedom?

“At the end of the ceremony, we saw a lonely old lady sitting by herself, whose jacket was decorated with scores of ribbons and medals. Her face was sad. We came up and began talking to her. Galina Petrovna, with tears in her eyes, told about her hard childhood; she and her family were driven to a concentration camp for prisoners of war. Her little sister was killed together with her other relatives and family. We never could have imagined what she had gone through when she was only 17. She carried her acute pain of loss throughout her life, together with the number that all prisoners of the concentration camp at Auschwitz had tattooed on their arm. We tried to coax her with kind words and warm embraces. After all, this is so important for veterans! Even a little attention could give our heroes a sense of being of value and useful to us. I would like to thank all the veterans and all those who remained faithful to honor, truth, justice, faith, peace and love!”