

# **“The World Must Stand with the ‘Utmost Determination Against Anti-Semitism’, the German Chancellor Told the UN’s Annual Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony**

***“We feel a deep shame over the catastrophic killing of millions of European Jews by Nazi Germany - known in Hebrew as the Shoah - and of “the betrayal of all civilized values, perpetrated under the National Socialist regime”.***



**German Chancellor Angela Merkel's first visit to Auschwitz camp, on December 6th, 2019.**

Photo: YouTube generated.

***Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany delivered the key note address during the virtual memorial ceremony and discussion marking this year's International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.***

\*\*\*

During the first Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, organized jointly by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the UN and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Angela Merkel added that antisemitism must be thwarted, “be it open or

veiled, and against denial or diminishing of the Holocaust”.

“We honor the victims of the Holocaust by remembering them and by learning from their plight. That is our everlasting responsibility - for today's and future generations”, she stated, in her video message to the powerful online event, translated from German.

\*\*\*

### ***‘Beyond belief’***

On the 27th of January 1945, exactly 76 years ago, the extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated.

“What happened there and in many other places where

atrocities were committed during the National Socialist period, is and remains beyond belief”, Ms. Merkel said.

She expressed deep shame over the catastrophic killing of millions of European Jews by Nazi Germany - known in Hebrew as the Shoah - and of “the betrayal of all civilized values, perpetrated under the National Socialist regime”.

The German Chancellor emphasized that “it is, and remains, Germany's everlasting responsibility” to remember the Holocaust and to commemorate the victims: the European Jews, Sinti and Roma, political prisoners and Polish

intelligentsia, prisoners of war, resistance fighters, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and “countless other men, women and children, who were humiliated, persecuted, tortured and murdered”.

“We must never forget these people and their fates”, she stressed.

Ms. Merkel concluded her address with special thanks to the survivors who “muster the strength” to tell their story.

“Their first-hand accounts show us just how vulnerable human dignity is and how easily the values that underpin peaceful coexistence can be violated”, she said.