



Dear friends at the Council of Europe,  
Dear Secretary General,  
Dear President of the Parliamentary Assembly,

On January 20, 1942, exactly 80 years, the leaders of the Nazi Germany convened at Wannsee, near Berlin, to discuss the "Final solution of the Jewish question". The purpose of this conference was simple – it was to secure support of all government agencies in Germany for the faster implementation of the Final Solution, the code word for a systematic physical annihilation of Jews. This so-called Wannsee conference lasted only 90 minutes. 90 minutes was just enough for Nazis to coordinate their efforts to speed up the murder of Jews in Europe.

Many historians accord to Wannsee conference an enormous importance as it was an official meeting of the government agencies that deliberately discussed efficient ways of massive murder. It also elaborated the numbers of Jews to be exterminated, detailed by countries, territories and regions of Europe.

This conference represents one of the most atrocious features of the Nazi regime, its cold-blooded, unhuman banalization of murder that turned into a bureaucratic routine. For many of us, and I hope for all of us, it looks monstrous and barbaric. It looks unbelievable how such systematic murder could be discussed as a simple matter of coordination.

All this is true. However, let us not forget that preceding the Wannsee conference were 20 years of virulent anti-Jewish propaganda, in Germany, but also in so many other countries in Europe, to the east and to the west of Germany.

Let us not forget that in 9 years preceding the Wannsee conference there were anti-Semitic pogroms and concentration camps.

Let us not forget that in 1941 the Nazi Germany was responsible for killing one and half million Jews on the territory of the Soviet Union, with the help of local collaborators. This killing was systematic, massive and mostly undocumented, and it received the name "Holocaust by bullets".

So, let us not forget that Holocaust, before it happened, had a long history of preparation. It was prepared for years through propagation of pathological hatred towards Jews. Politicians who put all the blame on Jews, and ordinary citizens who silently accepted the attacks against Jews. That it was OK for Jews to be discriminated and killed.



Antisemitism is alive and kicking today, in Europe 2022. For too many people in Europe today it is OK that Jews could be harassed, attacked and discriminated. That Jews could be killed. That the only Jewish state on Earth could be systematically slandered with impunity.

The role of governments in Europe and of the Council of Europe it to act against this hatred. There is a lot that was done, there is even more that should be done. Israel stands ready to work with you to make sure that anti-Semitism will not raise again its ugly head, not in Europe, not anywhere else.

Never again. Never again.