



*Imagine a World
without Hate*

For our kind, compassionate and generous donors, here is a letter for all of you from our Holocaust Educational Archive written by Lithuanian survivor, Moisey Preisas. He expresses his sincere thanks to you and tells the story of his experiences in a world so consumed by hate, not many survived.

Dear Zane and all who help us,

I was ten years old when the war started and the Germans took the city of Kaunas where we lived. Besides me, my family consisted of Father, Mother and my three sisters. Immediately, deadly pogroms were carried out by local Lithuanians who murdered thousands of Jews.

Very often, the killers were neighbors of the Jewish people they murdered.

The bloodiest pogrom was in the summer of 1941. Approximately 4000 Jewish men, women and children were murdered by local Lithuanians. Using axes and saws, they went from house to house killing entire families. We managed to hide. That is how we survived.



There was also a terrifying pogrom at a local garage. I enclosed an article which tells about this, how the Lithuanian killers used pressure hoses on their victims, inserting the hoses into their victims' mouths and turning on the water full force. This caused their bodies to be ripped apart and explode. A crowd had gathered to watch the killings and every time someone was killed in this horrible way, the crowd cheered and applauded as people were being blown apart. This all happened in broad daylight.

There was also a Lithuanian teenager who used a crowbar to kill about 50 Jewish men and women. The townspeople applauded whenever someone was killed. He then took out his accordion, climbed on top of the pile of bodies and joyously played the Lithuanian National Anthem to cheers from the crowd. Here are photographs of this massacre.





At the same time, prisoners were let out of prison to make room for the Jewish people who were being arrested. When the prisons were full, the Jews of the city were taken to the Ninth Fort where they were killed by the thousands. Even Jews from France and England were killed there.

Pictured at left: Jewish prisoners from France document their impending execution by carving "we are 900 French people" on the wall of the Ninth Fort.

All of the surviving people were forced into the ghetto which was surrounded by barbed wire. From 1941 until 1943 we were in the ghetto and forced to work different jobs. Every day a "selection" was made, and those unfortunate innocent people were taken to the Ponary forest and shot. The remaining people in the ghetto, including my family and myself, and all of our relatives, were put on a train and taken to Stutthof concentration camp, in Poland. My parents stayed in Stutthof and were killed there. I later learned that my sisters were tortured to death there.

I was taken to Auschwitz for three weeks where they used us for various experiments. After one of the selections, I was put on a train again and taken to Dachau concentration camp. At Dachau I starved while laboring at different jobs. In 1945, all of us who were still alive were gathered and taken to the Alps. On May 2nd, we were lined up somewhere in the mountains to be executed. But at that exact moment, American tanks showed up. That is how I was liberated. I was 14 years old, the sole survivor of my large family.

I am very happy with your help and thankful to all of you. I am not well and would be lost without you. I cried with happiness when I received your letter and your gift. Now I can buy the medicine I need to continue to live. I thank you all once more and wish you all good health, a happy life, and all the best. With love, Moisey

The Survivor Mitzvah Project started caring for Moises Preisas in 2007. He passed away in 2019, but his words and video testimony live on in The Survivor Mitzvah Project's Holocaust Educational Archive, which serves as a warning to stand against racism, intolerance, and hatred wherever it takes hold. Throughout the world, hate crimes have risen to a frightening degree. Fascist ideology is on the rise. Holocaust denial is rampant. Books are being banned, including Anne Frank's diary.

In Moisey's name, no matter what our politics are, let's imagine a world without hate, and actively work towards creating one.

Wishing you good health and many blessings for your continued support of the last survivors of the Holocaust.
- Zane Buzby

**Please help by creating a Facebook or Instagram fundraiser for SMP.
It's easy, its free, and will save many lives.**

Donate online at www.survivormitzvah.org or send a check to:

The Survivor Mitzvah Project
2658 Griffith Park Blvd., Ste. #299
Los Angeles, CA 90039

800-905-6160 survivormitzvah@gmail.com

The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit public charity.

Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

100% of your donation goes directly into the hands of Holocaust survivors in need.

\$150 supports 1 Survivor for 1 month. \$1800 supports 1 Survivor for 1 year.

Donations in any amount save lives!