

# Preventing Holocausts

By Rabbi Henry I. Sobel  
(Sao Paulo, Brazil)

Apart from the millions of soldiers and civilians who were killed by the Nazi war machine, some 12 million human beings were systematically murdered by the Nazis in extermination camps and in organized pogroms.

These 12 million were murdered because some of them (the communists, social democrats, trade unionists and liberal intellectuals) were political enemies of the Nazis. But most of them -- Jews, Gypsies, mental patients, homosexuals, Russians, Ukrainians, Poles and others -- were killed because the Nazis regarded them as inferior or as economically useless.

Six million Jews, but at least six million were not Jews!

And although the Polish, Soviet and other Eastern European governments memorialize the Holocaust, in Brazil -- judging from the prevailing apathy one could very easily get the impression that the only people the Nazis per-

secuted were the Jewish people. For they seem to be the only people concerned enough to commemorate Hitler's victims and memorialize the Holocaust.

I would even wager that a large portion of young people of Polish, Ukrainian, Greek and Gypsy extraction are not even aware of the Nazi mass murder of their brothers. This ignorance makes them easy prey for some appealing version of anti-Semitism or Nazism.

Hitler's success as a mass murderer can be largely credited to his ability in isolating his intended victims from each other. In most cases he did not even have to try very hard. Most of his victims were already parochial enough in their way of thinking and organizing to ignore those outside their own group. Many viewed their soon to be grave-mates with anti-Semitism, prejudice, hate and national chauvinism.

So, what have we learned from the Holocaust? Apparently not very much. And if so, what is to prevent a recurrence?

I think it is time for the survivors of Nazism -- as well as its possible future victims --

to take a long and realistic look at what caused the Holocaust in order to ensure that it will not happen again. To those who think it cannot, most of its 12 million victims would have agreed with you!

I suggest that the organized Jewish, Christian and Moslem communities begin to meet together in order to establish an educational program to learn and to familiarize our youth with the lessons of the Holocaust.

I would like very much to see each year a strong and united commemoration of the Holocaust not only by the Jewish community but by the entire population. Because we understand facism and the Holocaust and because in our unity, we will not let it happen again.

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- Tall and handsome Mitchell Goldstein, a long-time Security Officer here and this month appointed to one of the top posts in the division, recently returned from a four-month duty as chief of security for a UN Mission in Namibia (Southwest Africa) where he found a thriving Jewish community consisting of some 30 families.

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