Press Release

Visit of Raoul Wallenberg's Family to Moscow

21 - 26 September 2016

Photo: Raoul Wallenberg, 1943 Source: The Hungarian National Archives, Budapest
The Family of Swedish diplomat RAOUL G. WALLENBERG will travel to Moscow to submit a comprehensive catalogue of open questions and unanswered requests to Russian government and archive representatives, in a new effort to finally determine the full circumstances of Wallenberg’s fate. The catalogue has been created as part of a new international research project in the Wallenberg case, the Raoul Wallenberg International Research Initiative (RWI-70). The family feels confident that if access to the requested material were granted, there is a reasonable chance that the full circumstances of Wallenberg’s fate could finally be solved.

Raoul Wallenberg’s family also seeks direct discussion and exchange of views with leading Russian historians and other experts.

To facilitate this discussion, the Moscow Memorial Society, in close cooperation with the RWI-70, will host a

The Raoul Wallenberg International Roundtable

Raoul Wallenberg - The State of Research

22 September 2016 9:30 - 15:00

Memorial Society, Moscow
Karetny Ryad 5/10
127000 Moscow

The meeting is open to the public.

It will be followed by a formal Press Conference at 15:30

The Raoul Wallenberg Research Initiative RWI 70
Raoul G. Wallenberg (1912-?)

was a Swedish businessman and diplomat. He is remembered for the remarkable courage he showed when in July 1944, at age thirty-one, he accepted a diplomatic appointment to go Hungary to protect the Jews of Budapest from the ruthless Nazi death machinery. By the time of Wallenberg's arrival it had swallowed up five-hundred thousand Jews of the Hungarian countryside and the less than two-hundred thousand left in the capital were about to meet the same fate. Driven by Wallenberg's relentless energy, a wide network of diplomatic colleagues and members of the Hungarian resistance managed to save thousands of Budapest's Jews. However, in January 1945 the rescuer himself became a victim when he disappeared as a prisoner in Stalin's Gulag. The Soviet authorities announced in 1957 that he had died of a heart attack in Lubyanka Prison on July 17, 1947. The full circumstances of his fate have never been established.

The RWI-70

Last year, a group of international scholars and Wallenberg experts joined forces to create the Raoul Wallenberg International Research Initiative (RWI-70). The aim of this project is to pool researchers' expertise and to seek access to relevant documentation in the Raoul Wallenberg Case in Russian archival collections that has so far remained inaccessible. The group's efforts emphasize the urgent need for independent review and verification of information, with researchers being granted unhindered access to original historical records held in currently classified Russian archival collections.
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