



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

Our Association was established in 1947, when the Jews from Latvia and Estonia living in Palestine realized the full extent of the genocide tragedy suffered by our brethren in the two countries during the Holocaust. The founders of the Association were prominent public figures Messrs. Itzhak Maor, Moshe Amir, Dr. Lifshitz, Lazar Etingen, Eng. Lvovic, and Elchanan Kramer. During World War II these distinguished personalities were engaged in sending food packages from Palestine to Latvian Jews who were exiled to Siberia.

The main goal of our Association was and remains mutual assistance, help to the needy Holocaust survivors and the commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust. Among the important activities is an annual commemoration assembly for the Latvian and Estonian Jews killed in the years 1941-1944.

The Association maintains a central archive and a memorial hall at the Regional Council Hof Hasharon (about ten kilometers north of Tel Aviv). Thousands of documents of historical importance have been collected and can be studied there.

Since the late 1960s, when many Jews from Latvia were able to leave the USSR and come to Israel, the activities of our organization have gained added impetus. The Association is active in helping its members who are victims of the Holocaust, or their heirs, in their claims to return their property in Latvia, as well as for compensation from Germany and other countries. In this connection, the Association is an active member of the Center of Holocaust Survivors Organizations and is thus in close contact with the Claims Conference.

In the last decade, we have developed good relations and working cooperation with the Council of Jewish Communities of Latvia. Members of the Association take part in the World Reunions of Latvian Jewry. The most recent one took place in Riga in June 2004. We have also established good working relations with the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in Israel.

The Council of our association is elected every two years at a general meeting. The Council elects the President and the Board of 15 members, which elects the Chairman and other officers of the Association. In June 2006, Ambassador Elie Valk was elected the Chairman of the Association.

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