

*The 21st Annual JRI Days of Jasenovac International
Scientific Conference 2023*

Voices of Jasenovac: Common and Conflicting Narratives

22 – 23 April 2023

Hotel M, Bulevar Oslobođenja 56a, Belgrade, Serbia

Livestreamed



Sponsored by the Jasenovac Research Institute, a non-governmental organization est. in the USA in 1998. A non-profit organization dedicated to educating the world about the fascist genocides against Serbs, Romas and Jews in the Balkans.

www.jasenovac.org

Saturday, 22 April 2023 – Day 1 of the Conference

10:00 Opening Addresses of the Conference

Welcoming and Opening remarks by Prof. Barry Lituchy, JRI Executive Director & Conference President.

The audience is asked to stand as we observe A MINUTE OF SILENCE for all of the victims of the Nazi-Ustashe triple genocide against Romas, Serbs, and Jews and against all anti-fascists and political opponents, on this the 78th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust in fascist-occupied Yugoslavia.

10:20 Panel #1: Opening addresses to the conference on the dangers of historical revisionism.

Dr Vasilije Krestić, “The Historical Roots of Croatia’s Genocidal Policies During World War II.”

Dr. Dušan Bastašić, “Jadovno, the Forerunner of Jasenovac.”

Col. Antun Miletić, “About the Number of People Killed in Jasenovac.”

Dr. Rory Yeomans (U.K.), “The Production of a Better Past: Between Memory Culture and Revisionism in Contemporary Croatia.”

Moderated by Barry Lituchy. (Questions and answer discussion will follow later in the day.)

10:50 Panel #2 Voices of Jasenovac – Testimonies of Child Survivors on the use of Ustashe and Nazi Terror against

Moderated by Tamara Stojanović.

Speakers:

Mr. Gojko Rončević, Child Survivor of Jastrebarsko.

Mr. Pajo Vukmir, Child Survivor of Jastrebarsko and Jasenovac.

Mrs. Marija Barać, Child Survivor of Jastrebarsko and Jasenovac.

Mr. Dušan Jerinić, Author, and Child Survivor of Jasenovac.

Mr. Aleksandar Nećak, Child Survivor in Belgrade.

Mr. Mile Bosnić, “On the collection of Survivor Testimonies.”

11:50 Panel #3 Voices of Jasenovac - Jewish Victims, Survivors, and Anti-Fascists of the Shoah in Yugoslavia.

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Gideon Greif (Israel).

Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Gideon Greif, Shem Olam Faith & the Holocaust Institute for Education, Documentation and Research (Israel), “The Holocaust of Yugoslav Jews: The Final Solution Prior to the Final Solution.”

Nenad Fogel, President of the Zemun Jewish Community, “Agree to Disagree.”

Aleksandar Nećak, Vice-President of the Zemun Jewish Community, “Jasenovac – The View from Belgrade in 2023.”

Questions and Answers, Discussion: Until 2 PM.

13:30 Conference Break for Lunch (1 hour)

14:30 Panel #4 Voices of Jasenovac – Roma Historians Explain the Samudaripen/Porajmos: the Genocide against Romas, in Fascist Occupied Yugoslavia.

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Gideon Greif.

Speaker:

Dr. Dragoljub Acković (Serbia), “The Samudaripen of Roma Children in the NDH.”

15:45 Panel #5 Voices of Jasenovac – The Forgotten Victims

Moderated by Dr. Dragoljub Acković

Dr. Jasmina Janković, Artist, Belgrade, “Memory of Rikard Švarc, the composer killed in Jasenovac.

Dr. Rory Yeomans, “The Fate of Croatian Families of Serbian and Jewish Deportees. Preliminary Evidence from the Archives.”

Tamara Stojanović, “Jasenovac in the Documents of the Yugoslav State Commission for Determining the Crimes of the Occupiers and their Collaborators, 1943-1947.”

17:00 Questions and Answers Period for all of the Panels and Presenters.
Moderated by Prof. Barry Lituchy, Prof. Dr. Gideon Greif and Dr. Acković.

Sunday, 23 April 2023 – Day 2 of the Conference

10:00 Panel #6 Stepinac, the Catholic Church, and the Revisionist Narrative

Moderated by Dr. Aleksandar Stojanović.

Speakers:

Dr. Aleksandar Stojanović, “The Croatian and Catholic State: The Ustashe Regime and Religious Communities in the NDH.”

Jovan Pejin, “On the attempt to rehabilitate Stepinac.”

Goran Šarić (Croatia), “Dr. Alojzije Stepinac and Genocide in the Independent State of Croatia.”

11:30 Panel #7 Combatting Revisionist Narratives as part of the Anti-fascist Struggle.

Moderated by John Bosnitch.

Speakers:

Dr. Elena Guskova (Russia), “Why Jasenovac Must Never Happen Again.”

Prof. Dr. Nissan Sharify, Ono Academic College (Israel), “Participation of the Jews of Yugoslavia in the Anti-Fascist Struggle.”

Prof. Dr. Norman Markowitz, Rutgers University (USA), “On Revisionist Narratives of Fascism and Genocide.”

Dr. Ulrich Schneider (Germany), Secretary General, International Federation of Antifascist Resistance (FIR), “The FIR and the fight against historical revisionism – Stop the Revisionist Declarations in the European Parliament, the Rehabilitation of Fascist Collaborators, and the Desecration of Memorial Places.”

13:00 Panel #8 The Role of Commemorating the Holocaust in former Yugoslavia: Past, Present & Future.

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Gideon Greif.

Speakers:

Dr. Davor Stipić, “Commemorating the Holocaust in Former Yugoslavia”

Avi Mizrahi & Katharine Korsuch, Foundation for Holocaust Education Projects, Miami, Florida, “Who Will Tell My Story? Searching for Memory, Dialogue, and Restoration.”

Prof. Barry Lituchy, “On the role of Commemoration as Holocaust Education in JRI and at the Holocaust Memorial Park in New York City.”

Questions and Answers, Discussion: Until 2 PM.

14:00 Break for Lunch

15:00

Draft of the Resolution of the April 2023 International Conference on Genocide in the fascist Independent State of Croatia During World War II: Voices of Jasenovac - Common and Conflicting Narratives

We, the Participants, of this historic and first International Conference ever to be held in Serbia on the subject of the crimes of genocide in the Independent State of Croatia, independently organized by the Jasenovac Research Institute, do affirm and recognize the following basic principles;

We affirm the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations on 10 December 1948, which proclaims that all human beings are entitled to the same equal and inalienable rights and freedoms, and that these are the foundation for justice and peace in the world, and that the disregard of these rights and freedoms resulted in the barbarous crimes of genocide committed during the Holocaust;

And we reaffirm and remind the world that the greatest crimes of genocide ever committed in the history of the Balkans took place in the Nazi puppet state known as the "Independent State of Croatia" under the rule of the Croatian fascist party known as the Ustashe against the entire population of Serbs, Jews, and Romas in that territory;

And recognizing the enormity of the crimes perpetrated by the Croatian Ustashe regime throughout the territories it ruled, and particularly in the infamous death camp known as Jasenovac, which in the history of the Holocaust deserves to be compared to the extermination camps in Poland;

And recognizing, and deeply concerned, with the failure of some in the international community to adequately recognize these crimes, and also recognizing that there are some who wish to entirely erase these crimes of genocide from the historical record, we are initiating and affirming the following six points:

Point # 1: This conference resolves that April 22nd shall be designated and recognized henceforth as International Day of Jasenovac Commemoration throughout the world.

Point # 2: This conference resolves that Reparations must be paid to all groups of Victims of the Holocaust in wartime Yugoslavia, including those groups victimized by the Independent State of Croatia.

Point # 3: This conference resolves that the wartime Croatian Archbishop, Alojzije Stepinac, should not be rehabilitated, and that the collaboration of the Catholic clergy in the Holocaust should be carefully analyzed as a whole.

Point # 4: This conference resolves that all apologists and promoters of Ustashe ideology, or any other form of fascism, should be aggressively exposed and repudiated.

Point # 5: This conference calls upon the United Nations, all Holocaust organizations, all Jewish organizations, all human rights organizations, as well as all governments, to oppose and to condemn the renaming of streets and other public places for the glorification of the Ustashe movement, and to forbid the use of Ustashe symbols and greetings, as well as all other fascist greetings, especially in places marking the genocide of Jews, Romas, and Serbs.

Point # 6: This conference deplores the instrumentalization, relativization, and above all, the minimization of the number of genocide victims at Jasenovac and in the Independent State of Croatia. We advocate the best practices in historical research and reject the rush to judgement on numbers by individuals or organizations that focus on it. We also deplore the use of this issue as a diversionary tactic in political discussions that attempt to deny or diminish the crimes of genocide by the Ustashe regime.

16:30

Voting on the Resolutions – Chaired by Committee.

17:00

Closing of the Conference. Dinner.