Who was the man in the leather coat?
The mysterious man in the leather coat

collaborating with Wallenberg and
Zionist Conspiracy?

The victims of the Wallenberg secret trial in 1953, one of the best kept secrets after Stalins death.
Who killed Wallenberg? ... story of false accusation

Tamas Szabo

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Preface

Three topics that come clearly into focus

- World War II, 1945, the last days of the Battle of Budapest,
- Secret trial 1953, one of the best kept secrets after Stalins death
- The Internet Generation 2006, fundamental new historical research

An inspiring true story, nonfiction mosaic of documents that combines many facts - together, they form one of history’s most fascinating and at the same time, gruesome eras. Research material for a documentary.

The last days of Battle of Budapest 1945

Black leather trench coat, was a means of inspiring fear and respect, and the subsequent Hollywood image of the black-clad, trench-coated Gestapo officer has entered popular culture.

At the end of the Battle of Budapest, 1944 the darkest period of the anti-Jewish terror commenced. Jews were dragged away to near the Danube banks by an Arrow Cross party execution brigade. A man in black leather trench coat, his determined manner and personal courage saved the life of hundreds of persecuted Jews. A holland newspaper frontpage in 1947 tells the story from "the man in the leather coat". A Holocaust memorial "The Shoes on the Danube Promenade" created 2006 by Gyula Pauer and Can Togay on the bank of the Danube River in Budapest.

The internet development gave us about 2006 some new ideas, an opportunity to build a new kind of international understanding, citizen to citizen, person to person. The informations in this book found its first expression in hundreds of e-mails, many interviews, newspapers, letters and books, but also original documents in Soviet Archives which first opened after 1990.

TIME magazine selected 2006 Person of the Year: "You", the masses of users who were participating in content creation on social networks, blogs, wikis, and media sharing sites. The tool that makes this possible is WEB 2.0. It's a story about community and collaboration on a scale never seen before. The Internet Generation 2006, fundamental new historical research.
The paranoid fear of Zionist conspiracies, 1953 secret trial

In Eastern Europe the communist dreams began to replace harsh reality. This book documents just one of the horrors of the Soviet regime important and permanent testimony of the criminality of the USSR that had been lied about and hidden for too long. Using newly opened archives, after 1990 partial opening of the secret police archives in Russia. The Stalinist Purges in Eastern Europe, 1948-1954 are some missing points in the history of Eastern Europe's Stalinization

Stalin decided to use the Jews and the fear of paranoid Zionist conspiracies as the Nazis had done. This book tells of the way this evil regime turned on five people whose crime was, who were unlucky enough to have been collaborated in 1944 - 1945 with the swedish diplomat Wallenberg,

In 1952, near the end of Stalin's life, Soviet Jews including five well-known writers and poets were secretly tried and convicted, wrongly, of treason and espionage, because they had protested Nazi atrocities on Soviet territory and been involved in the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. An important addition to our understanding of these events and times, the Show Trials is essential for historians of Eastern Europe.

Who killed Wallenberg? ... story of false accusation, one of the best kept secrets after Stalins death.

Request o the reader:

You can help to extend this research material for a documentary with following internet research. See the past network of helpers in the next chapter „Acknowledgments“. This is a fundamental new historical research, you can collaborate with the Internet Generation..

Please write to: dbforum@online.de
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Dr. Eva Löw and her sister Dr. Anna Klaber in Basel, witness

Maria Ember, journalist and researcher in Budapest, interviews in newsletter and her book 1990, 1992

Gabor Forgacs, Budapest, witness, archives, list of persons in Wallenbergs central office

Dr. George Kende, journalist in Jerusalem, witness in newspapers in Jerusalem, letters to Yad Vashem

Professor  Szabolcs Szita director Holocaust Museum in Budapest, letters and interviews in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem

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Wallenberg Family Archives, Marie Dupuy (Marie von Dardel) niece of Raoul Wallenberg, documnets from the years 1940 - 1948 and internet sources

Professor Tibor Vamos, former director from „The Computer and Automation Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences”, my employer in the years 2004 – 2006. Tibor Vamos is the founder of the Holocaust Museum in Budapest, thanks for contacts
Historic document 1947, witnesses 60 years later

Frontpage in a holland newspaper October 11. 1947
"The man in the leather coat rescuer of jews in Budapest"

Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi psychiatrist in Ottawa write in 2006 about the night of January 8, 1945 in his Book "Chronicle of a Life"
"in our group, I saw Lajos Stoeckler" and "The police holding their guns at the Arrowcross cutthroats. One of the high-ranking police officers was Paul Szalai, with whom Raoul Wallenberg used to deal. Another police officer in his leather coat was Karoly Szabo."
Raoul Wallenberg

There are many books, films, operas — perhaps too many about Wallenberg. In the following chapters are new, secret, background informations. On this page only a short summary, repetition to Raoul Wallenberg.

Raoul Wallenberg (August 4, 1912 – July 17, 1947?) was a Swedish humanitarian who worked in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II to rescue Jews from the Holocaust. Between July and December 1944, he issued protective passports and housed Jews in buildings established as Swedish territory, saving tens of thousands of lives.

On January 17, 1945,[6] he was called into detention by the Soviets after they entered Budapest, and was reported to have died on July 7, 1947 while in their care. The circumstances of his death have long been in question, with some disputing whether he died while in Soviet detention.

In 1981, Congressman Tom Lantos, among those saved by Wallenberg, sponsored a bill making Wallenberg an Honorary Citizen of the United States. He is also an honorary citizen of Canada, Hungary, and Israel. Israel has also designated Wallenberg one of the Righteous among the Nations. Monuments have been dedicated to him, and streets have been named after him throughout the world. A Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States was created in 1981 to "perpetuate the humanitarian ideals and the nonviolent courage of Raoul Wallenberg". It gives the Raoul Wallenberg Award annually to recognize persons who carry out those goals. A postage stamp was issued by the U.S. in his honor in 1997.

More information in:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raoul_Wallenberg
Wallenberg: More Twists to the Tale

One of the best kept secrets after Stalins death

The State Protection Authority (Hungarian: Államvédelmi Hatóság or ÁVH) was the secret police force of Hungary from 1945 until 1956. ÁVH worked out a detailed account to back the Soviet claim that Wallenberg had never been in the Soviet Union and that those who sought him should seek him elsewhere. They maintained that nobody had dragged off Wallenberg in 1945, least of all the glorious Soviet Army. Indeed, they could not have done so since Wallenberg - went the author of this fable - had been shot and killed in the basement of the American mission (where else?) by two members of the 1944 Budapest Judenrat, Lajos Stöckler and Miksa Domonkos, in the presence of (who else?) an official of the Arrow Cross (Hungarian Nazi) Party. This was the basis of the ÁVH horror story which Mária Ember came upon.

Maria Embers research and her book also shows how well the skills of a journalist and a historian can be combined. It was almost inevitable that Mária Ember, who had sublimated her experience of the holocaust and turned it into literature, should become interested in the fate of Wallenberg, continuously
asking questions about him while interviewing people. Mostly she knew more than those she interviewed. When, however, she published an interview with the daughter of Miksa Domonkos, someone read it in Los Angeles, promptly took a plane to Budapest, and rang Mária Ember on arrival.

The name of this key witness was Pál Szalai, who died within two years of talking to Mária Ember, without ever again setting foot on Hungarian soil.

In 1937 Pál Szalai had been found guilty of ultra-right-wing political crimes by a Royal Hungarian court. In 1944, as the police liaison officer of the Arrow Cross Party, this same man did much to help Jews, collaborating with Wallenberg, protecting the Ghetto; so much so that, in spite of the post he had held, he was found not guilty of war crimes by a People's Court in 1945. In 1952 he had been selected as one of the accused in the aborted Zionist trial, with the role of one of Wallenberg's murderers.

After his arrest in 1952, a confession was obtained from him and his fellow accused by torture. Everything was ready for a trial designed to prove that Wallenberg, far from having been dragged off to the Gulag, had been the victim of a conspiracy between Hungarian fascists and cosmopolitan Zionists. One can only guess why a trial prepared in all its details never took place.

Gábor Murányi is on the staff of Heti Világgazdaság, an economic weekly.
The mysterious man in the leather coat

Károly Szabó (November 17, 1916 – October 28, 1964) was an employee of the Swedish Embassy in Budapest from 1944 to 1945. He was a supporter of Raoul Wallenberg and had a significant role in making contact with the representatives of the Hungarian police and other state officials[1]. He was arrested without legal proceedings 1953 in Budapest in a Raoul Wallenberg secret trial.

Friendship with Pál Szalai 1929

In the Hungarian Boy Scouts in 1929 he (13 years old) became friends with Pál Szalai. This friendship continued in the critical months of 1944–1945 while Pál Szalai, high ranking member of the police force supported Raoul Wallenberg.

1944 – 1945

Wallenbergs desk. Between 1944 and 1945 Károly Szabó was one of the typewriter mechanics of the Swedish Embassy.
Dr. Ottó Fleischmann, a Doctor of Medicine and psychologist, employee of the Swedish Embassy, motivated Károly Szabó to play an active role in the rescue actions of Raoul Wallenberg. Pál Szalai supported his friend with important personal documents, signed by the German command in the Battle of Budapest.

Károly Szabó's intuitive purchase decision for a leather coat was another key factor. Black leather trench coat, was a means of inspiring fear and respect, and the subsequent Hollywood image of the black-clad, trench-coated Gestapo officer has entered popular culture. In Budapest's Jewish community he was known as "the mysterious man in the leather coat".[2]

Károly Szabó attracted exceptional attention on December 24, 1944 as Hungarian Arrow Cross Party members occupied the Embassy building on Gyopár street. He rescued 36 kidnapped employees[3] from the Budapest ghetto. This action attracted Raoul Wallenberg's interest. He agreed to meet Szabó's influential friend, Pál Szalai, a high ranking member of the police force. The meeting was in the night of December 26. This meeting was preparation to save the Budapest ghetto in January 1945. Pál Szalai honored as Righteous among the Nations 04.7.2009 [4] [5] [6].

The last meeting between Wallenberg and Szalai, together with Dr. Ottó Fleischmann and Károly Szabó, was on the evening of January 12, 1945 at the Gyopár street Swedish Embassy at Wallenberg's "last supper" invitation.[7] The next day, on January 13 Wallenberg contacted the Russians to secure food and supplies for the people under his protection. He was detained by the Soviet forces Red Army on January 17, 1945.

Prevented crime in January 1945

During World War II Lars Ernster and Jacob Steiner lived in the office of the
Swedish Embassy extendend in Budapest to Üllői Street 2-4.

In the night of January 8, 1945 all inhabitants were dragged away to near the Danube banks by an Arrow Cross party execution brigade of the city commander. At midnight, 20 policemen with drawn bayonets broke into the Arrow Cross (Nyilas) house and rescued everyone.[8] Ernster and Steiner were among the rescued. Ernster fled to Sweden, where later he was member of the Board of Nobel Foundation (1977–88), and Steiner fled to Israel, where he is now a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Information from Jacob Steiner after he has read this page: On December 25, 1944, Jacob Steiner's father was shot dead by Arrow Cross militiamen, falling into the Danube as a result. His father had been an officer in World War I and spent 4 years as a prisoner of war in Russia.[9]

Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi psychiatrist in Ottawa write about the night of January 8, 1945 in his "Chronicle of a Life" in 2006 "in our group, I saw Lajos Stoeckler" and "The police holding their guns at the Arrowcross cutthroats. One of the high-ranking police officers was Paul Szalai, with whom Raoul Wallenberg used to deal. Another police officer in his leather coat was Karoly Szabo."[10]

1947–1964

• At the invitation from the Wallenberg family[11] Károly Szabó visited Stockholm in summer 1947. He was one of the last three persons who had seen Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest.

• In the autumn of 1947 he visited the rescued family Jakobovics in Amsterdam. His visit made headlines in Dutch newspapers nl:Het Vrije Volk.

• In the summer of 1963 and 1964 he visited at invitation the rescued Kalber and Löw in Basel and Jakobovics in London.
Show trial preparations 1953 in Hungary

The idea that the "murderers of Wallenberg" were Budapest Zionists was primarily supported by Hungarian Communist leader Ernő Gerő, which is shown by a note sent by him to First Secretary Mátyás Rákosi.[12]

In 1953 preparations for a show trial started in Budapest to prove that Wallenberg had never been in the Soviet Union, nobody had dragged off Wallenberg in 1945, least of all the Soviet Army. Three leaders of the Jewish community of Budapest – Dr. László Benedek, Lajos Stöckler, Miksa Domonkos, and two additional eyewitnesses – Pál Szalai and Károly Szabó – were arrested, accused and tortured. Everything was ready for a trial designed to prove that Wallenberg had been the victim of cosmopolitan Zionists.

On April 8, 1953 Károly Szabó was captured on the street, arrested without legal proceedings, and sent to prison. His family did not hear from him for six months. A secret trial was held and no official record of the case or the judge's verdict was made available. After six months of interrogation, the defendants were driven to despair and exhaustion.

The show trial was initiated in Moscow, following Stalin's anti-Zionist campaign. After Stalin's death and Lavrentiy Beria's execution, the preparations for the trial ended and the arrested persons were released. Miksa Domonkos died shortly after the tortures in hospital (Book: Mária Ember, "They Wanted to Blame Us", 1992 [13]).

Timeline

- 1916 Born on November 17, 1916 in Budapest.
- 1932–1940 Works for the Remington US typewriter company in Budapest
- 1940–1945 Works for Brunsviga German calculators company in Budapest (Gelpke, Nádor tér) and mechanican for bureau equipment on the Swedish Embassy Budapest 1944–1945
- 1945–1949 owner of the "Universal" bureau equipment company with Plachy and Wagner representatives for Brunsviga (German), Precisa (Swiss), Odhner (Swedish) calculating machines in Hungary.[14]
- 1950 His business was "nationalized" (expropriated without compensation)
- 1953 Arrested and secret show trial preparations
- 1955–1964 Independent technician for office equipment
- 1963-1964 In the summer of 1963 and 1964 he visited at invitation the rescued Klaber and Löw in Basel and Jakobovics in London.
• 1964 Death by stroke October 28, 1964 in Budapest.

**Posthumous honors**

On August 4, 2010, the birthday of Raoul Wallenberg the International Mensch Foundation, the Carl Lutz Foundation, the Budapest Holocaust Memorial Institute and the 1944-2004 Foundation issued a Karoly Szabo memorial certificate.

After introduction by Prof. Dr. Szabolcs Szita speech Alice Bin-Noun Israel Ambassador, Dr. John Hóvári Ambassador Deputy Secretary of State, Prof. Dr. Schweitzer Joseph retired National Rabbi [15].

**References**

[2] "The mysterious man in the leather coat". Faklya, Budapest, December 29, 1946 (Hungarian)
[9] Letter from Jacob Steiner February 12, 2007 to Tamas Szabo
[14] see also: Plachy and Szabo about 1940
Books, newspaper


- A Man for All Connections, The Wallenberg-Szalai connection, Andrew Handler, Praeger/Greenwood, 30 January 1996; ISBN 0275952142 Handler focuses on explaining the Hungarian political context which made rescue possible. Less well known is the fact that Wallenberg's mission was supported by various representatives of the Hungarian state apparatus

- József Szekeres: Saving the Ghettos of Budapest in January 1945, Pál Szalai "the Hungarian Schindler" ISBN 9637323147X, Budapest 1997, Publisher: Budapest Archives

- The mystery man with the leather coat. Faklya - Budapest, December 29, 1946 - February 9, 1947, interviews with Károly Szabó (Hungarian)

External links

- Szabó Károly 8/4/2010 in Magyar Televízió (or Hungarian Television) is a Hungarian national public service television company. Videó (http:// / videotar.mtv.hu/ Videok/ 2010/ 08/ 04/ 13/Wallenbergnek_segment_zsidokat_menteni_Szabo_Karoly. Aspx)

- Documents to January 8. 1945. (English) (http:// / www. spacetime-sensor. de/ wallenberg. htm)
- Károly Szabó 5
- Wallenberg: More Twists to the Tale, Mária Ember, They Wanted to Blame Us (http:// / www. hungarianquarterly. com/ no143/ p129. html)
- Interview with István Domonkos, son of Miksa Domonkos who died after the show trial preparations (Hungarian)
Wallenberg Seminar in Budapest, March 1-2nd 2007 (http://www.raoul-wallenberg.asso.fr/wallenberg_arch/arch2000/070301rwsembuda.html) "We have to emphasize the deeds of Károly Szabó, Pál Szalai, Dr István Parádi, who were risking their life everyday" Gábor Forgács. The exhibition was opened by Dr. Gabor Demszky, Mayor of Budapest with a message of the President of the Republic of Hungary László Sólyom.

Article Sources and Contributors


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The story of a big conspiracy, Who killed Wallenberg?

By Tibor Farkas, 2006 Melbourne

“They Wanted to Blame Us…” DRAFT

For over forty years the following story remained one of the best kept secrets of the “ÁVH” (“Államvédelmi Hatóság” – State Security Authorities), the secret police of Hungary.

By the early 1950s, the international community intensified its campaign to discover the truth about the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. The pressure became so intense that the Russians felt compelled to do something about it. In a desperate effort to exculpate the Soviet leadership of any responsibility, a diabolical plan was conceived; it had been decided that “evidence” must be produced to prove that after 17 January 1945, when Wallenberg was last seen alive, he could not have been arrested by the Russian Army, because before being driven to Debrecen where he was planning to meet Marshall Malinovksy he was murdered in Budapest.

The ÁVH, the Hungarian secret police were given the cruel task to prepare a show-trial* to prove the assassination. Their plan was to serve a double purpose;

1/ exculpate the Soviets of any responsibility for the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg;

2/ follow in the footsteps of Stalin’s resurgent anti-Semitic policies; the current accusations against the “zionist doctors” in Leningrad, and the show-trials of Jewish members of communist party leaderships in the Eastern European satellite states, (Rudolph Slansky, Anna Pauker, etc.)

*The term show trial describes a type of public trial in which the judicial authorities have already determined the guilt of the defendant: the actual trial has as its only goal to present the accusation and the verdict to the public as an impressive example and as a warning. Most of the time it involves a ‘sin’ and a ‘planting of evidence’ Judges, prosecutors, defence attorneys and the victims themselves collaborate like trained seals. Lack of concrete evidence does not disturb the court. “Proof” boils down to the bare production of “confessions.”

The Russians and their over-zealous Hungarian counterparts conceived an absurd, and ridiculous plan lacking any common sense;
Who killed Wallenberg? Leaders of the Hungarian Jewish community;
Why? Because he didn’t do enough to save more Hungarian Jews;
Where? In the basement of the American embassy;

Having determined the objectives of the planned action and designated the individuals who were to become the principal defendants of the trial, the merciless mechanisms of the evil secret police started rolling……..

Towards the end of 1952 Pál Szalai, the wartime “Arrow Cross” functionary, who in January 1945 played an important role in saving the inhabitants of the ghetto, (see my article in the April issue of “Centre News”) was returning home from work, when in front of his house, four civilian ÁVH agents surged from a car and kidnapped him. Brutally blindfolded, he was taken to a secret location where his interrogation started the same evening. A Russian “adviser”, assisted by an interpreter started the questioning. The first rounds of the interrogation concentrated on Szalai’s alleged activities as a CIA agent. He vehemently denied any CIA connection. At the next stage the Russian adviser was ready to drop the spying charges if Szalai would be ready to tell everything that he knew about Wallenberg.

“...I was even happy that only this was what they were interested in and declared that I was willing to give evidence about Wallenberg. - I knew that I can say only nice things about him...” (Ember Mária: “Ránk akarták kenni”)

The questioning had hardly started when it became clear that the interrogators were not interested in Szalai’s real knowledge or feelings about Raoul Wallenberg. What they wanted was a “confession” that on 17 January 1945 he was present at the basement of the American Embassy where Lajos Stöckler, President of the Jewish Community of Budapest and his deputy Miksa Domonkos murdered Wallenberg. For several weeks Hungarian interrogators and their Russian “advisors” subjected him to the most brutal physical torture and psychological pressure to obtain his confessions. Injections and “mind weakening” medication were also used to break his resistance. Eventually the physically and mentally broken man was ready to sign anything. They promised to spare his life if he signed a hand-written statement admitting having seen Stöckler and Domonkos with smoking revolvers in their hands next to the dead body of Wallenberg. He was also told that he will have to confirm his “confession” at a forthcoming public trial. Szalai eventually signed the records of evidence and during the same evening, as
soon as he was returned to his prison cell he attempted suicide.

The Zionist link

On 13 January 1953 “Pravda”, the official newspaper of the Soviet communist party, announced the arrest of a group of “saboteurs-doctors” accused of being paid agents of Jewish-Zionists organizations”; that “nine of the Kremlin’s most prestigious doctors several years earlier, in 1949, had murdered two of Stalin’s closest aides. Moreover, those practitioners were accused of taking part in a “vast plot conducted by Western imperialists and Zionists to kill the top Soviet political and military leadership ...”

Two days later, on 15 January 1953 the leading article of “Szabad Nép”, the official newspaper of the Hungarian communist party commended the “Pravda” article and stated that “…every conclusion of the “Pravda” is very much valid for us to… the Peoples-Democratic Countries – including ours, have to draw lessons from the case of the group of terrorist doctors... We have to turn our attention to the role of the JOINT, the Zionists and the Jewish bourgeois-nationalists play in the plans of the imperialists…”

Lajos Stöckler, President of the Jewish Community

For anybody who read it, this foreshadowed dramatic local consequences.

On the very same day in the evening the ÁVH arrested Dr. Lászlo Benedek, a well known Jewish gynecologist, Director and head physician of the former Jewish hospital, and the following day Lajos Stöckler, President of the Jewish Community.

Dr. Benedek first had been accused “only” as an American spy who conspired with Bertrand Jacobbsen, Director of the JOINT (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee), who was expelled from Hungary back in 1949. In support of this accusation the interrogators produced a planted written evidence, “found” in a chiffonier during the search of his home.

For having vigorously denied the charges, for weeks Benedek suffered severe beatings and other forms of torture. His tormentors had a predilection for truncheoning his hands saying that with those hands he will never operate again. From early February until end of July Benedek was permanently handcuffed and after the first accusations new charges were added;
• having been a member of the “Zionist gang” of lieutenant-general Gábor PÉTER, the dreaded head of the AVH. (General Péter headed the ÁVH from 1945 and orchestrated all the previous political trials. He was arrested upon a personal request from Stalin himself and accused of spying and being the head of a Zionist conspiracy)

• having, together with other Jewish leaders, collaborated with the Gestapo and the SS during the war;

• having participated, or at least been present on 17 January 1945 at the basement of the American Embassy when Stöckler and Domonkos killed Raoul Wallenberg;

According to the first version of the “script” they murdered Wallenberg because he did not do enough to save the Jewish population of Budapest. However this ridiculous accusation was soon abandoned to make the charges even more repulsive. It had been decided to present the case as a “murder-robbery” by describing Wallenberg’s attaché-case that contained millions in Hungarian pengös, dollars and Swiss-francs as the principal motive of the murder. (On page 217 of Jenő Lévai’s “Wallenberg” book published in 1948 there is a detailed description of the famous briefcase. That must have been the source from where the “well read” script writers of the AVH drew the idea)

The death of Stalin

During the last years of Stalin’s life the Soviet media was full of stories about a supposed “fifth column” in the USSR, with constant references to Jews arrested, dismissed from their jobs, or executed for treason. On 5 March 1953, Stalin died and only about a month later on 4 April 1953, the Pravda carried a statement of the government signed by Beria, Stalin's infamous head of the secret police, exonerating nine Soviet doctors (seven of them Jews) who previously had been accused of "wrecking, espionage and terrorist activities against the active leaders of the Soviet Government." The Soviet readers were flabbergasted to learn that just four weeks after the dictator’s death the new leadership now admitted that those charges had been entirely fabricated. Seven of the doctors were immediately released; two had already died in custody.

In Hungary, members of the Jewish community and particularly the families of the arrested leaders and other personalities suddenly were filled with hope expecting that similar action would follow soon and all the innocent detainees would be set free. Unfortunately these hopes quickly evaporated. On 7 April 1953 (one month after Stalin’s death !) the ÁVH arrested Miksa Domonkos, the retired secretary general of the Jewish Community who became one of the chief
defendants of the trials in preparation.

On the following day, 8 April 1953 Károly Szabo, a gentile bureau-machine mechanic and former close Wallenberg collaborator who actively participated in saving hundreds of Jews was also arrested. (During winter 1944-45 on behalf of Wallenberg, Szabo was in daily contact with Stöckler and Domonkos, the leaders of the Central Ghetto of Budapest. He was the man who established contacts between Pál Szalai and Wallenberg. Szabo was to become the second chief-witness of the prosecution at the Wallenberg murder trial. For several months all the said defendants were subjected to the most brutal physical and psychological torture and kept handcuffed day and night until they were ready to confess anything.

After about six month of nightmare the conditions of some of the detainees suddenly started to ameliorate. They received straw mattresses, pillows and food “almost a-la-carte” (Szalai). It was common practice of the secret police to feed up the defendants for their forthcoming trial.

Eventually the carefully planned “Wallenberg murder trial” never took place and of the top secret records of the preparations and “evidence” obtained by torture had been systematically destroyed. The two tormented, designated “prosecution-witnesses” were discharged after having sworn total silence about their ordeal. Szabo was liberated on 6 October 1953, Szalai on 26 February ’54, but most of the Jewish leaders continued to be detained, new accusations of having been participants of a Zionist conspiracy.

During the night of 13 November 1953 two plain-clothes secret agents of the AVH deposited the body of a moribund man at the casualty department of the “István Hospital” of Budapest. As they refused to identify the man, the doctor on duty refused to accept the patient. After numerous telephone conversations with their superiors the ÁVH men eventually divulged the name of the victim; Miksa Domonkos, the former secretary general of the Jewish Community of Budapest.

“We did hardly recognize him. He was completely grown down….He was a shadow of former himself.…..A very old man. His skin was completely yellow…. He couldn’t weigh more than 40-45 kilos…. His normal weight was about 100 kilos… Exsanguinated…. – as he later explained, prison doctors took blood from him every time he was taken to interrogation, that’s how they wanted to weaken him physically and mentally. - His blood-count at hospital admission was 820.000 red-blood cells… this is a near-death state. An average healthy man has about 4-5 million red-blood cells.”

(Testimony of Anna and István Domonkos – daughter and son of Miksa Domonkos quoted in Mária Ember’s book)
It took more than two months before Miksa Domonkos could be released from hospital. By that time his red blood cell count reached 3,940,000. He was able to walk without help, but remained very weak and died on 26 February 1954 without revealing to his family any details of his ordeal.

Dr Benedek and Lajos Stöckler were still kept in custody and forced to stand trial for: having participated in a Zionist conspiracy, spying activities of the JOINT, corruption, and “activities against the state and the people”.

In March 1954 the two presidents of the “Council of Hungarian Rabbis” requested an audience from Imre NAGY, Prime minister of Hungary to obtain clemency for Stöckler. In a long letter co-signed by the 49 Rabbis of Hungary they enumerated the undying merits of Stöckler as leader of the Jewish community. On 16 May the same request was renewed, but both letters remained unanswered.

(Copies of the letters obtained by courtesy of György Stöckler)

Eventually the charges against Benedek and Stöckler were changed to corruption and concealment of foreign currencies and both were liberated during the summer of 1955 and later were allowed to emigrate.

Today, more than 50 years after the events the formerly top secret archives are open for historians, but they contain very few documents related to the aborted “Wallenberg murder” project and the “Zionist conspiracy” trial. Below is a quote from a recently discovered top-secret memorandum from the archives of the Ministry of the Interior addressed to the political department of the “Supreme Prosecution” dated 11 October 1972:

“...I hereby advise you, that the documents resulting from the initial proceedings of the criminal case against Dr László Benedek had been destroyed on 14 December 1963 - as they contained “conceptions”. (From Maria Ember’s: “Ránk akarták kenni...”)

For 35 years the plans and proceedings of the preparations for the aborted “Wallenberg murder” trial and the trial of the “Zionist conspiracy” remained obscured. All those who survived the tortures in the gaols of the ÁVH remained terrified by death threats for breaking their silence. They didn’t dare to tell anything even to their family.

After the 1956 Hungarian revolution Szalai escaped to America and changed his name to Paul Sterling. Stöckler and Benedek were allowed to emigrate, the
former to Australia, the latter to Sweden, but even as citizens of the free world they all kept their silence; no interviews, no memoires.

Finaly in 1989, the Russian authorities officially admitted that Raul Wallenberg and his driver Vilmos Langfelder died in a Moscow prison. Until then the fate of Wallenberg and Langfelder was considered taboo for the Hungarian media. An investigative journalist, Mária Ember, writer and Holocaust historian was the first who then started to writing articles on the subject in the Hungarian press. Some of her stories were reprinted in “Menorah”, a Hungarian Jewish paper published in Toronto. The already ailing Pál Szalai who lived in Los Angeles read one of the articles in the “Menorah” and, encouraged by the political changes in Hungary, but still under his new identity as Paul Sterling, decided to return to Budapest and divulge everything he knew. With the assistance of István Domonkos he met Maria Ember and gave her a long interview that resulted in several newspaper articles and her revealing book: “They Wanted to Blame Us...”
Tribute to the two “righteous” gentiles

Károly Szabo and Pál Szalai were born and grew up in a lower middle class neighbourhood of Budapest. They spent their younger years as members of the same troop of boy scouts and were best friends.

26 Mai 1929 - Pal Szalai and Karoly Szabo (here 14 and 13 years old) and 15 years later, in 1944/45 Wallenberg’s supporters

After their close childhood friendship, they stayed in close touch with each other in their adult life too, even though they have taken different directions. Szalai became a bookseller and during the mid-1930s joined the extreme-right movement of Ferenc Szálasi (an early predecessor of the “Arrow Cross Party”), while Szabo, an office machine mechanic started to flirt with the communist’s
ideology. Towards the end of the 30s the extreme-right movement became a menace to the regime of Admiral Horthy’s government and after multiple legal actions Szálasi’s party(s) were banned. In 1938 Szálasi and some of his companions, including Szalai, were convicted and jailed at the infamous “Csillag-börtön” (Star penitentiary) of Szeged. Szalai received an eight months sentence and, ironically he was incarcerated together with the convicted leaders of the Hungarian communist party, including the future Stalinist dictator of Hungary, Mátyás Rákosi.

Very soon, the two intelligent young men became disillusioned with their political choice. In 1942 Szalai resigned from the “Arrow Cross” party and Szabo stopped frequenting the communists.

On 15 October 1944 with strong German backing, Szálasi’s “Arrow Cross party” took power and the darkest period of the anti-Jewish terror commenced. Szálasi, the new “Leader of the Nation” called upon all his former comrades of arms, including Szalai who became chief liaison officer between the “Arrow Cross” party and the Chief of the police. (After the war in his deposition in front of the “People’s Tribunal”, Szalai stated that his only reason to accept Szalasi’s invitation and the appointment was because he thought that through this important position he would be able to help the persecuted.)

Szabo during the early years of the war was twice called up for military service. He returned from Russia as a psychically broken man who had no intention to return to the front. Employed by an office-machine company, he regularly visited the Swedish Embassy to service their typewriters and other machines. During the summer of 1944 he met Wallenberg and participated in his rescue operations. Szalai provided him with documents that allowed him complete freedom of movement. He established the contacts between Szalai and Wallenberg, acted as a liaison between them and was also in daily contact with the leaders of the Jewish community, Lajos Stöckler and Miksa Domonkos. On many occasions the fair-haired Szabo, who wore a leather coat and tyrolian hat like many state security detectives, successfully impersonated them. His determined manner and personal courage saved the life of hundreds of persecuted Jews.

Shortly after the war Hungarian and Dutch newspapers published series of long articles about the merits and courage of Károly Szabo. Wallenberg’s family invited him to Sweden. In the Netherlands he was the guest of surviving Hungarian Jewish families who initiated a local press campaign to praise his deeds.

During the last months of the sanguinary terror and barbarous inhumanity of the Hungarian fascist regime, these two gentiles, Szabo and Szalai chose to stand on
the side of the persecuted, often risking their own lives. For their deeds they have never expected nor received official recognition, citation or decoration.

On the contrary, during the communist regime and dictatorship they both paid dearly for their close collaboration with the leaders of the Jewish community.

Regretfully, these two gentiles, Károly Szabo and Pál Szalai who during the war helped to save thousands of Jewish lives so far are not honoured by Yad Vashem as “Righteous Among the Nations”. (information in 2006)

_The author wishes to thank Tamás Szabo of Germany (son of the late Károly Szabo), István Domonkos from Budapest (son of the late Miksa Domonkos and George Stöckler, (son of Lajos Stöckler) and Forgács Gábor for their most valuable help and for provision of numerous valuable documents._

Tibor Farkas, 2006 Melbourne

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Newspaper articles in Hungarian an Dutch by courtesy of Tamás Szabo Germany and “MENORAH”, (Jewish newspaper of Toronto, Canada.)
Dear Mr. Szabo,

This is to follow up our recent e-mail correspondence about the rescue activities of your late father Károly Szabo, who in collaboration with Raoul Wallenberg helped to save the life of many Jewish people of Budapest during the Holocaust.

I first came across the name of Károly Szabo only recently, while working on an article about the final days of the Budapest Ghetto. It is rather saddening that more than 60 years after the events, the deeds and merits of Károly Szabo are so little known. To rectify this situation I have decided to gather any retraceable information and documents related to your father's rescue activities for safekeeping in our archives.

The Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre was founded 22 years ago and became the most important institution of its kind in Australia and in this hemisphere. So far thousands of individuals, and groups of more than 400,000 high school students visited our Museum, had seen the exhibitions, and got opportunities to meet personally some of our volunteer-guides, survivors of the Holocaust. The young participants of these guided tours of the Centre are not only presented with the facts of the Jewish Holocaust, but they also learn the importance of resisting any forms of contemporary racial discrimination.

Local and international researchers have access to the thousands of documents and personal histories of Holocaust survivors preserved in our archives. I would be most grateful if you were able to provide us with pictures, photocopies of documents and publications about the rescue activities of your late father during the Holocaust. Needless to say, contribution of any material would be duly recognised.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your most valuable foregoing assistance by answering my questions and I am looking forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely Yours,

Tibor Farkas
The Shoes on the Danube Promenade – Holocaust Memorial

The Shoes on the Danube Promenade is a memorial created by Gyula Pauer and Can Togay on the bank of the Danube River in Budapest. It honors the Jews who fell victim to fascist Arrow Cross militiamen in Budapest during World War II, and represents their shoes left behind on the bank when they fell into the river after being shot.

The memorial

It is located on the Pest side of the Danube Promenade at the end of Szechenyi Street, about 300 metres (980 ft) south of the Hungarian Parliament and near the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

MTI – Hungarian News Agency:
"The composition entitled 'Shoes on the Danube Bank' gives remembrance to the people shot into the Danube during the time of the Arrow Cross terror. The sculptor created sixty pairs of period-appropriate shoes out of iron. The shoes are
attached to the stone embankment, and behind them lies a 40 meter long, 70 cm high stone bench. At three points are cast iron signs, with the following text in Hungarian, English, and Hebrew: "To the memory of the victims shot into the Danube by Arrow Cross militiamen in 1944-45.

Erected 16 April 2005." (Source: MTI, Saturday, April 16, 2005.)

"A holocaust memorial will be dedicated on Saturday, the holocaust victim memorial day, in Budapest. Sixty pairs of cast iron shoes, cast in the styles of the 40's, stand in remembrance of the people shot into the Danube during the Arrow Cross terror. The memorial lies on the riverbank between Roosevelt square and Kossuth square." (source: Népszabadság Online, April 15, 2005.)

**January 1945**

During World War II, Raoul Wallenberg and 250 coworkers were working around the clock to save the Jewish population from being sent to Nazi concentration camps; this figure later rose to approximately 400. Lars and Edith Ernster, Jacob Steiner, and many others were housed at the Swedish Embassy in Budapest on Üllöi Street 2-4 and 32 other buildings throughout the city that Wallenberg had rented and then declared as extraterritorial to try to safeguard the residents.

On the night of January 8, 1945, all of the inhabitants of the building on Üllöi Street were rounded up and dragged away to the banks of the Danube by an Arrow Cross execution brigade. At midnight, Karoly Szabo and 20 policemen with drawn bayonets broke into the Arrow Cross house and rescued everyone there (see also front page of 1947 newspaper below).[1] Among those saved were Lars Ernster, who fled to Sweden and became a member of the board of the Nobel Foundation from 1977 to 1988, and Jacob Steiner, who fled to Israel and became a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Steiner's father had been shot dead by Arrow Cross militiamen on December 25, 1944, falling into the Danube. His
father had been an officer in World War I and spent four years as a prisoner of war in Russia. [2]

Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi, psychiatrist in Ottawa, wrote about the night of January 8, 1945 in his Dreams and Tears: Chronicle of a Life in 2006, "in our group, I saw Lajos Stoeckler" and "The police holding their guns at the Arrowcross cutthroats. One of the high-ranking police officers was Pal Szalai, with whom Raoul Wallenberg used to deal. Another police officer in his leather coat was Karoly Szabo."[3]

Pal Szalai was honored as Righteous among the Nations on April 7, 2009. [4] [5] [6]

Media

• Photographs on Gyula Pauers website [10]
• Film — Memorial to the victims [11]

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[2] Letter from Jacob Steiner February 12, 2007 to Tamas Szabo
[7] http://maps.google.de/maps?ie=UTF8&z=17&ll=47.501605,19.047096&spn=0.00482,0.010042&t=h&om=1
[8] http://maps.google.de/maps?ie=UTF8&om=1&z=18&ll=47.502185,19.046173&spn=0.00241,0.005021&t=h

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In the darkest days of 1944, the Swedish protective passport even provided some humor in the midst of despair. Edith Ernester, who lived through that time, recalls: "It seemed so strange - this country of super-aryans, the Swedes, taking us under their wings. Often, when an Orthodox Jew went by, in his hat, beard and sidelocks, we'd say, 'Look, there goes another Swede.' A special department was created in the Swedish embassy in Budapest with Wallenberg as its head. It was staffed primarily with Jewish volunteers. Initially, there were 250 workers; later, he had about 400 people working around the clock. Wallenberg seemed to sleep no more than an hour or two a night, and then it was wherever he happened to be working. He was everywhere."

- Document about January 8, 1945. in Budapest Archives (Hungarian) (http://www.spacetime-sensor.de/wallenberg-h.htm)
- Other documents about January 8, 1945. (English) (http://www.spacetime-sensor.de/wallenberg.htm)
- Photographs of the shoes Szoborlap.hu (http://www.szoborlap.hu/szobor.php?aktualis=194)

**Article Sources and Contributors**


Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

The memorial in the hebrew Wikipedia
ÁVH actions were not subject to judicial review. On 1953-04-07, early in the morning, Miksa Domonkos, one of the leaders of the Jewish community in Budapest was kidnapped by ÁVH officials to extract « confessions ».[1] Preparations for a show trial started in Budapest in 1953 to prove that Raoul Wallenberg had not been dragged off in 1945 to the Soviet Union but was the victim of cosmopolitan Zionists.

For the purposes of this show trial, two more Jewish leaders – László Benedek and Lajos Stöckler – as well as two would-be « eyewitnesses » – Pál Szalai and Károly Szabó – were arrested and interrogated by torture. The last people to meet Wallenberg in Budapest were Ottó Fleischmann, Károly Szabó, and Pál Szalai, who were invited to a supper at the Swedish Embassy building in Gyopár street on 1945-01-12.[2] The next day, January 13, Wallenberg contacted the Russians. By 1953, Ottó Fleischmann had left Hungary, working as a physician in Vienna.

Károly Szabó was captured on the street on 1953-04-08 and arrested without any legal procedure. His family had no news of him throughout the following six months. A secret trial was conducted against him of which no official record is available to date. After six months of interrogation, the defendants were driven to despair and exhaustion.

The idea that the « murderers of Wallenberg » were Budapest Zionists was primarily supported by Hungarian Communist leader Erno Gero, which is shown by a note sent by him to First Secretary Mátyás Rákosi. [3] The show trial was then initiated in Moscow, following Stalin-s anti-Zionist campaign. After the death of Stalin and Lavrentiy Beria, the preparations for the trial were stopped and the arrested persons were released. Miksa Domonkos spent a week in hospital and died shortly afterwards at home, mainly due to the torture he had been subject to [1] [4].

References
1. ^ a b Interview with István Domonkos, son of Miksa Domonkos who died after the show trial preparations (Hungarian)
3. ^ Kenedi János: Egy kiállítás hiányzó képei (Hungarian)
4. ^ Hungarian Quarterly
The ÁVH worked out a detailed account to back the Soviet claim that Wallenberg had never been in the Soviet Union and that those who sought him should seek him elsewhere. They maintained that nobody had dragged off Wallenberg in 1945, least of all the glorious Soviet Army. Indeed, they could not have done so since Wallenberg — went the author of this fable — had been shot and killed in the basement of the American mission (where else?) by two members of the 1944 Budapest Judenrat, Lajos Stöckler and Miksa Domonkos, in the presence of (who else?) an official of the Arrow Cross (Hungarian Nazi) Party. This was the basis of the ÁVH horror story which Mária Ember came upon.
Pál Szalai - Honored as Righteous

Pál Szalai (September 3, 1915 – January 16, 1994) also spelled Pál Szalay and anglicized as Paul Sterling was a high ranking member of the Budapest police force and the Hungarian Arrow Cross Party during World War II. Honored as Righteous among the Nations on April 7, 2009.[1] [2] [3] .

The Wallenberg-Szalai connection

In the Hungarian Boy Scouts in 1929 he became friends with Károly Szabó. This friendship continued in the critical months 1944 - 1945 while Pál Szalai, high ranking member of the police force supported Raoul Wallenberg.

Szalai was from 1939 to 1942 an idealistic member of the Arrow Cross Party. He left the party in 1942 disillusioned, and returned to a high ranking police force position in October 1944 to help people in mortal danger from the Holocaust. Szalai's friend Károly Szabó was employee of the Swedish Embassy. Dr. Ottó Fleischmann Doctor of Medicine and psychologist of the Swedish Embassy motivated Károly Szabó to play active role in the rescue actions of Raoul Wallenberg. Pál Szalai supported his friend with important personal documents, signed from the German command in the Battle of Budapest.[4] Szalai agreed to meet Raoul Wallenberg at the Swedish Embassy in the night of December 26, 1944.

The ghetto in Budapest

Szalai provided Raoul Wallenberg with special favors and government information. In the second week of January 1945, Raoul found out that Adolph
Eichmann planned a massacre in the Budapest ghetto. The only one who could stop it was the man given the responsibility to carry the massacre out, the commander of the German troops in Hungary, General August Schmidthuber. Through Szalai, Wallenberg sent Schmidthuber a note promising that he, Raoul Wallenberg, would make sure the general was held personally responsible for the massacre and that he would be hanged as a war criminal when the war was over. The general knew that the war would be over soon and that the Germans were losing. The massacre was stopped at the last minute thanks to the courage and daring action of Wallenberg.[5]

After the war

After the war, Szalai was one of few high ranking members of the Arrow Cross Party not executed. He was set free in recognition of his cooperation with Wallenberg.

Show trial preparations 1953 in Hungary

Preparations for a show trial started 1953 in Budapest to "prove" that Wallenberg had never been in the Soviet Union, nobody had dragged off Wallenberg in 1945, least of all the Soviet Army. Everything was ready for a trial designed to prove that Wallenberg had been the victim of cosmopolitan Zionists. Three leaders of the Jewish community of Budapest Dr. László Benedek, Lajos Stöckler, and Miksa Domonkos, as well as two additional "eyewitnesses" Pál Szalai and Károly Szabó were arrested and tortured.

The preparations for the show trial were initiated in Moscow, following Stalin's anti-Zionist campaign. After Stalin's death and as Lavrentiy Beria was killed, the trial was aborted and the arrestees released. Miksa Domonkos died shortly after
being tortured in the hospital.[6]

Emigration and death He emigrated 1956 to the United States and lived in New Jersey then moved to California. He died on January 16, 1994 in Los Angeles, California under the name "Paul Sterling".[7]

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External links

- Wallenberg: More Twists to the Tale, Mária Ember, They Wanted to Blame Us (http://www.hungarianquarterly.com/no143/p129.html)
- Interview with István Domonkos, son of Miksa Domonkos who died after the show trial preparations (Hungarian) (http://www.szombat.org/index.php?module=articles&func=display&aid=200)

Books

- A Man for All Connections, The Wallenberg-Szalai connection, Andrew Handler, Praeger/Greenwood, 30 January 1996; ISBN 0275952142 Handler focuses on explaining the Hungarian political context that made the rescue possible.... Less well known is the fact that Wallenbergs mission was supported by various representatives of the Hungarian state apparatus.
- József Szekeres: Saving the Ghettos of Budapest in January 1945, Pál Szalai "the Hungarian Schindler" ISBN 9637323147, Budapest 1997, Publisher: Budapest Archives
**State Protection Authority** - the secret police force (AVH)

The State Protection Authority (Hungarian: Államvédelmi Hatóság or ÁVH) was the secret police force of Hungary from 1945 until 1956. It was conceived of as an external appendage of the Soviet Union's secret police forces, but attained an indigenous reputation for brutality during a series of purges beginning in 1948, intensifying in 1949 and ending in 1953. In 1953 Joseph Stalin died, and Imre Nagy (a moderate reformer) was appointed Prime Minister of Hungary. Under Nagy's first government from 1953 to 1955, the ÁVH was gradually reined in. History of the ÁVH

This is a summary of the organisations acting as political police between 1945 and 1956.

- 1945, Budapest Police Main Command Political Department, (Budapesti Főkapitányság Politikai Rendészeti Osztálya, PRO)

- 1946, Hungarian State Police State Protection Department, (Magyar Államrendőrség Államvédelmi Osztálya, ÁVO)

- 1950, State Protection Authority, (Államvédelmi Hatóság, ÁVH)

- 1956, the agency was abolished by the revolutionary government of Imre Nagy.

The subsequent government of János Kádár didn't want to resurrect the ÁVH under this name after 1956 (Kádár was tortured by the ÁVH in the '50s), yet it flourished in the system of the BM, or Ministry of the Interior. This should be considered in the light of the use of the Soviet security apparatus directly in Hungary after the 1956 revolution, and in preparation for the trial of Nagy and "his accomplices". Between 1956 and 1963 Kádár, a natural opportunist, fought an inner party battle against hardline Stalinists, although he accepted the services of many cruel former AVH torturers. Kádár's victory was signalled in 1963 by a general amnesty for the 1956 revolutionaries, an indication of the absence of a political police. Hungary would go on to be the only Warsaw Pact country without a formal intelligence service, since all intelligence and espionage functions were vested in the AVH, and later: the Ministry of Interior. Policy and methods

While the security apparatus were operating, they supported the Hungarian Working People's Party (MDP) directly, with little reference made to Government norms. This support was primarily through the secret gathering of intelligence, primarily through a vast network of informants, like the system used by the Ministry for State Security (Stasi) in the German Democratic Republic.
The investigation network was supplemented with a mechanism of secret
arrests, followed by extensive periods of torture (lasting between 3 and
18 months). When the apparatus had extracted confessions of varying
quality from a prisoner, the State’s system of public procurators and
courts would be called in, in order to make a ruling on the sentence. This
was the norm of operation for the ÁVH, and was only diverged from in
matters of utmost state security; for example, the illegal arrest and
indefinite solitary detention of the Communist Party of Great Britain
operative Edith Bone. Despite the forced nature of confessions,
retractions at trial were not considered a danger to the process, due to
the obvious threat of continued torture during a recess of the trial.
1953 Wallenberg show trial preparations in Hungary ÁVH actions were
not subject to judicial review. On April 7, 1953, early in the morning,
Miksa Domonkos, one of the leaders of the Jewish community in
Budapest was kidnapped by ÁVH officials to extract "confessions".[1]
Preparations for a show trial started in Budapest in 1953 to prove that
Raoul Wallenberg had not been dragged off in 1945 to the Soviet Union
but was the victim of cosmopolitan Zionists. For the purposes of this
show trial, two more Jewish leaders – László Benedek and Lajos Stöckler
– as well as two would-be "eyewitnesses" – Pál Szalai and Károly Szabó –
were arrested and interrogated by torture.

The last people to meet Wallenberg in Budapest were Ottó Fleischmann,
Károly Szabó, and Pál Szalai, who were invited to a supper at the
Swedish Embassy building in Gyopár street on January 12, 1945.[2] The
next day, January 13, Wallenberg contacted the Russians. By 1953, Ottó
Fleischmann had left Hungary, working as a physician in Vienna.
Károly Szabó was captured on the street on April 8, 1953 and arrested
without any legal procedure. His family had no news of him throughout
the following six months. A secret trial was conducted against him of
which no official record is available to date. After six months of
interrogation, the defendants were driven to despair and exhaustion.
The idea that the "murderers of Wallenberg" were Budapest Zionists was
primarily supported by Hungarian Communist leader Ernő Gerő, which
is shown by a note sent by him to First Secretary Mátyás Rákosi.[3] The
show trial was then initiated in Moscow, following Stalin's anti-Zionist
campaign. After the death of Stalin and Lavrentiy Beria, the preparations
for the trial were stopped and the arrested persons were released. Miksa
Domonkos spent a week in hospital and died shortly afterwards at home,
mainly due to the torture he had been subject to[1] [4].

Concentration camps

Following sentence, political prisoners were imprisoned in ÁVH-run
concentration camps. These camps were mixed and varied. Early camps tended to be cruder and crueler. In particular, the status of ex-party members varied. In camps prior to 1953 they were more harshly treated than other prisoners. After 1953, ex-party members were a virtual aristocracy within prisons. Additionally, prior to 1953 certain camps had as their goal the eventual death of inmates due to overwork and maltreatment. In a number of cases, torture was an essential part of camp life and discipline.

Imre Nagy’s first government from 1953 to 1955 vastly improved conditions in the camps, and halted the efforts to exterminate political prisoners.

International activities

The ÁVH also assisted the Soviet sphere security apparatus by staging show trials. In two cases, the ÁVH was given the privilege of leading an attack on undesired elements throughout Hungary. In 1948 the Roman Catholic Cardinal József Mindszenty was tried and imprisoned. In 1949, the ÁVH arrested Hungarian Communist Party member László Rajk, who was then tried and executed for nationalism and Titoism in a show trial that signified to the international communist movement that Yugoslavia was now a threat. (Ironically, László Rajk was the man who had organised the ÁVH.)

The ÁVH in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956

During the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, elements of the insurgents tracked down and killed both known and suspected ÁVH officers and informants. When the Revolution began, a crowd of some thousand people attacked the police headquarters in Budapest, shouting slogans as "tear down the star!" and "free the prisoners!", referring to the enormous red star that stood on the building’s roof, a symbol of socialism, and to the many prisoners kept inside.

Fearing for the lives of both himself and his officers, the chief of the police let the crowd into the building, allowing them to take any political prisoners they wanted. During and after the siege of the Hungarian Working People’s Party headquarters (in Republic Square, Köztársaság tér), some members of the ÁVH were lynched, a fact later extensively used in party propaganda to back up the claim that the revolution was of a "fascistic, anti-Semitic and reactionary" nature.

Persecution by József Dudás' militia

Attacks on the ÁVH only became a significant activity as informal truces
developed between the student-controlled combat organisations and the Soviet troops in Budapest. Freed from the necessity of immediate combat, the József Dudás militia planned a series of reprisals against ÁVH officers, informants, and on a few occasions against ordinary Communist-party members caught up in the revolution. József Dudás' militia is often considered a far-right group, but others claim he was a communist; either way, his militia's violence is not contested. On October 29, in the second week of the revolution, the Dudás militia attacked the headquarters of the secret police in Budapest, massacring the ÁVH inside. This event was well documented by both western and eastern journalists and photographers, and constituted the primary evidence against Imre Nagy and other members of his cabinet in the White Books.

A Western eyewitness said:

"The secret police lie twisted in the gutter [...] the Hungarians will not touch the corpse of an ÁVH man, not even to close the eyes or straighten the neck."

After Dudás' militia assaulted the building, the surrounding crowd lynched a number of ÁVH officers. Highly visible in photographs of this attack are the party's paybooks displayed on to the corpses, demonstrating that ÁVH soldiers received at least 10 times the wages of a manual worker. Reaction of revolutionary forces to Dudás

When the students' and workers' councils discovered what the Dudás group was doing, they instituted armed patrols to arrest and detain ÁVH members for their own safety, and for future planned trials. As a result of Dudás' massacres, and the students' policy of arrest, many ÁVH voluntarily turned themselves in to students' or workers' councils to seek protective custody. This was a reflection of the shared student-worker policy of keeping the revolution pure and bloodless. Dudás was sought for arrest by the students' and workers' councils.

Retaliation

Unsurprisingly, when the Warsaw Pact intervened in the revolution to support the government, ÁVH officers carried out brutal reprisals against those who had killed their comrades. The ÁVH generally targeted all revolutionaries, and received significant assistance from the Soviet Union's security apparatus, who arrested the Nagy government, General Pál Maléter, and deported thousands of students and workers to the Soviet Union. House of Terror
Shortly after the Arrow Cross Party left it, the building under the address 60 Andrássy Road became the ÁVH Headquarters. The building is now a museum called The House of Terror, commemorating the victims of both political systems.

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• Homepage Raoul Wallenberg Asso.fr (http://www.raoul-wallenberg.asso.fr/wallenberg_arch/wallenberg_test/karoly_szabo.html)
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Erwin K. Koranyi rescued January 5, 1945

In his Book „Dreams and Tears”, Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi portrays a world destined for and caught in the chaos and senselessness of war—Budapest from the 1920s to the 1940s. His childhood hope of becoming a physician appeared to be a futile notion in a milieu of moderate anti-Semitism relentlessly bourgeoning into a murderous regime. Almost 600,000 Hungarian Jews were killed in less than one year. Survival became an hour-to-hour lottery. A fortunate turn of events brought Koranyi in contact with Raul Wallenberg, special envoy of the Swedish Embassy, who saved him from certain destruction. Thereafter, Koranyi found himself under the thumb of yet another dictatorship. But Koranyi was not to be denied his childhood dream: he found a way to study medicine. After an adventurous escape through the Iron Curtain, he wandered about in many places before he settled in Canada, where he finally began to practise medicine and teach psychiatry.

About the Author

Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi, a practicing psychiatrist in Ottawa, is the author of three technical books and has contributed eleven chapters in different textbooks and over fifty scientific papers in refereed journals. Dr. Koranyi is professor emeritus (psychiatry) at the University of Ottawa. As a Jewish boy in the dark world of growing Nazism in Hungary, he vainly dreamt to become a physician. Instead, his life became a precarious daily struggle and continuous mortal risk as he endured Nazi persecution and helped his beloved ones to survive. They lived through the Holocaust in part with the help of the heroic Swedish diplomat, Raul Wallenberg. Koranyi and his family endured untold losses during the persecution until they were liberated from the Nazis by yet another Evil Empire. More adventures and adversities coloured his medical studies in Hungary, and after dangerous border crossings, he finally reached freedom and obtained his much—desired MD degree in Austria. He practised medicine in the then fledgling country of Israel, and subsequently settled in Canada. Here, he specialized in psychiatry at Montreal’s McGill University, where he later taught. Dr. Koranyi married Edie Rosenbaum, also a Holocaust survivor, and a lifelong dear partner. In 1970, the University of Ottawa invited him to join its staff, and he has been repeatedly honoured as a distinguished teacher.
Dreams and Tears, Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi
How he rescued 8. January 1945

Now a new commotion. What? Were the police also collaborating with the Arrowcross? No. Officers. The police holding their guns at the Arrowcross cutthroats. They were talking to the Arrowcross commander. What was happening? One of the high-ranking police officers was Paul Szalai, with whom Raoul Wallenberg used to deal. Another police officer in his leather coat was Karoly Szabo. We were told to put our jackets back on and line up. And march. Back to where we came from.

We were back at the Ullo Street embassy. Marta was crying and kissing us. So were my parents. Their shelter was left behind by the Arrowcross soldiers. We got a piece of bread but did not understand what was happening. Somebody struck a match and the stump of the cigarette was lit. I inhaled the tangy smoke deeply. Lici turned to me: “I am pregnant.” I held her close to me.

Koranyi-s Book from 2006 found by Book Search in Google

 Dreams and Tears: Chronicle of a Life - Seite 90
Erwin K. Koranyi - 2006 - 213 Seiten - Vorschau
One of the high-ranking police officers was Paul Szalai, with whom Raoul Wallenberg used to deal. Another police officer in his leather coat was Karoly Szabo. We were told to put our jackets back on and line up. And march. ...
Erwin K. Koranyi, MD, FRCPC

Professor Emeritus, Psychiatry, University of Ottawa, Royal Ottawa Hospital
Professeur émérite, psychiatrie, Université d'Ottawa, Hôpital Royal Ottawa

Ottawa, February 1st, 2010

To the YAD VASHEM committee,
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee:

I am 86 years old retired physician, a survivor of the Shoah and I live in Canada. I turn to you with the request to give your kind re-consideration posthumously to a Mr. Mihály Szabo, a close coworker of Raul Wallenberg in Budapest, 1944-45.

As a young man, myself and my ex-wife had been surrounded with death at every moment between March 19, 1944 - January 18, 1945. For a few weeks we lived at the Jokai street 1, a Swedish Satellite Embassy until the tragic day when the entire population of the building had been herded to the shore of the Danube and executed. A few of us succeeded to hide and thus survive the incident. But nowhere else to go, on January 8, 1945, we went to another Swedish Satellite Embassy at the Útiöö street. Only a few hours later the Arrowcross killers appeared there, and a portion of the basement’s population was taken to the Arrowcross Headquarter at the Terés Körút 41 (?). There they already begun to take away our clothing, and it was clear that they are going to execute us at the shore of the nearby Danube river.

At the last moment a group of policemen appeared led by two police officers: PAUL SZALAY and KAROLY SZABO, holding revolvers in their hands and took us back to the Útiöö street Satellite Embassy. My contact with Karoly Szabo (whom I believed then to be a police officer) was very short but I recall vividly in his black leather coat, standing up against the Nazi killers, risking his life and saving all of us from sure death. I knew only few people in our group, as we just arrived there but I seen Lajos Stockler, member of the Jewish Council, who’s life has been also saved. Later I heard other heroic stories about Karoly Szabo, but this has been a direct experience of mine and of my ex-wife, Dr. Alice Breuer.

I described the event in details in my Autobiography: “Dreams and Tears - chronicle of a life” in 2006 (pages: 88, 89, 90) and I am sure that my book is available in the Yad Vashem. Just to be sure, I include a copy of it.

As to myself: I left Hungary by crossing the Iron Curtain in 1949, and never been back. I live in Canada since 12952; married in 1959. I was in private practice and taught at McGill; was invited as full professor by the University of Ottawa; lectured in Haifa, Jerusalem and Beer Sheva. In 1983 I went to Israel, worked at a tent-hospital in Mahanaim, in Kiriat Shmona and in the Rambam.

You may obtain references from former Israeli Ambassadors of Canada: Amb. David & Adina Sultan (2-581-8298); Amb. Jitzchak & Malka Sheleff 137-010-16424); Amb. Alan & Dalia Baker (2-534-0006) or from Prof. Emanuel & Nahama Guttmann (4-337-473). My Rabbi is: Dr. Reuven Bulka (Machzikai Hadash (613-521-9701; my ex-wife: Dr. Alice Breuer (418-215-868)
Dobelnigatan 15/III Stockholm 11140.

Sincerely yours:

Erwin K. Koranyi
Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi, M.D., F.R.C.P.C.
By Dolly Tiger

We are sometimes asked why we insist on carrying on this difficult task of acquainting the world on what happened in Hungary in 1944. We are all getting older, tired, sometimes burned out trying to carry on the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg and then suddenly we discover the real reason we still do it. Dr. Koranyi’s short, modest autobiography and beautifully preserved documents came recently into our possession.

Let us tell you the story of Dr. Koranyi and the lives he touched because his life was saved by Raoul Wallenberg. You be the judge whether this inspiring story should still be heard, repeated, cherished and treasured.

The first document neatly laminated that we encounter is a personal identity card, with an official stamp and a huge red Zs written over it. The young Erwin had to carry this document he called it his Passport of Death. It proved to be that for far too many.

The German troops took over Hungary on March 19, 1944 writes Dr. Koranyi. A date made infamous and engraved forever in the minds of those who were there.

The 20 year old newlywed Koranyi stayed in Budapest, while the Jews in the rest of the country, in all provincial towns and villages were herded into ghettos and deported mostly to Auschwitz. His young bride was arrested and all his desperate attempts to save her proved futile.

At this point Koranyi heard about Wallenberg by word of mouth while trying to move heaven and earth to save his wife. He was incredulous: a young Swedish diplomat who was trying to save Jews? Let us hear it in his own words:

I went to the Swedish Embassy in Buda. It was there that I met that intense, energetic, young man, Raoul Wallenberg. He listened to me, and issued a Swedish SCHUTZ-PASS which was valid not just for me but for my entire family, for Lici, and even for Lici’s brother. My Passport is No. 196, a very low number indeed. This was our passport to life.

His wife by the strength of this miraculous document was brought out from the holding camp at Kistarcsa, and Koranyi was now exempt from the infamous forced labour camp. They stayed in Budapest.

While the number of Jews saved by Wallenberg will never be known, his miraculous modus operandi is legendary. He turned up at railway stations, places of mass arrests, at the side of people on forced marches, at sites were executions were to take place. Everywhere he negotiated vigorously and tirelessly.

The Koranyis were saved once more six months later where they were rounded up at the shore of the Danube to be shot by the feared Arrow Cross (nyilas).

Dr. Koranyi is in possession of a unique piece of memorabilia: the official diary of Raoul Wallenberg with a handwritten entry with Koranyi’s name, of that first fateful appointment on August 5th, 1944. This diary was found in Moscow’s infamous Lublinka prison and brought back to Sweden.

But Dr. Koranyi’s rescue was just a first step as they say to the rest of his life.
Never forgetting the good that was done to him when he needed it most, the young Erwin embarked in Budapest on his medical studies, graduating in Innsbruck (Austria). Making Aliyah to Israel shortly after the founding of the State, he became the first physician of the city of Eilat. In 1952 Dr. Koranyi immigrated to Canada where he worked at the Jewish General Hospital until 1970. He returned as a volunteer to Israel during the 1973 war, and subsequently settled in Ottawa.

A Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, prolific author of numerous scientific publications, he still works almost full time.

His story is worth telling and remembering: The Talmud says that saving one life is tantamount to saving the world. Reading the moving story of Dr. Koranyi, this wisdom is self-evident. A productive member of society, his healing knowledge touched numerous lives numerous lives were better because of his humanity, compassion, scientific knowledge and understanding of the human condition. This is why the story of Raoul Wallenberg and his incredible accomplishments should be told and re-told for the uplifting moral values that we can all learn.
Jacob Steiner rescued January 8, 1945

Jacob Steiner (Steiner Erik, Budapest) is a professor at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a researcher of the physiology of the senses.

Academic degree    Ph. D University of Basel 1964

Academic positions
• Lecturer 1965
• Senior lecturer 1974
• Associate professor 1979
• Emeritus 1996

External academic positions
• Visiting Assoc. Prof., Univ. of Penn.
• Visiting Prof., Brown Univ.
• Visiting Scholar, Monell Chemical Senses Center, Philadelphia

Research interests
• Physiology of the senses of taste and smell in man and in animals and their Clinical trial.
• Behavioral, electrophysiological and autonomous reactions to chemical stimuli.
• Developmental aspects of oral functions.

Research projects
• Behavioral reactions to chemical stimuli (taste and smell) in autistic people.
• Behavioral response to chemical stimuli in man and animals:

"Steiner's research, which involved infants only a few hours old, clearly shows that humans are born with the capacity to distinguish between various tastes. Jacob E. Steiner, a taste researcher at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, almost all babies, when tasting sweet stimuli, show a "marked relaxation of the face, resembling an expression of 'satisfaction.'" This expression is often followed by a slight smile and even "eager licking of the upper lip." When the babies were fed a bitter solution, on the other hand, their facial expressions turned to "dislike and disgust or rejection."

New York Times April 16, 1989. Can Society Tell You What Tastes Good? "The meticulous observation, semiquantitative analysis and evaluation of behavioral reactions is proposed as one of the most relevant and valid avenues of investigation on the workup of chemosensory stimuli by the living organism. Behavioral manifestations, are probably even in a much easier way "readable" indicators of pleasure and displeasure than any other event-related bodily manifestation. In fact, the phenomenon of bacterial chemotaxis (as usually divided in positive- respectively negative chemotaxis) belong to the same category or kind of innate, probably even inherited reflectory mechanisms expressing "acceptance" - 'indifference' and 'aversion' of the organism." Jacob E. Steiner
Publications
• Taste-acceptance and taste aversion reflected by behavioral 1997
• Taste and smell in familial dysautonomia. 1997
• Specific androstenone-anosmia in patients with impaired sperm 1996
• Taste-induced facial expressions in apes and humans. 1995
• Book review: Pleasure: The Politics and The Reality, 1995
• Behavioral responses to tastes and odors in man and animals. 1994
• Behavior manifestations indicative of hedonics and intensity in 1994
• Taste and odor: Reactivity in depressive disorders: A 1993
• Taste- and odor-reactivity in elderly demented patients. 1992
• Olfactory perception of androstenone is related to male 1992
• Behavioral reactions to gustatory stimuli in young chicks ( 1990
• Analysis of betaine-induced feeding behavior in the Prawn 1990
• Sensory experience induced by nitrous oxide analgesia. 1990

Rescued 1945

Lars Ernster, Edith Ernster and Jacob Steiner lived during the World War II in the office of the Swedish Embassy in Budapest Üllöi ut 2-4. Initially, there were 250 workers; later about 400 people working around the clock (Edith Ernster remembers Wallenberg). In the night of January 8. 1945 all inhabitants were dragged away by an Arrow Cross Party executing brigade of the city commandership near to the Danube banks. At midnight 20 policemen with drawn bayonets broke into the Arrow Cross house and rescued all [[1] ]. Among the saved persons January 8. 1945.

Lars Ernster rescued to Sweden and Jacob Steiner rescued to Israel. Lars Ernster was 1977 - 1988 member of the Board of Nobel Foundation, Jacob Steiner is professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Information from Jacob Steiner after he has read this page: On December 25, 1944, Jacob Steiner's father was shot dead by Arrow Cross militiamen on, falling into the Danube as a result. His father had been an officer in World War I and spent 4 years as a prisoner of war in Russia.[2]

Sources
• Hebrew University of Jerusalem [[3] ]

References
[2] Letter from Jacob Steiner February 12, 2007 to Tamas Szabo
[3] Faculty Research Interests (http://www.huji.ac.il/cgi-bin/mm/new/data/ihoker/MOP-STAFF_LINK?sn=6850759...)

Article Sources and Contributors

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http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/
Lars Ernster (Hungarian: Ernster László; 1920–1998) was a professor of biochemistry, and a member of the Board of the Nobel Foundation

Biography

Lars Ernster was born in Hungary and came to Sweden 1946. He played a prominent role in the scientific community. He took his Ph.D. degree at the Stockholm University in 1956. Until 1967 he was the head of the division for Physiological Chemistry at the Wenner-Gren Institute (Axel Wenner-Gren).

Nobel Foundation

- Lars Ernster was a member of the Board of the Nobel Foundation 1977 - 1988.

"Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen, The discoveries for which Peter Mitchell has been awarded this year's Nobel Prize for Chemistry relate to a field of biochemistry often referred to in recent years as bioenergetics, which is the study of those chemical processes responsible for supplying energy to living cells. All living organisms need energy to survive. Muscular work, thought processes, growth, and reproduction are all examples of biological activities that require energy. We know today that every living cell is capable, by means of suitable catalysts, of deriving energy from its environment, converting this energy into a biologically useful chemical form, and utilizing it for various energy-requiring processes. [1]"

From 1967 to 1986 he was a professor of biochemistry. He was a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences from 1974.

"The burning interest in science, the desire to get to the truth of the matter, the
intense but courteous questioning and, above all, his charming and warm smile" as seen by a friend, colleague, fellow-European and competitor E.C. Slater.

In Mitochondria and Microsomes (C.P. Lee, G. Schatz and G. Dallner, eds.) Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., Reading, MA 1981

Books

• Chemistry and physiology of mitochondria and microsomes, Olov Lindberg, Lars Ernster - Springer (1954) OCLC 1079425
• Protoplasmatologia. Bd. 3. Cytoplasma - Organellen A. Chondriosomen, Mikrosomen, Sphaerosomen.4. Lindburg, Olov, and Lars Ernster: Chemistry and physiology of mitochondria and microsomes - Springer (1953) OCLC 73859281

Lars Ernster rescued January 8, 1945

During World War II, Lars Ernster, Edith Ernster and Jacob Steiner lived in the office of the Swedish Embassy in Budapest Üllői ut 2-4. In the night of January 8, 1945 all inhabitants were dragged away by an Arrow Cross Party executing brigade of the city commander near the banks of the Danube. At midnight, 20 policemen with drawn bayonets broke into the Arrow Cross house and rescued everyone. [2]

Edith Ernster remembers

Edith Ernster, who lived through that time, recalls: "It seemed so strange - this country of super-aryans, the Swedes, taking us under their wings. Often, when an Orthodox Jew went by, in his hat, beard and sidelocks, we'd say, 'Look, there goes another Swede.'

A special department was created in the Swedish embassy in Budapest with Raoul Wallenberg as its head. It was staffed primarily with Jewish volunteers. Initially, there were 250 workers; later, he had about 400 people working around the clock. Wallenberg seemed to sleep no more than an hour or two a night, and then it was wherever he happened to be working. He was everywhere.

Literature

• József Szekeres: Saving the Ghettos of Budapest in January 1945, ISBN 9637323147, Budapest 1997, Publisher: Budapest Archives
• Gábor Forgács: Recollections and Facts; My Days with Raoul Wallenberg
January 8, 1945. Lars Ernster rescued to Sweden, around 1970 member of the Board of Nobel Foundation


Internet References

• The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1978, Presentation Speech, Lars Ernster [1]
• The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences [3]
• Edith Ernster remembers [4]
• Document about January 8. 1945. in Budapest Archives (Hungarian) [5]
• The history of Wallenberg office / Swedish Embassy [6]
• Lars Ernster, Istvan Hargittai [7]
• Google search "Ernster László" [8]
• Five Chemists Whose Lives Were Saved by Raoul Wallenberg [9]

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[8] http://www.google.de/search?hl=de&q=%22Ernster+L%C3%A1szl%C3%B3%22&btnG=Suche&meta=

Article Sources and Contributors
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Nygaard, Herostratus, IZAK, Keesiewonder, Ohconfucius, PMLawrence, Rich Farmbrough, Richard Arthur Norton (1958-), Rjwilmsi, Sm8900, Tamas Szabo, Tomas e, Zello, 4 anonymous edits

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New, York September 28, 2010

Mrs. Irena Steinfeldt
Director
Righteous Among the Nations Department
Yad Vashem
P.O.Box 3477
Jerusalem 91034, ISRAEL

Dear Mrs. Steinfeldt:

Ref.: Karoly SZABO – Hungary

Mr. Tamas Szabo, the son of Karoly Szabo, as well as Professor Erwin S. Koranyi, have recently written to us with regard to the rescue activities of Karoly Szabo, in Budapest, during the Holocaust period. They have enclosed copies of correspondence with your department, including your announcement from 2008 declining the Righteous title to Szabo.

With reference to this point, I wish to draw your attention to the testimony by Prof. Erwin S. Koranyi, of 1 February 2010, that constitutes a direct and personal account of his rescue at the hands of Karoly Szabo – a person clearly identified by Koranyi as his rescuer. We were told that this testimony was also sent to your office. You also have the testimonies of Tibor Klaber (21.2.2008), of Anna Klaber-Low (23.5.2006), and Ewa Low (22.5.2008) – as well as a statement by Lajos Stockler, on behalf of the Budapest Jewish community, dated 8 January 1945, with regard to Karoly Szabo’s help to Jews on the verge of being shot by members of the Arrow Cross. Taking all these documents in consideration it is clear that there are no doubts with regard to the identity of the rescuer, and the rescue acts performed by him on the streets of Budapest during the turbulent period of Arrow Cross rule. If you want us to send you copies of the aforementioned testimonies, please let us know, and we shall gladly comply.

In addition, I wish to include references of a 1948 book by the esteemed historian of the Holocaust in Hungary, Jenö Levai, on Raoul Wallenberg, where Karoly Szabo is mentioned on several occasions as involved in the rescue of Jews, as part of the team of persons assigned to Raoul Wallenberg. I believe this book has not been presented to you within the original petition to recognize Mr. Szabo. Please note that Levai’s book is replete with first-hand documents that he compiled immediately after the war. It cannot therefore be classified as part of current literature on this subject that, understandably, is not acceptable as first-hand evidence by Yad Vashem, but should rather be considered as credible first-hand account by a reputed historian (you may check Jenö Levai’s reputation with historians on the Holocaust in Hungary).
As we have been approached on this matter by those rescued by Karoly Szabo, and in view of the documentation presented to us, we felt an obligation to write to you with a request to reconsider the Commission’s previous negative decision, and reopen this case for a renewed consideration.

With thanks and appreciation to your important work in the area of Righteous Among the Nations and in the hope that this case will soon be resolved in a positive manner.

Sincerely yours,

Baruch Tenenbaum
Founder and International Chairman

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Signatures of 30 members of the Israeli parliament

Karoly Szabo honoring request to Yad Vashem with signatures of 30 members of the Israeli parliament
Holocaust survivors have moral obligation to tell who rescued them

Etgar Lefkovits  06/10/2009 05:38  Jerusalem Post

Survivors must overcome trauma to honor heroes, founder of International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation says. People who were saved from death during the Holocaust have a moral obligation to identify their rescuers, despite the trauma such recollections can cause, the founder of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation said on Tuesday.

The comments comes amid an eleventh-hour effort by the New York-based non-profit organization to identify more heroes at a time when the number of survivors continues to dwindle. "We talk a lot about the Holocaust, but we do not talk enough about those non-Jews who saved Jews during the war," Baruch Tenembaum, founder of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, said in an interview with The Jerusalem Post. The Argentinean-born Tenembaum said Holocaust survivors who were saved by others had a moral obligation to tell their stories before it was too late, despite the suffering it might cause them in reliving tortuous experiences from six and seven decades ago. "The freedom they have now to speak or not to speak is the freedom granted to them by the person who saved them," he said. "In my opinion, they do not have such an option because it belongs to the person who saved them. They do not have the right to remain silent."

The Wallenberg Foundation, which has located scores of rescuers, recently encountered four survivors - grandmothers now living in Israel, Argentina, Hungary and France - who do not want to recount the story of their rescues because it is too painful for them. Tenembaum concedes that he can never feel their pain, noting that they have not even told their children about their experiences, but said that these people - and many others like them - need to go public with their stories before time runs out. "The Jewish nation has a moral obligation to be grateful to those who saved lives," he said. About 250,000 Holocaust survivors live in Israel. The organization, named after the Swedish diplomat who went missing in January 1945, after saving tens of thousands of Jews and other persecuted by the Nazis, develops educational programs based on the values of solidarity and civic courage, ethical cornerstones of Holocaust rescuers.

Irena Steinfeld, the head of the Righteous Department at Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, concurred Tuesday that survivors had a duty to speak out, but cautioned against self-righteousness. "Certainly it is the moral obligation of survivors to tell the story of their rescuers, but I am very cautious because it is very easy to open old wounds and hard to close them again," she said. "We can only try to ask them in every way possible." More than 22,000 people have been recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.
Baruch Tenembaum was born in Argentina at the Las Palmeras colony, a Santa Fe provincial settlement for Jewish immigrants escaping from the Russian pogroms of 1880. The grandson and son of Jewish gauchos, he studied in Buenos Aires and Rosario.[1] He is best known as an interfaith activist, most recently with the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation [2]. According to the International Peace Research Institute [3],[4] Oslo (PRIO), Mr. Tenembaum was amongst the nominees to the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. World gambling operator - Ladbrokes, gave Baruch Tenembaum a 1/40 odds to win the prize, as oppose to 1/20 to the actual winner, US President Barack Obama. In a recent interview to Zenit News Agency, [5] he was asked about his nomination to the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, to what he replied: "Who I am?...just a descendant of slaves". Tenembaum characterized his life as being dedicated "to thank those human beings who saved lives, who risked themselves. [...] At the Wallenberg Foundation we work intensively to discover, among others, the exceptional deeds of those heroic human beings."

The Wallenberg Foundation aims to pay tribute to the "Saviors of the Holocaust," recognizing those who "risked their lives and freedom to save thousands of Jews from a certain death in hands of the Nazis during the Second World War," the site of the foundation explains Education and activism In 1952, Tenembaum graduated from the Higher Institute of Judaic Religious Studies. As a teacher and a professor he taught Hebrew and Yiddish language and literature, the Torah, the Prophets and Mishnah. In 1955, he was appointed Director of the Moises Ville Teacher's Seminar in the province of Santa Fe where he taught the Old Testament and philosophy.[1]

He was First General Director of the Argentine-Israeli Cultural Institute (ICAI). Important undertakings in the field of education were set in motion and announced from his office, including bar mitzvah tours and the founding of the Tarbut School, among others. He organised the first Latin-American Bible contest. He translated Spanish classics into Hebrew and 'Haskala' literature into Spanish.[1]
He launched the idea of establishing interfaith monuments by promoting the creation of a fresco by the Argentine master painter Raúl Soldi at the main church in Nazareth, which was completed in 1968.[1]

In 1965, he was a Latin American promoter of the first visit by a Pope to Jerusalem. Granted an award for his work by the Vatican, he was invited to a ceremony at the Vatican City and was received by Pope Paul VI on January 13, 1965. At a separate public ceremony, Monsignor Antonio Caggiano, Cardinal Primate of Argentina, presented him with an Argentine Church award, granted for the very first time for a Jew Jew in Argentina.[1]

Along with writer Jorge Luis Borges, he founded la Casa Argentina en Jerusalem, with branches in Buenos Aires and Jerusalem. He was worked on interreligious initiatives with Rabbi Guillermo Schlesinger, Father Carlos Cuccetti, Pastor Sosa and Father Ernesto Segura, who was the first President of Argentine House in Israel.[1]

Tenembaum's Jewish and humanist education is a result of a deep devotion of his teacher and mentor, Rabbi Jacobo Fink, an orthodox rabbi who initiated him in the Jewish knowledge and the Kabbalah, and guided him all of his life. Even if they were far away (he was Great Rabbi in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Haifa, Israel, and Buenos Aires, Argentina) so close was their relationship that every Friday they had a conversation, which was never ever postponed until the last day of his life.[1]

He was the co-author, together with Dr. Shalom Rosenberg, professor of philosophy at the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, of the book 'Holy Places in the Holy Land'.[1]

Kidnapping

On January 31, 1976, Baruch Tenembaum was kidnapped by rightwing extremists belonging to the Triple A (Argentine Anti-subversive Alliance) a clandestine state terrorist organisation founded under the aegis of José López Rega, a sinister character of great influence during the government of President Isabel Martinez de Perón. Together with members of the military and police, the Triple A supposedly began the “disappearance” of people in Argentina which, by the end of the military dictatorship in 1983, came to a total of 30,000 persons. The kidnappers allegedly accused him of “infecting the Catholic Church with the virus of Judaism” and “of spreading ideas of alleged coexistence so as to destroy Christian principles” through his inter-faith work, which they claimed, “leads to the destruction of the Creole republic”. Additionally, they accused him of being a part of the sinister “conspiracy” known as the Plan Andinia.[1]
In a dramatic turn of events, his wife Perla volunteered as a hostage, and was also kidnapped herself. While he was in captivity Father Horacio Moreno spoke out for him, calling for his freedom from his pulpit at Fatima Church and later holding a face-to-face meeting with the kidnappers who self-defined themselves as “concerned Catholics”. Finally, he was liberated.[1]

Recent events and activism

After this, Tenembaum left Argentina, and did not visit it for years, continuing his work on humanitarian causes, for example, searching for gentiles who helped Jews during World War II. After eight years in self-imposed exile, and following the fall of the military dictatorship, he renewed his visits to Argentina. Tenembaum was one of the founders of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation. [6] [7] Raoul Wallenberg was the Swedish diplomat missing (and presumed dead) since 1945 after saving the lives of thousands of Jews and other persecuted by the Nazis during World War II.[8] The foundation honors Wallenberg’s memory,[9] [10] and continues to hunt for him or his remains.[11] [12] The Wallenberg Foundation also honors other righteous gentiles who saved Jews during the Holocaust or shoah.[13] [14] [15] In October 2003, United States Congressman Tom Lantos made a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives to honor Tenembaum, and had a fuller tribute inserted into the Congressional Record[16] [17] Wallenberg apparently was instrumental in saving Lantos from the Nazis.[18] Tenembaum also received the Royal Order of the Polar Star from H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.[19] Tenembaum has had an audience with the Pope.[20] He frequently has letters to the editor published. [21]

Baruch Tenembaum and Elsa Kononowicz are the parents of Shmuel Tenembaum, an Israeli lawyer, Yoav Tenembaum, an historian and author, and Abigail Tenembaum, a strategy consultant. He also has six grandchildren.[22]

References
[6] He is described as "the founder" on their own site, Raoul Wallenberg official
site (http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/?en/about/members/tenembaum/)

[7] He is described as a "co-founder" on a neutral site, the United Jewish Communities: United Jewish Communities web site (http://www.ujc.org/content_display.html?ArticleID=129662)

[8] about Wallenberg at the Foundation web site (http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/?en/about/529.htm)


[14] See note on Pope John XXIII when he was Vatican legate to Turkey (http://www.americamagazine.org/catholicnews.cfm?articleTypeID=29&textID=2290&issueID=381)


[16] Baruch Tenembaum (http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/Tenembaum/english/tributeus.htm)

[17] See also (http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G1-108795965.html)


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Photos – Karoly Szabo

Passport 1936 - 1938 Karoly Szabo

TAG Heuer sports watch
(on prison inventory 1953 from Karoly Szabo)
Karoly Szabo marks his transport from Hungary to World War II - Brjansk, Ukraine, 1942

Karoly Szabo soldier in World War II

Karoly Szabo 1944 in the Swedish Embassy
bureau-machine mechanic in 1947
Quensway, Athur Court, the home of Jakobovits, Karoly Szabo visits in sommer 1963 in London the rescued Elisabeth Jakobovits

Karoly Szabo visits Goldberger in sommer 1963 in London
Rescued persons January 8, 1945

Erwin K. Koranyi

Jenő Jakobovits

Elisabeth Jakobovits and Karoly Szabo 1963 in London
Employes of calculator company Brunsviga, Budapest 1940, from the left:

Vilmos Plachy, his jewish wife rescued 1945, his dagther Sylvia is photographer in New York,

Plachy is grandfather from Hollywood actor Adrian Brody,

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrien_Brody
Kalman Szemes, rescued in 1945,
Karoly Szabo the only christan person here, Elisabeth Bojar, rescued in 1945
Lars Ernster died of cancer on November 4 at the age of 78 after a short period of illness. He is survived by his wife Edit.

Lars Ernster was born in Hungary and came to Sweden in 1946. He took his PhD degree at the Stockholm University in 1956. Until 1967 he was the head of the division for Physiological Chemistry at the Wenner-Gren Institute. From 1967-86 he was professor of biochemistry and chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, and from 1971-74 Dean of the Chemical Section of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the Stockholm University.

Lars Ernster played many prominent roles in the scientific community. He was a member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry (1977-88) and a member of the Board of the Nobel Foundation. In addition, he acted as General Secretary for the International Council of Scientific Unions, President of the International Cell Research Organization and as President of the International Society for Vitamins and Related Cofactors. From 1986-94, he held the position of President of the European Branch of the International Life Sciences Institute. He has also acted as special adviser for UNESCO in the areas of scientific research and higher education.

As a consequence of his active involvement and collaboration with scientific institutions throughout the world, he was elected a member of some 20 different scientific academies and research organizations. In addition, he was awarded a number of honorary doctorates. Throughout the whole of his career, he was regularly a guest professor at various European and American universities and member of the Editorial Boards of a number of prestigious international journals. Furthermore, he organized congresses, symposia and scientific courses.

Lars Ernster was a highly productive and successful researcher, authoring or co-authoring more than 500 publications in the areas of biochemistry and cell biology and one of the leading researchers in the world in the areas of mitochondrial membrane biochemistry and energy transformation. His laboratory served as a Mecca for researchers from around the globe and as the starting point for many scientific careers. During the last decades his research interests also included free radicals, antioxidants, mitochondrial diseases and biochemical toxicology. He returned to one of his previous interests: coenzyme Q, now not as a mitochondrial redox component but as a membrane lipid constituent, its biosynthesis and regulation in various physiological and pathological conditions. The antioxidant properties of coenzyme Q and the mechanism of participation during lipid and protein oxidation were the dominating lines in these most successful studies.

When Lars Ernster became a professor at the Stockholm University in 1967, he had a vision of creating an all-round and modern department of biochemistry. With great creativity and the ability to infuse his colleagues with enthusiasm, he built up the largest department at the University and in this way the Department of Biochemistry became a scientific bastion of highest international reputation.

But above all, Lars Ernster was a very warm and generous person who never hesitated to reach out a helping hand to friends, colleagues and students. His door was always open to those who wished to discuss questions and problems, both of a scientific nature and on the personal level. With the exception of the last few weeks, he participated actively in the scientific life at the department as well as at the international level.

We remember him with gratitude as great example both as a scientist and a human being.
Istvan Domonkos,
Professor Szita witness: Domonkos and his Family rescued January 8. 1945

Lajos Stöckler president of the Jewish Community in Budapest. His letter to Karoly Szabo from 1945. Letter was found in 2006 in the Hungarian National Archives:
„Karoly Szabo rescued January 8. 1945 154 persons, together with the family of Lajos Stoeckler (7 persons).”

Gabor Forgacs in 2007, he was 17 years old January 8. 1945 as he rescued

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Google Book Search – References with Karoly Szabo

It takes 60 years to find witnesses to a Newspaper headline from 1947. Successfull search was first time after 2006 possible.

Google Book Search, was announced in December 2004. Google reaches the 7 million book mark for items scanned in November 2008. On October 14, 2010 Google announced that the number of scanned books is over 15 million. Results from Google Book Search go through the full text of books that Google has scanned. Google limits the number of viewable pages on the dedicated Google Books site. The user may view pages from the book through a variety of access limitations.

Wallenberg: Missing Hero - Page 145

Kati Marton - 1995 - 261 pages - Preview
The brash voice was that of Karoly Szabo, Wallenberg’s liaison with the faithful Szalai. "I've got police orders right here" — he flashed some snow-wet documents — "and there are policemen outside to make sure you do it. ...
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Wallenberg: lost hero

Danny Smith - 1986 - 192 pages - Snippet view
But behind the scenes, Wallenberg was engineering one final and spectacular victory. Szalai, Raoul’s informant inside the Arrow Cross, sent him an urgent message, through a Christian go-between, Karoly Szabo, who was safe on the street. ...
books.google.com - More editions - Add to My Library ▼

Raoul Wallenberg:

Christoph Gann - 1999 - 273 pages - Snippet view
Der Pfeilkreuzler Karoly Szabo, Inhaber eines Schreibmaschinen-geschäfts, stellte die Verbindung zu Wallenberg her. Szalai gewann Wallenberg’s Vertrauen und bot seine Hilfe an. In der nächsten Zeit trafen sich beide oft mehrmals täglich. ...
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A man for all connections: Raoul Wallenberg and the Hungarian ...

Andrew Handler - 1996 - 123 pages - Snippet view
THE WALLENBERG-SZALAI CONNECTION No functionary in the Hungarist state apparatus could ... Karoly Szabo, an employee of the Swedish legation and a friend of Szalai, took the first step ...
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There was a new shadow in the cellar. "What do you think you're doing with these people?" a voice roared from the corner. "Don't you fools know the Swedes are feeding you and half the city?" The brash voice was that of Károly Szabo, Wallenberg's liaison with the faithful Szálai. "I've got police orders right here"—he flashed some snow-wet documents—and there are policemen outside to make sure you do it." Szálai had been alerted by a Wallenberg employee, overlooked by the Arrow Cross raid. The thugs had no choice but to release their catch, who were led back to their Úllói Street shelter by Szabo. Szálai had already dispatched a new police guard for Wallenberg's office.

But Wallenberg realized that his amazing luck, which for six months had bordered on the mystical, was running out. His enemies were having too many near-misses. He was clearly no longer off-limits to marauding street gangs. Wallenberg decided it was time to save himself. Dead, he would not be of much use to anybody. There was much to live for.

Budapest, January 3, 1945

The new year saw an Arrow Cross gone wild. Anti-Jewish incidents occurred daily all over the city. Frustrated Arrow Cross men, unable to find significant numbers of Jews because they had removed their yellow stars and melted into the general population, began raiding hospitals and orphanages, killing doctors, nurses, the ill and children. They caught and shot three members of the Judenrat.

Forty Arrow Cross gunmen attacked a safe house on Vádász Street, where hundreds of Zionist youths were forging papers and hundreds of others, deserters from the labor battalions, hid from the war. Only the armed intervention of Szálai's police saved them. In yet another Arrow Cross raid on the Swedish Legation itself, the Arrow Cross rounded up Section C workers and marched them through the streets. On the way the guards argued among themselves whose turn it was to brave the bitter cold to take the Jews down to the Danube to be shot. The police, this time led by the go-between, Károly Szabo, burst on the scene and freed the captive workers.

Between the Allied bombing and the Soviet artillery, much of the
THE WALLENBERG-SZALAI CONNECTION

No functionary in the Hungarist state apparatus could provide—or deny—Wallenberg a better shortcut from cabinet ministers to low-level bureaucrats and a more direct and immediate access to law-enforcement officials than Pál Szalai, the liaison officer between the Arrow Cross Party and the Budapest police. Sitting behind an imposing desk with a large Arrow Cross flag placed next to it made ominously authoritative, in a spacious office in the police headquarters, the green Arrow Cross-shirted Szalai made a great impression on his visitors. In public he was seen with his permanent escort of two policemen. The formidable façade notwithstanding, Szalai was a man of unusual aspirations, complex contradictions, and unexpected inconsistencies. He had been a member of the Arrow Cross Party since 1937 and was briefly jailed for his political views. Yet he resigned his membership in 1942, disillusioned with the dictatorial premise of Hungarianism. He rejoined the party after October 15, 1944, resolved to help the persecuted regardless of religious persuasion. He protected his subterfuge from his superiors and steadily broadened the scope of his authority. Remarkably, he never saw or met Eichmann or anyone from the Gestapo. Nor did he initiate any attempt to contact individuals or groups who could utilize his inclination for humanitarian service.

Károly Szabó, an employee of the Swedish legation and a friend of Szalai, took the first step in Wallenberg’s behalf. Szalai agreed to meet Wallenberg at the Swedish legation and a bond of friendship was quickly formed. Szalai’s office soon became a frequently visited last resort for Wallenberg and the representatives of the Jewish Council. He was instrumental in rescuing many Jews whom Arrow Cross militiamen had ordered to leave buildings under the protection of neutral legations and line up in the street to be taken away.

Szalai also proved helpful inside the crowded basement offices of the City Hall, the last makeshift headquarters of Budapest’s administrative and law-enforcement authorities. It was he who introduced Wallenberg to Arrow Cross Plenipotentiary Vajna and Dr. Gyula Sédey, Budapest’s chief of police. By his own admission, Szalai’s most significant contribution to the rescue work was the
Kati Marton

Kati Marton is a Hungarian-American author and journalist. Her career has included reporting for ABC News as a foreign correspondent and National Public Radio, where she started as a production assistant 1971 in her 20s, as well as print journalism and writing a number of books. She is the former chairwoman of the International Women's Health Coalition, and a director (former chairwoman) of the Committee to Protect Journalists and other bodies including the International Rescue Committee, Human Rights Watch and the New America Foundation.

Biography
Early life
Marton was born in Hungary,[1] [2] [3] the daughter of UPI reporter Ilona Marton and award-winning Associated Press reporter Endre Marton. Her parents survived the Holocaust of World War II but never spoke about it. They served nearly two years in prison on false charges of espionage for the U.S., and Kati and her older sister were placed in the care of strangers. Raised a Roman Catholic, she learned much later and by accident that her grandparents were Jews who were murdered at Auschwitz concentration camp. Among the many honors her parents received for their reporting on the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was the George Polk Award. The family ultimately fled Hungary following the revolution and settled in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where Marton attended Bethesda Chevy Chase High School.

Education
She studied at the Sorbonne, and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris. Growing up in Hungary, she had a French nanny, so she was raised speaking both Hungarian and French, learning American English when her family moved to America. She has a master's degree in international relations from George Washington University.

Personal life
TV anchor Peter Jennings was her second husband. Her first husband was Carroll Wetzel, now a retired international investment banker from Philadelphia. Jennings and Marton had two children together. On August 13, 1993, Jennings and Marton publicly announced their separation in Newsday. She was married to diplomat Richard Holbrooke from 1995 until his death in December 2010.[4]

Author and faculty member
Her latest book, Enemies of the People: My Family's Journey to America, released in 2009, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle
Award in 2010 and is soon to be the subject of a major motion picture. This latest book covers Marton’s discoveries about her journalist parents, mostly but not all positive in nature, after filing for access to the files kept by secret police in Budapest.

Marton has joined the faculty of Bard College.

Awards
She has received several honors for her reporting, including the 2001 Rebekah Kohut Humanitarian Award by the National Council of Jewish Women, the 2002 Matrix Award for Women Who Change the World, the George Foster Peabody Award (presented to WCAU-TV, Philadelphia in 1973) and the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary—the country’s highest civilian honor. Marton is also a recipient of The International Center in New York’s Award of Excellence. Her book, Enemies of the People: My Family’s Journey to America, was an autobiography finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in 2009.[5]

Selected writing

References
External links
• Bookreporter.com entry (http://www.bookreporter.com/authors/au-marton-kati.asp)

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Sylvia Plachy

Sylvia Plachy (born 1943) is a Hungarian/American photographer. Plachy was born in Budapest, Hungary. Her Jewish mother was in hiding in fear of Nazi persecution during World War II.[1] Her father was a Hungarian Roman Catholic aristocrat.


Her other books are Red Light: Inside the Sex Industry with James Ridgeway (1996) and Signs & Relics (2000) and Goings On About Town: Photographs for The New Yorker (2007). Plachy has been honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Lucie Award (2004). She has taught and lectured widely.

Plachy lives in New York City with her husband and is the mother of César Award and Academy Award-winning actor Adrien Brody.

External links
• Audio interview with the artist; and photographs by the artist [2]
• Self Portrait with Cows Going Home book [3]
• photos from Style series [4]
• "Sylvia Plachy Web Site" [5]

Footnotes