Muslim Responses during the Holocaust

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Overview

• The Holocaust was a European phenomenon: organized in Europe, carried out by Europeans, occurring mostly in Europe.

• Yet, some Muslims encountered the Holocaust along with their Christian counterparts.
Anti-Semitism less common in Muslim lands

- Belief (from time of Muhammad) that Jews and Christians, like Muslims, are “Peoples of the Book”

- Ottoman Empire’s tradition of tolerance was the historical tradition of Arabs, Turks, and Balkan Muslims (Albanians, Bosnians)
Hajj Amin Al-Husseini
Abdol-Hossein Sardari, an Iranian diplomat who rescued Jews

Ismail Necdet Kent, Turkish diplomat/Holocaust rescuer
Selahattin Ulkumen, “Righteous Among the Nations”

Israeli stamp picturing Selahattin Ulkumen and four other diplomats who are Righteous Among the Nations
The Grand Mosque of Paris

http://www.docbrown.info/docspics/paris/paris2006nov084.JPG
Two of the “Tehran Children” (Jewish refugees)
Tunisian Jews en route to do forced labor

Robert Satloff, *Among the Righteous*
Khaled Abdelwahhab, the first Arab nominated for Righteous Among the Nations

http://isurvived.org/InTheNews/arab-righteous.html
Si Ali Sakkat in Tunis

Robert Satloff, *Among the Righteous*
Home of Si Ali Sakkat, where he sheltered Jews

Robert Satloff, *Among the Righteous*
Albania as a haven for Jews

- Began the war with 200 Jews, but took in 800-1,000 Jewish refugees.
- Why?
  - Little anti-Semitism.
  - Code of honor (*besa*): everyone seeking assistance was a guest sent by God, and Albanians were bound by honor to protect these “guests” and care for them without taking anything in return.
The Franses family, Jewish refugees, with the Albanian family (the Kasapis) that sheltered them.
Refik Veseli with Gavra Mandil, the Jewish child he is hiding

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum photo archives
GERMAN ADMINISTRATION OF SOUTHERN EUROPE 1943

- **MILES**
  - 0
  - 150

- **Legend**
  - **Brown**: German Ally
  - **Light Brown**: German-Occupied
  - **Green**: Liberated
  - **Neutral**: Neutral
  - **White**: Boundary of Southern Europe

**Front Line November 20, 1943**
- **Naples**
- **Taranto**
- **Rome**
- **Trieste**
- **Genoa**
- **Milan**
- **Florence**
- **Sarajevo**
- **Belgrade**
- **Sofia**
- **Skopje**
- **Tirana**
- **Athens**
- **Corfu**
- **Salonica**
- **Venice**
- **Sicily**
- **Sardinia**
- **Corsica**
- **Sarajevo**
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U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
The Handžars: Muslim SS?
Public Protests

• Jan. 1942: public demonstrations in Travnik against deportation of the Jews to “work camps.”

• Letters protesting “religious persecution” – signed by Muslim leaders
  – Between Aug. and Dec. 1941, protest letters sent from notables in Prijedor, Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Mostar, Bijeljina, and Tuzla.
  – Many signers ended up in concentration camps.
Tito (Partisan leader) with Jewish Partisan Moshe Pijade.
Zejneba Hardaga, recognized with her husband and parents as “Righteous among the Nations.” (Note in the top picture, her arm is covering the Jewish marking on her friend’s clothes.)
MUSTFA & ZEJNEBA HARDAGA
IZET & BACHRIYA HARDAGA
AHMED SADIK
BOSNIA
Questions?

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