



**Rechtsanwalt Yori Geiron, Präsident der Israelischen Rechtsanwaltskammer  
Ansprache am 13.05.2009 in der Temple Church, London**

**Yori Geiron, Lawyer and President of the Israel Bar  
Speech - 13.05.2009 in the Temple Church, London**

Good Afternoon.

Standing here today, watching this difficult presentation of the well known horrifying fate of Jewish advocates in the Second World War, I am overwhelmed with emotions, especially as the Holocaust Memorial Day was noted in Israel merely two weeks ago.

This exhibition, initiated by the German Federal Bar, along with the talented advocate Yoel Levi, dedicated to the memory of Jewish Lawyers and jurists from the time of Nazi Germany, helps to keep forever in our minds, the fate of those who have been, for no fault of their own, humiliated, disbarred from practicing law and whose lives were later taken away.

It was also presented in Israel in 2003, at the home of the Israel Bar in Jerusalem.

I see an enormous importance in the existence of such exhibition travelling all parts of the world – many cities in Germany, Israel, America, Canada, Mexico, and now the Netherlands – particularly in light of the unusual incidents of Neo-Nazism and Holocaust denial, which increasingly occurred in the recent years throughout the world.

We, at the Israel Bar, have recently accompanied a visit of a delegation of German jurists who came to Israel in order to participate in the events in memory of the Holocaust. I believe that the international advocates' community has a major impact with respect to the regulation of the interpersonal interaction between the individual and the government, and I see the legal profession as one which imposes an inherent personal duty on each of us.

One should always remember that the society was founded in order to serve its components individuals and not the other way around. Human rights and the rule of law, law that protects human rights and does not infringe them in the name of the administration, are the very foundation of every modern, democratic society.

There is a famous saying of Jewish wise men that: „fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge“, which Jewish and universal meaning is not to put the blame for sins of previous generation on their descendants. All the same time, I believe that remembrance initiatives are imperative in order for the human society to make sure that history does not repeat itself.

It is further crucial to oppress every Neo-Nazi or anti-Semite expression arises. There is no justification to racism of any sort, not even in the name of a high value such as the freedom of expression. This, in my opinion, is one of the only exceptions allowing another value to prevail over freedom of expression.

I deem initiatives such as this exhibition, created for the sake of investigating into the role and position of the legal profession around the world during the Second World War, to have a substantial significance symbolizing the attribute of the lesson from the past and the creation of a better future.

On behalf of the Israel Bar Association and all advocates in Israel, please accept our deepest appreciation for keeping this initiative alive and running. Thank you very much.

Yori Geiron, Adv.  
President of the Israel Bar