



**Raoul Wallenberg
– Symbol or Mystery?**

Conference 18-19 October, 2012
Hosted by The Living History Forum, Stockholm

INTRODUCTION

During 2012, The Swedish Government commemorates, in Sweden as well as internationally, Raoul Wallenberg's centenary by honoring his memory with various events and activities. On behalf of The Living History Forum, a Swedish public authority under the government, I welcome You to this conference.

The task of The Living History Forum is to promote values of tolerance, democracy and human rights using the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity as it's starting point. With this in mind we want to stimulate reflection about the concept of the Bystander and its implications when a human fellow is in danger.

The history of Raoul Wallenberg is, in this respect, essential when learning from the history of the Holocaust.

Dr. Eskil Franck
Director The Living History Forum



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER

09:00 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Introduction: *Ms Eva Fried, Conference Coordinator*

Welcome: *Dr. Eskil Franck, Director of The Living History Forum*

Message: *H.E Mark Brezezinski, Ambassador of the United States*

Message: *H.E Gergely Pröhle, Deputy State Secretary, Hungary*

Message: *H.E Ambassador Jan Deboutte, Belgium, Chair of the ITF*

Message: *H.E Lena Adelson Liljeroth, Minister for Culture and Sports*

09:40 KEY NOTE ADDRESS

Mr. Georg Soros

10:15 ACADEMIC KEY NOTE: BUDAPEST 9 JULY, 1944

Associate Professor Paul A Levine

10:55 *Coffee break*

11:25 THE UNIQUENESS OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

Dr. Szabolcs Szita

12:05 THE INTERNATIONAL GHETTO IN BUDAPEST

Professor Tim Cole

12:45 *Buffet Lunch*

13:45 BEING BRAVE NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

H.E Per Westerberg, Speaker of Parliament

13:55 PANEL: "THE HERO THAT SWEDEN NEEDS"

In the US, Raoul Wallenberg has long been a hero. In Sweden, however, it took much longer until he gained the same status. For many years after the Second World War Sweden valued its legacy as a neutral country. But since the mid 1990's, this role began to be questioned and evaluated differently in the nation's history. In what way may this shift in understanding explain the changes in Wallenberg's status in Swedish public life?

MODERATOR: *Professor Ulf Zander*

PANELISTS: *Richard Swartz, Journalist, Associate Professor Bengt Jangfeldt, Ingrid Carlberg, Writer*

15:00 *Coffee break*

15:30 PANEL: "A DIPLOMATIC FAILURE"

In October 2001, the Swedish government appointed an official commission of inquiry, the Eliasson Commission, to investigate the decisions of Sweden's foreign policy establishment in the Raoul Wallenberg case. In 2003, a report was issued in which the country's political actions were summarized under the heading "A Diplomatic Failure".

MODERATOR: *Nathalie Besèr, Journalist*

PANELISTS: *Arne Ruth, Journalist, Professor Kim Salomon, Dr. Ester Pollack, Ambassador Sven Hirdman*

16:30 *Short break*

16:40 PANEL: "THE COURAGE TO CARE – WHO BECOMES A RESCUER?"

A conversation with *Professor Carol Rittner and Ms. Susanne Beer, doctoral candidate*

17:30 *Intermission followed by reception, concert and buffet dinner at Musikaliska, Nybrokajen 11. Buses leave from conference site 18:10.*

18:30 *Reception at Musikaliska, hosted by Belgium, chair country of the ITF*

19:00 *Concert at Musikaliska: "The Righteous", music by Boris Borisov and text by Robert Neufeld*

20:00 *Buffet Dinner at Musikaliska*

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER

09:00 WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT WALLENBERG'S DESTINY?

Dr. Nikita Petrov

09:50 THE ASSESSMENT TODAY

Ambassador Hans Magnusson

10:05 WHAT CAN A MONUMENT TELL

Professor Ulf Zander

10:50 *Coffee break*

11:15 A PERSONAL NOTE REGARDING THE WALLENBERG
MONUMENT IN THE FORMER INTERNATIONAL GHETTO

Mr. Karl Gabor, photographer

11:30 WALLENBERG MEMORIAL SITES IN BUDAPEST

Dr. Janos Pótó

12:15 MY ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

Mr. Gustav Krantz, Artist

12:45 MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

John William's Theme from Schindlers List.

Peter Fridholm, flute, Mira Fridholm, violin

12:55 CONCLUDING REMARK

Mr. Erik Ullenhag, Minister for Integration

13:15 *Conference ends*



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LIST OF SPEAKERS

MS. SUSANNE BEER *Doctoral candidate, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, Germany.*

Her dissertation analyses Germans who assisted persecuted Jews in the context of arrest and deportations by helping them to survive “illegally”. The study asks why helpers showed solidarity with persecuted Jews, and how these individuals demonstrated behaviors which differed from prevailing political and social norms.

MS. NATHALIE BESÈR *Journalist, Stockholm.*

Journalist and advisor to the Swedish Institute of International Affairs. Besèr specializes in international relations, international economy, and the Middle East. She has worked as a foreign correspondent and journalist for Swedish dailies such as *Dagens Nyheter* and *Sydsvenskan*, as well as a news anchor for one of Sweden’s national radio channels.

HDR. INGRID CARLBERG *Journalist and writer, Stockholm.*

After publication of her book, *Pillret (The Pill)* (2008), she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Uppsala University’s Dept. of Medical Studies, and is currently visiting professor at the University of Gothenburg’s Dept. of Journalism, Media and Communication. Carlberg has also worked as a political journalist for several prominent Swedish dailies. Her book about Raoul Wallenberg *Det står ett rum här och väntar på dig... Berättelsen om Raoul Wallenberg (There is a Room Waiting for You Here... The Story of Raoul Wallenberg)* (2012) was recently published.

PROFESSOR TIM COLE *Dept. of History, University of Bristol, UK.*

Cole is a specialist on the Holocaust in Hungary. He has published several books on the Hungarian Holocaust, among them; *Selling the Holocaust...* (1999), *Holocaust city; the making of a Jewish ghetto* (2003), and most recently *Traces of the Holocaust: Journeying in and out of the Ghettos* (2011).

MR. KARL GABOR *Photographer and graphic designer, Stockholm.*

After studies in Debrecen Hungary, Gabor immigrated to Sweden in 1967 where he later obtained his medical degree. His primary interest is photography, filmmaking and graphic design. In 2004 he contributed to the design of the Jewish museum's exhibition about Wallenberg; *One Man Can Make a Difference*. Gabor helped design the Swedish Institute's touring exhibition about Wallenberg, and his slide show about Wallenberg is presently showing in both Riksdagen and the EU Parliament.

SVEN HIRDMAN *Ambassador, Stockholm.*

Served the Swedish Foreign Ministry during 1963-2004. From 1994 to 2001 he was Sweden's ambassador to Russia. He was the Associate Director of SIPRI from 1969 to 1972, Embassy Counselor in Beijing from 1972 to 1976, State Secretary at the Swedish Ministry of Defense from 1979 to 1982, Ambassador in Tel Aviv from 1983 to 1987. Ambassador Hirdman, who furthermore is a Slavic scholar, is a frequent consultant and lecturer with a focus on Russia and international politics.

DR. BENGT JANGFELDT *Associate Professor of Slavic Languages.*

Jangfeldt was editor of the magazine *Artes*, and a translator of Russian literature. His publications include *Med livet som insats (With Life at Stake)* (2007) about the Russian poet Vladimir Majakovskij, for which he received the prestigious August prize. His most recent publication is *Raoul Wallenberg – En biografi (Raoul Wallenberg – A Biography)* (2012).

MR. GUSTAV KRAITZ *Artist, Båstad, Sweden.*

Born in Hungary, Kraitz studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest at the same time as Wallenberg was in the city. In 1944, Kraitz was captured by the Soviet army and sent to Russia for forced labor. He returned to Hungary in 1951, and immigrated to Sweden in 1956. He frequently collaborates with his wife Ulla Kraitz and their art is exhibited both privately and publically. Their most prominent work of public art is the Raoul Wallenberg monument located just outside of UN headquarter in New York City.

HANS MAGNUSSON *Ambassador, Stockholm.*

Former Deputy Director General and Head of Department for Central and Eastern Europe within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He was furthermore the co-chairman of the Swedish-Russian Working Group on Raoul Wallenberg. Prior to this he served as the Swedish Ambassador to Latvia as well as to Moscow, Belgrade and Brasilia. Magnusson was recently tasked by the Swedish government to find out about the possibilities of new findings regarding Wallenberg's ultimate fate.

DR. PAUL A. LEVINE *Associate Professor in History, especially Holocaust History and Memory, University of Uppsala, Sweden.*

His publications include: *Tell Ye Your Children...* (with Stéphane Bruchfeld) (1998), published in almost 20 countries. His dissertation, *From Indifference to Activism; Swedish Diplomacy and the Holocaust, 1938-1944*, was published in a second edition 1998. His monograph, *Raoul Wallenberg in Budapest; Myth, History & Holocaust* was published in 2010, and translated into Swedish in 2011.

DR. NIKITA PETROV *Historian, Moscow.*

He is the Deputy Head of the Human Rights Centre Memorial, Moscow. Petrov specializes in the history of Soviet security services and the history of Stalin's political repressions. His publications include: *The Role of Stalin and NKVD-MGB in the Process of Sovietization in Central and Eastern Europe 1945-1953* (2008), and *Stalin's Loyal Executioner: People's Commissar Nikolai Ezhov 1895-1940* (with Mark Jansen) (2002).

DR. ESTER POLLACK *Associate professor, Dept of Media studies, Stockholm University.*

Pollack's main areas of research interests are; media and crime, the role of journalism in the history of politics and journalism and political scandals. Her publications include: *SCANDALOUS! The Mediated Construction of Political Scandals in Four Nordic Countries* (with Sigurd Allern) (2012), *The Making of Kalle Blomkvist: Crime Journalism in Postwar Sweden* (2011), and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and Philosophy* (2011).

DR. JANOS PÓTÓ *Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest.*

Póto is editor of the Hungarian historical magazine, *História*. His main research analyses the elements and role of symbolic politics in 20th century Hungarian history, especially historical and political monuments, places of memory, street names etc. His publications include: *A Study of the World's First Wallenberg Memorial in Hungary* (1984), and the book *Places of Memory: Monuments and Politics* (2003).

DR. CAROL RITTNER *Professor of Holocaust and Genocides Studies, the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, United States.*

Member of the order Sisters of Mercy, Rittner is on the Board of Trustees of College Misericordia (USA), and of the Executives of the Aegis Trust (UK). She is editor of the quarterly, *Perspectives on Genocide* (UK). Her publications include: *The Courage to Care: Non-Jews Who Rescued Jews during the Holocaust* (1986), *Different Voices: Women and the Holocaust* (1993), and *Will Genocide Ever End?* (2002). Her film, *The Courage to Care*, was nominated in 1986 for an Academy Award in the Short Documentary category.

HDR. ARNE RUTH *Journalist and writer.*

Former Cultural Editor of *Expressen* and *Dagens Nyheter* and former chair of Swedish Pen. His time at *Dagens Nyheter* was highlighted by publication of a feature reporting on Swedish business' connections with Nazi Germany. Ruth has received Honorary Doctorates from university of Gothenburg (2008) and Stockholm university (1991).

DR. KIM SALOMON *Professor of History, Dept. of History, Lund University, Sweden.*

Salomon's primary research fields are international history, contemporary history and culture analyses and history theory. His publications include: *En femtiotalsberättelse. Populärkulturens kalla krig i Folkhemssverige (A Story From the 1950's – The Cold War of Pop Culture in the Swedish Welfare State)* (2007), and *Refugees in the Cold War; Toward a New International Refugee Regime in the Early Postwar Era* (1991). Salomon is a member of the Swedish Academy of Sciences and contributes regularly to the Swedish popular press.

MR. GEORGE SOROS *Investor and philanthropist.*

Born in Hungary Soros is Chair of Soros Fund Management LLC and founder to The Open Society Foundation. The Society was founded in 1979 with the aim to support democracy and human rights. The first European office was set up in Hungary in 1984. When the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, Soros had also established offices in Poland and Russia. As communism collapsed, Soros moved quickly to seize the revolutionary moment and opened offices in countries throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

MR. RICHARD SWARTZ *Journalist and writer.*

Swartz is an independent commentator in the daily *Dagens Nyheter*, and was for several years *Svenska Dagbladet's* Eastern European correspondent. Swartz received the Gerard Bonnier Short Stories Award (1997), and the Jolo Award (2004). His publications include: *Integration i Östeuropa (Integration in Eastern Europe)* (1972), *Oppositionen i Östeuropa (Opposition in Eastern Europe)* (1979), and *Ett hus i Istrien (A house in Istria)* (1999).

DR. SZABOLCS SZITA *Professor of History.*

Szita is Co-Founder of Hungary's Holocaust Documentation Center and since 2011 its Director. He is the recipient of Hungary's Sándor Scheiber Prize, the Csatkai Prize and Austria's Ehrencreutz für Wissenschaft und Kunst. His publications include: *Hungarians in Mauthausen* (2006), *Trading in Lives? Operations of the Jewish Relief and Rescue Committee in Budapest, 1944–1945* (with Sean Lambert) (2005).

PROFESSOR ULF ZANDER *Professor of History and History Didactics, Dept. of History, Lund University, Sweden.*

His main field of research is how history is communicated to society including educational spheres. Zander frequently contributes to the popular press. His publications include: *Fornstora dagar, moderna tider* (*The Great Days of The Old, Modern Times*) (2001), *Clio at the cinema – About American Film, History and Identity* (2006), *Förintelsens röda nejlika – Raoul Wallenberg som historiekulturell symbol* (*The red carnation of Holocaust – Raoul Wallenberg as a historical and cultural symbol*) (2012), published by The Living History Forum.

MS. LENA ADELSON LILJEROTH *Minister for Culture and Sports.*

H.E. MARK BRZEZINSKI *Ambassador of the United States to Sweden.*

H.E. AMBASSADOR JEAN M. DEBOUTTE *Chair of the International Task Force for Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), Belgium.*

DR. ESKIL FRANCK *Director, The Living History Forum.*

MR. GERGELY PRÖHLE *Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hungary.*

MR. ERIK ULLENHAG *Minister for Integration.*

MR. PER WESTERBERG *Speaker of The Swedish Parliament.*





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