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Contact: Janet Keller
Shoah Foundation
818/777-4999
janetk@vhf.org

Daniel Bouw
Joods Historisch Museum
020 626 99 45
communications@jhm.nl

**DUTCH MUSEUM TO UNVEIL NATIONAL COLLECTION OF
SHOAH FOUNDATION HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES**

*Joods Historisch Museum in Amsterdam first institution in the world to receive
Shoah Foundation Biographical Search Tool*

Amsterdam; Wednesday, October 24, 2001

Today, the Joods Historisch Museum in Amsterdam unveiled the Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection and Biographical Search Tool to the public. This is the first comprehensive national collection of Shoah Foundation testimonies available for viewing and searching. More than 1,000 Holocaust survivors and other witnesses who were born or have resided in the Netherlands gave testimony to the Shoah Foundation between 1995 and 1998, and this regional collection is now available for public viewing at the museum. The Shoah Foundation's archive of more than 50,000 eyewitness testimonies is the largest collection of videotaped Holocaust testimonies in the world.

"The Shoah Foundation recently announced a new mission with an emphasis on worldwide education to prevent catastrophes such as the Shoah," said Douglas Greenberg, Shoah Foundation President and CEO. "This first regional collection of 1,000 eyewitness testimonies at the Joods Historisch Museum exemplifies the shift in our urgent work. It also shows how partnerships with institutions in Europe and around the world are crucial to the pursuit of our mission to overcome prejudice and intolerance through the educational use of the testimonies." Steven Spielberg, who founded the non-profit organization in 1994, said: "Each survivor is a teacher, putting a real face, a real voice, a real experience directly before this and future generations. The archive is their perpetual link to our expanded long-range objectives of remembrance and education."

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“The Joods Historisch Museum plays a central role in the education of topics related to the culture and history of the Jews in the Netherlands. The motto is: *”Seeing leads to remembering, remembering leads to the doing”* (*Babylonian Talmud, Menahot, 43b*). Now the museum can provide access to those who are interested in learning about the personal testimonies of Dutch Holocaust survivors and witnesses,” said Museum Director, Rivka Weiss-Blok, Director of the Museum.

Each interview in the Collection at the Joods Historisch Museum represents on average, four or five 30-minute videotapes. Unlike film and television programs, the interviews are not edited, practiced or polished, but are raw data – primary sources of information. According to Greenberg, “The integrity of the testimonies lies in their unaltered authenticity. The Shoah Foundation’s primary concern is to preserve and share each survivor story as it was told – without cuts, retakes, or editorial commentary. The purpose of the interviews is not only to document events but to achieve a deeper understanding of the perspectives and experiences of survivors and other witnesses.”

The Biographical Search Tool is designed by the Shoah Foundation specifically for the Joods Historisch Museum. This software allows museum visitors to search a database containing biographical information for each interviewee, with bilingual capability. The system is user friendly and provides browse and search functionalities. The collection of videotaped testimonies, supplemented by the Biographical Search Tool, allows the end user to search for information, leading to a specific testimony or a group of testimonies that can then be viewed. Users can search the database for specific biographical information and experiences. The experiences represented in the Shoah Foundation Visual History Collection at the Joods Historisch Museum include Jewish Survivors as well as rescue and aid providers, Jehovah’s witness survivors, political prisoners, a homosexual survivor, and a Sinti and Roma (“Gypsy”) survivor.

About the Joods Historisch Museum

The Joods Historisch Museum is housed in four former Ashkenazi synagogues from the 17th and 18th centuries, and is situated in the heart of the former Jewish quarter of Amsterdam. The permanent exhibition illustrates the many aspects of Judaism in the Netherlands, both yesterday and today. The central motif is the religion, culture, and history of Jews in the Netherlands. The museum also organizes several temporary exhibitions on specific aspects of Jewish history and culture. Recently, the museum has added the children’s museum: *Where Mokum is home*. The Educational Department offers several educational programs for both children and adults.

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The Resource Center has a large collection of books and documents, photos and audio- visuals. It is open on weekdays from 1 PM – 5 PM, or by appointment. Furthermore, there is a kosher Museum Café and a Museum Shop with a wide range of Jewish books, music, and postcards. The museum is open daily from 11 AM – 5 PM Jonas Daniël Meijerplein 2-4, 1011 RH Amsterdam, Tel: +31 - (0)20 626 9945, Fax: +31 (0)20 - 624 1721, e-mail: info@ jhm.nl, website: www.jhm.nl.

About Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation

Since Steven Spielberg established Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in 1994, the Foundation has videotaped the testimonies of more than 50,000 Holocaust survivors and witnesses in 57 countries in 32 languages. Today, the Shoah Foundation endeavors to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of its visual history archive worldwide. To this end, the Foundation preserves and provides access to the archive; builds and supports educational programs; and develops educational products based on the testimonies. These products include two CD-ROMs, *Survivors: Testimonies of the Holocaust* (English-language); and *Erinnern für Gegenwart und Zukunft / Remembering for the Present and the Future* (German-language). The Foundation has also produced eight documentary films; three in English, including the 1998 Academy Award winning *The Last Days*; and five foreign-language documentaries, known collectively as *Broken Silence*, for international television broadcast in Poland, Argentina, Russia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Individuals interested in supporting the Shoah Foundation are encouraged to call 818/777-4673 or write to PO Box 3168, Los Angeles, California, 90078-3168. For more information, visit the Foundation's homepage at www.vhf.org.

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