

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **VIDEOTAPED TESTIMONIES OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ON VIEW AT DACHAU MEMORIAL SITE**

### **First Shoah Foundation Collection at Concentration Camp Memorial Site**

Dachau, Germany; October 21, 2003 - The videotaped interviews of thirty three survivors of Dachau were unveiled today at KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau. This is the first collection of Shoah Foundation testimonies available for public viewing at a concentration camp memorial site. The testimonies are in the German language and are available in dvd format on computers at the site.

The Shoah Foundation's archive of nearly 52,000 eyewitness testimonies is the largest collection of videotaped Holocaust testimonies in the world.

"The opening of this collection is a significant milestone for the Shoah Foundation as it enters its 10th year," said Dr. Douglas Greenberg, president and CEO. "It has always been the Foundation's intention to return the testimonies to the communities from which they were gathered. But the significance of placing these voices and these faces at Dachau is especially powerful. People now have the unique opportunity to learn about this important part of history from people who actually lived through it, where they actually lived through it. We hope to open similar collections at other memorial sites."

At a ceremony marking the occasion today, Philipp Graf von Hardenberg, Managing Director, Shoah Foundation Berlin, remarked, "Authentic reports of former Dachau concentration camp inmates, part of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation collection, are impressive and deeply moving documents that will remind us of the events during the Holocaust. The Shoah Foundation is very grateful to the witnesses for the opportunity to bring their life stories back to the place where it all happened and to make them accessible to the public. Future generations, knowing their history, will be able to look into the victims' eyes and they will become aware of their own responsibilities for present and future."

Also speaking at the event were Dr. Barbara Distel, Director of the KZ Memorial Site Dachau; Dr. Peter März, Director of the Foundation Memorial Sites of Bavaria; Monika Hohlmeier, Minister - Bavarian States Ministry for Studies and Culture; Dr. Max Mannheimer, Camp Community; and Michael Anthony, of Allianz Group, who provided funding for the collection.

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg established Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in 1994. Since then, the Foundation has videotaped testimonies in 56 countries and in 32 languages. Today, the Shoah Foundation endeavors to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies. To this end, the Foundation partners with organizations around the world to incorporate testimonies into classroom lessons and museum exhibits, to create educational products, and to preserve, and provide access to, the entire visual history archive.

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](http://www.vhf.org). The Dachau concentration camp memorial site is open daily, except Monday, from 9am to 5pm. Their website is [www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de](http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de). # # #

