



**Grußwort von Generalkonsulin Sandra Simovich anlässlich der  
Gedenkveranstaltung/ Gedenkstätte Geislingen 29.4.2018**

1

Dear Mayor Dehmer,  
Dear Sir or Madam,  
esteemed friend and colleague, Israeli ambassador to Finland Dov Segev,  
dear guests,  
Shalom.

Thank you that I can be here with you today in Geislingen at this commemoration ceremony and that I can address you. And I also thank you for your commitment and your willingness to keep alive the memory of the women of the KZ satellite camp in Geislingen.

The remembrance and the willingness to do so is the basis of a democratic mind and the prerequisite for peace and constitutionality.

Many of the Jewish forced laborers emigrated to Israel after the end of the war; and today there are contemporary witnesses from Israel among us. These people, who had lost everything, left behind their homeland and their identity - and ventured a completely new beginning. They found a new home in Israel, a new identity as Israelis and they were instrumental in shaping the state which was still in the making. Quite a few of them, after surviving the Shoah, died in the War of Independence.

The survivors, including those from Geislingen, are part of the multifaceted mosaic of the Israeli state today and these countless, colorful stones cannot always be integrated easily. But this is what makes us up, our liveliness, our culture of debate. Israel is turning 70 this year and it still provides a home for all the Jews in the world, now and in the future. The past has taught us how essential this is. A past that we commemorate here together now.



**Grußwort von Generalkonsulin Sandra Simovich anlässlich der  
Gedenkveranstaltung/ Gedenkstätte Geislingen 29.4.2018**

2

Today, Israel and Germany are united in the fight against growing anti-Semitism and the effort to maintain the remembrance of the deprivation of rights, persecution and annihilation of the European Jews.

Today's anti-Semitism and xenophobia, violence against others, and extremist ideology must be opposed with determination.

In doing so, the entire society, every municipality and church, every family and school, but also every single person matters.

As society in Germany changes, so does the form of anti-Semitism. And just as society is changing, so does the way of dealing with the past. This also includes creating new forms of remembering.

But we also want to look ahead and we can be proud of the long and rocky road that Israelis and Germans have traveled together in spite of their history.

A consul general from Israel speaks in Germany today, in Geislingen and we remember together.

But we also work together and there are so many economic and civil bilateral projects: exchange, encounter, culture. And we want to and we must continue with this without losing sight of the history.

For this remembering prevents us from taking for granted our German-Israeli friendship, our numerous partnerships but also peace and democracy in general. It prevents us from ceasing to challenge it and to continue working on it more and more.

Thank you very much. Shalom w toda.