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PRESS RELEASE

Safeguarding Memory: Commemorating Jewish Mass Graves in Poland

NARRATED BY Theodore Bikel

NETA Uplink January 24, 2011

(Montclair, NJ): While it is widely known that the Germans built seven death camps and many concentration camps and ghettos within Poland as part of their plan to annihilate the Jewish people during World War II, few are aware that the country is also lined with mass burial grounds of thousands of Jewish Holocaust victims. Most of these sites have never been identified, adding another layer of tragedy to the horrific genocide of the Jews. But today some elderly Poles, who were teenagers at the time of these slaughters, are sharing details about the mass murders. Witnesses to the massacres, these Polish individuals have never been able to erase the nightmares of their hidden memories.

Safeguarding Memory: Commemorating Jewish Mass Graves in Poland is a 27 minute documentary narrated by actor Theodore Bikel that relays a few of these stories as told to three individuals: Poland's Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich; Polish businessman Zbigniew Nizinski who spends his free time finding witnesses interested in sharing the stories of the atrocities they beheld; and NY businessman Harley Lippman, a member of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, who is determined to ensure that these Jewish mass graves are properly marked and respected. The documentary's historical context is provided by Christopher Browning, the Frank Porter Graham Professor of History at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Just released, the documentary will be uplinked to members of National Educational Telecommunications Association on January 24, 2011 in time for broadcast on PBS and cable stations for International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, 2011.

Safeguarding Memory: Commemorating Jewish Mass Graves in Poland is a production of JEMGLO, a nonprofit multimedia company based in Montclair, NJ.

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