



THE SEARCH FOR PERPETRATORS

“After the war, some of those responsible for crimes committed during the Holocaust were brought to trial. Nuremberg, Germany, was chosen as a site for the trials that took place in 1945 and 1946. Judges from the Allied powers -- Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States -- presided over the hearings of twenty-two major Nazi criminals. Twelve prominent Nazis

were sentenced to death. Most of the defendants admitted to the crimes of which they were accused, although most claimed that they were simply following the orders of a higher authority. Those individuals directly involved in the killing received the most severe sentences. Other people who played key roles in the Holocaust, including high-level government officials, and business executives who used concentration camp inmates as forced laborers, received short prison sentences or no penalty at all.

The Nazis' highest authority, the person most to blame for the Holocaust, was missing at the trials. Adolf Hitler had committed suicide in the final days of the war, as had several of his closest aides. Many more criminals were never tried. Some fled Germany to live abroad, including hundreds who came to the United States.

Following the [postwar trials of Nazis](#), the search continued for perpetrators of the Holocaust. Only a small percentage of these criminals have been brought to justice.



False identification papers used by Adolf Eichmann while he was living in Argentina under the assumed name Ricardo Klement.



ADOLF EICHMANN

Trials of Nazis continued to take place both in Germany and many other countries. Simon Wiesenthal, a Nazi-hunter, located Adolf Eichmann in Argentina. Eichmann, who had helped plan and carry out the final solution which led to the deportations and murder of millions of Jews, was brought to trial in Israel. The testimony of hundreds of witnesses, many of them survivors, was followed all over the world. Eichmann was found guilty and executed in 1962," -(Holocaust Encyclopedia <<http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/wcrime.htm>>).

On May 11, 1960, three members of the Israeli Security Service captured Adolf Eichmann near Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he had been in hiding since 1950. This ended Israel's decade-long search for Eichmann, a key figure in the implementation of the "Final Solution." An Israeli court in Jerusalem subsequently convicted Eichmann of multiple charges, including crimes against the Jewish people. Eichmann was sentenced to death and executed; this is the only time that Israel has enacted a death sentence.

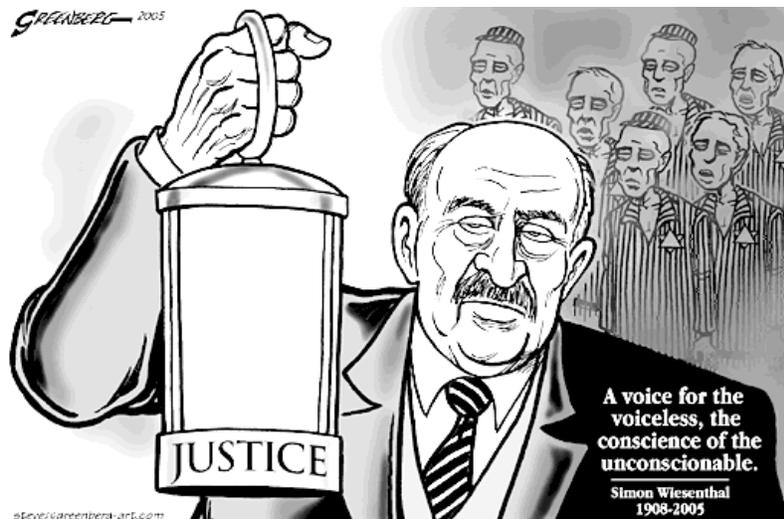
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

The United States, as well, through the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) in the US Department of Justice, has tracked down suspected Nazi offenders. According to American law, US courts do not have jurisdiction to try individuals for crimes committed outside the United States unless the crimes were committed against American citizens. Therefore, OSI litigates against Nazi war criminals for violating US immigration and naturalization laws. In the 21 years since it was created, OSI has investigated hundreds of cases and sought the denaturalization and/or removal from the United States of more than 117 Nazi war criminals. The vast majority have involved Lithuanian, Latvian, Ukrainian, and ethnic German collaborators who immigrated to the United States shortly after the war from displaced persons camps in Germany and Austria.

The OSI investigated and prosecuted cases against Nazi offenders from 1979 until 2010. (In March 2010, OSI merged with a new Department of Justice section, the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section, while continuing with its original mandate.) OSI established a record as the most active and successful such law enforcement unit in the world. It was the only law enforcement unit of its kind to win awards from Holocaust survivor organizations.

SIMON WIESENTHAL

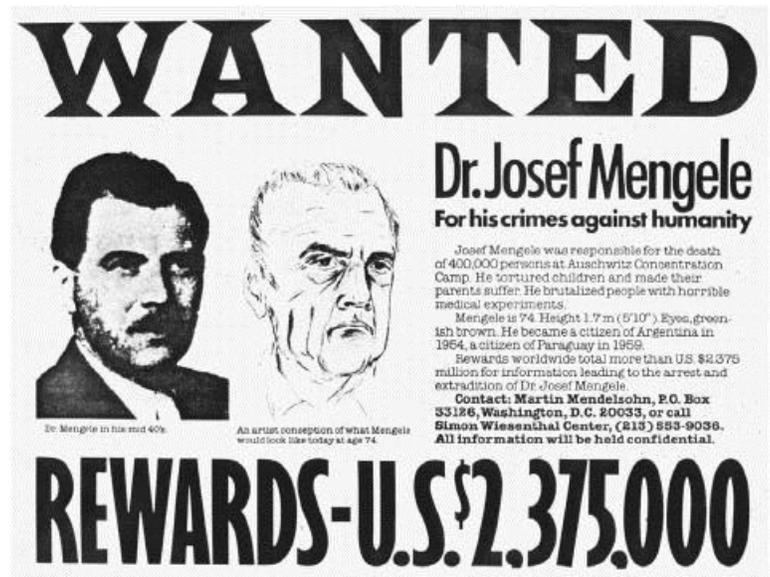
Simon Wiesenthal (1908-2005), a Holocaust survivor, dedicated his life to raising public awareness on the need to hunt and prosecute Nazis who have evaded justice. After liberation, he worked for the War Crimes Section of the United States Army, and in 1947 he opened the Jewish Historical Documentation Center in Austria. Wiesenthal is credited for urging postwar Western governments to locate and prosecute escaped Nazi offenders as well as offering leads that sometimes led to their extradition.



Among those about whom Wiesenthal provided leads to war crimes investigators are: Adolf Eichmann, administrator of the “Final Solution”; Franz Stangl, commandant of the Sobibor and Treblinka killing centers; and Karl Silberbauer, the Gestapo agent who led the arrest of Anne Frank and her family. Wiesenthal also provided information that led to the discovery that Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan was residing in New York State. Braunsteiner-Ryan was the first Nazi criminal to be extradited from the US.

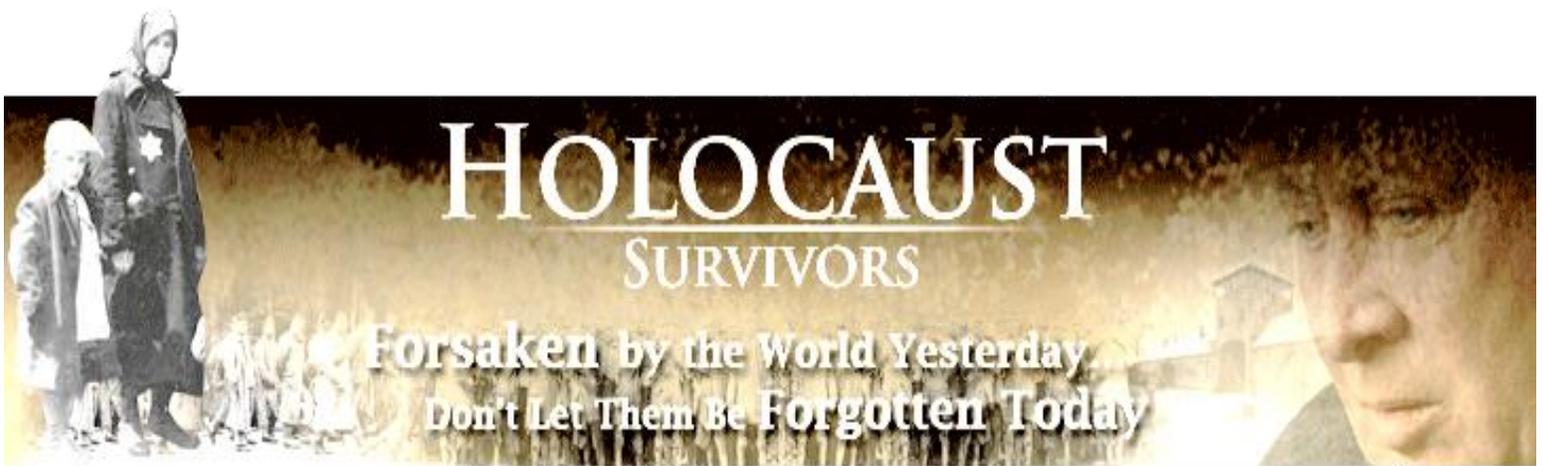
JOSEF MENGELE

Josef Mengele, the notorious SS doctor who performed medical experiments on prisoners in Auschwitz, was the target of decades of searching by many parties. In 1949, he was granted asylum in Argentina. In 1960, West Germany asked Argentina to extradite Mengele. He escaped to Brazil, and from there to Paraguay. His fate remained unknown for years. According to one account, he drowned in Brazil in 1979. In 1985, an analysis of human remains suspected to be Mengele's confirmed his death.



COMPLEX QUESTIONS

The search for and prosecution of Holocaust criminals raises complex moral questions, as well as tangled problems of international law and jurisdiction. As they reach the end of their lives, the vast majority of Nazi offenders have escaped punishment. Read below to learn more about those who escaped justice!



Catch the Criminals	What Happened to them?
<p>_____ the notorious SS doctor who performed medical experiments on prisoners in Auschwitz,</p>	<p><u>Captured?</u> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Escaped?</u> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>_____ helped plan and carry out the final solution which led to the deportations and murder of millions of Jews,</p>	<p><u>Captured?</u> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Escaped?</u> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>_____ the person most to blame for the Holocaust, was missing at the trials</p>	<p><u>Captured?</u> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Escaped?</u> <input type="checkbox"/></p>

1. How many Nazis were sentenced to death at the Nuremburg trials?
2. What US government agency has tracked down Nazis who have escaped to the United States under false identities?
3. What does this government agency do to the Nazi war criminals captured in America?
4. How many Nazi war criminals has this agency tracked down?
5. Why do you think it is important that these criminals be brought to justice even almost 70 years later?