
JASENOVAC: CROATIA REMEMBERS NAZI DEATH CAMP VICTIMS

25.04.2016

22.04.2016

BBC

Croatia has held a memorial service for tens of thousands of people murdered by Nazi Germany's allies at the Jasenovac death camp.

Officials laid wreaths at a memorial to victims of the Ustashe puppet regime, which incarcerated Jews, Serbs and others in brutal conditions.

However, the service at Jasenovac was boycotted by Jewish and Serb groups.

They say the new Croat government has not acted against renewed use of Ustashe salutes by nationalists.

In January, ultra-nationalists shouted pro-Nazi slogans at a rally attended by thousands of people, including Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Ivan Tepes.

Similar slogans were also chanted during a football match between Israel and Croatia in March, attended by Prime Minister Tihomir Oreskovic.

Croatia's Jewish community held a separate Holocaust commemoration a week ago.

Mr Oreskovic and President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic both voiced regret over the boycott.

Earlier this month they explicitly condemned the Ustashe regime's crimes for the first time during a visit by Nicholas Dean, the US State Department's special envoy for Holocaust issues.

Three-quarters of about 40,000 Croatian Jews were killed by the Ustashe and Jews now make up less than 1% of the population.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36117372>

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