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RUSSIA REJECTS REQUEST TO RELEASE FILES ON SWEDISH DIPLOMAT WHO SAVED WWII JEWS

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A Russian court has denied a request to release files on the fate of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. He saved thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary before his arrest and forced disappearance by Soviet agents.

A Russian court on Monday rejected a request to release classified documents about Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, whose death in a Soviet secret police prison seven decades ago remains shrouded in mystery.

Wallenberg used his diplomatic powers to help nearly 20,000 Jews flee Nazi-occupied Hungary during World War Two, before he was detained by Soviets in Budapest before the end of the war.

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He died in a Soviet prison in Moscow in 1947 from what police officials later said was a heart attack. His body was never handed over and Sweden only declared him dead in 2016.

Ukraine: Massacres of the Jews

Sooner or later the truth will come out

The humanitarian's relatives believe he may have murdered by the Soviet secret police. In 2000, the head of a Russian investigative commission said Wallenberg backed up that assertion.

Wallenberg's relatives in July launched a case against the Russian FSB, the successor to the Soviet-era KGB and NKGB, in order to force the intelligence service to release classified documents that could shed light on the diplomat's fate.

But the Moscow court sided with the FSB argument that the documents could not be released because they contain information about other individuals.

"The historical significance of Raoul Wallenberg gives us the right to know the truth, whatever it is. And sooner or later we will get hold of the truth," said the family's lawyer Ivan Pavlov, adding the decision would be appealed.

The FSB said the family would have to wait until 2022 when a 75-year waiting period for classified documents has passed. FSB representative Sergei Churikov admitted that Wallenberg's files had been heavily censored and parts were missing. "Someone took measures to hide information," he

said.

cw/kl (AFP, AP, dpa, Reuters)

World commemorates International Holocaust Remembrance Day
The world remembers the victims of the Holocaust

On January 27, 1945, the Soviet Red Army liberated the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz. In 1996, then German President Roman Herzog marked it as a day to commemorate the victims of the Nazi Holocaust. In 2005, the United Nations named it a day of international day of remembrance. Since then, people gather across the world to remember those who lost their lives.

Kaynak/Source: