

# In the name of the six million accusers

Gideon Hausner

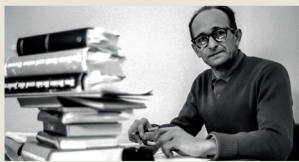
EXPLORE

- **Speech:**  
The Eichmann Trial
- **Video:**  
– The story of Sir Nicholas Winton  
– The story of Irena Sendler

WARM UP

1 Look at the information and photos below and answer the questions.

Adolf Eichmann (1906-1962) was a Nazi officer in charge of implementing the genocide against Jewish people during WWII. He was among the organisers of the **Wannsee Conference** in Berlin in January 1942, in which the genocide was planned. Eichmann played an important role in the Final solution. He was in charge of managing and facilitating mass deportations.



Eichmann's list

Land	Zahl
A. Altreich	131.800
Ostmark	43.700
Ostgebiete	420.000
Generalgouvernement	2.284.000
Bialystok	400.000
Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren	74.200
Estland	3.500
Letland - judenfrei -	
Litauen	34.000
Belgien	43.000
Dänemark	5.600
Frankreich / Besetztes Gebiet	165.000
Frankreich / Unbesetztes Gebiet	700.000
Griechenland	69.600
Niederlande	150.800
Norwegen	1.500
B. Bulgarien	48.000
England	330.000
Finnland	2.300
Irland	4.000
Italien einschl. Sardinien	58.000
Albanien	200
Kroatien	40.000
Portugal	3.000
Rumänien einschl. Bessarabien	342.000
Schweden	8.000
Schweiz	18.000
Serbien	10.000
Slowakei	88.000
Spanien	6.000
Türkei (europ. Teil)	55.500
Ungarn	742.800
UdSSR	5.000.000
Ukraine	2.994.684
Weissrussland aus-schl. Bialystok	446.484
Zusammen: über	11.000.000

In 1944 Eichmann organised a plan to sell 1685 privileged Jews for the price of 1000 dollars each. The people on that list should have been taken to neutral Switzerland. The train left Budapest in June and all the passengers were saved.

**1946**  
At the end of WWII Eichmann was captured by the Allies. He was using the fake name of Otto Eckmann so as not to be recognised. He managed to escape and to hide in various places in Germany.

**1950**  
Eichmann went to Genova under a new name, trying to be welcomed as a refugee. Thanks to the help of some former Nazis in Italy, he was given a fake passport and a visa for Argentina.

**1960**  
Eichmann was finally captured on 11 May near his home in Buenos Aires. He was recognised because of the particular shape of his ears. He was held for nine days in one of the Mossad safe houses in Argentina and then taken to a fortified prison in Israel.

**1961**  
In Israel, Eichmann was brought to trial, convicted for his war crimes and hanged.

2 Look at the fake document Eichmann used to escape to Argentina and complete the information below.



Fake name: .....

Date document was issued: .....

Organisation which released the document: .....

- Who was Adolf Eichmann?  
.....
- What was the 'Final solution'?  
.....
- What was the so-called 'Eichmann's list'?  
.....



## ■ THE SPEECH

*This speech is the opening statement of the Eichmann Trial in Jerusalem given by the chief prosecutor, Gideon Hausner, after Eichmann was captured by Mossad agents in Argentina.*

When I stand before you here, Judges of Israel, to lead the Prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, I am not standing alone. With me are six million accusers. But they cannot rise to their feet and point an accusing finger towards him who sits in the dock and cry: 'I accuse.' For their ashes are piled up on the hills of Auschwitz  
5 and the fields of Treblinka, and are strewn in the forests of Poland. Their graves are scattered throughout the length and breadth of Europe. Their blood cries out, but their voice is not heard. Therefore I will be their spokesman and in their name I will unfold the terrible indictment.

10 The history of the Jewish people is steeped in suffering and tears. [...] Yet never, down the entire blood-stained road travelled by this people, never since the first days of its nationhood, has any man arisen who succeeded in dealing it such grievous blows as did Hitler's iniquitous regime, and Adolf Eichmann as its executive arm for the extermination of the Jewish people. [...]

15 For the purposes of Nazi Germany's internal policy, the Jew was a convenient object of hatred; he was weak and defenseless. The world outside remained silent when he was persecuted, and contented itself with verbal reactions that did little harm. The Jew was pilloried as a supporter of Communism – and therefore an enemy of the German people. In the same breath he was accused of being a capitalist – and therefore an enemy of the workers. National-Socialism  
20 had found in the Jew an object of hostility appropriate to both halves of its name, and it set him up as a target for both national enmity and class hatred. [...]

25 A confused and blinded world was not alarmed by this campaign of hatred and the denial of human rights. It did not understand that the persecution of the Jews was only the beginning of an onslaught on the entire world. The man whose henchman howled the infamous words: 'When Jewish blood spurts from the knife/Then all goes doubly well!' ('Wenn Judenblut vom Messer spritzt/Dann geht's nochmal so gut!') – the same man would soon, by natural development and led by the same master-feeling of hate, proclaim that all the cities of England would be subjected to the same fate as bombed Coventry.



## FACT FILE

- **WHO?** Gideon Hausner, chief prosecutor at the Eichmann Trial
- **WHERE?** Beit HaAm auditorium in Jerusalem
- **WHY?** Eichmann's trial
- **WHEN?** 17 April 1961



SPEECH

(from 20:23)  
<http://tiny.cc/qb48tz>

← Gideon Hausner during the Eichmann Trial.

■ LET'S WORK ON IT

- 3 List the main points of the speech.
- 4 Underline in different colours:
  - references to Jews killed in Nazi camps;
  - the role of Gideon Hausner;
  - the role of the world during WWII.
- 5 Read below the words of Karl Jaspers, a famous German philosopher, highlighting the value of the trial. Say why you think the opening statement by Hausner was considered the most important part of the trial.

*[The trial's] significance is not in its being a legal trial but in its establishing of historical facts and serving as a reminder of those facts for humanity. The hearing of witnesses for history and the collecting of documents on such a scale and with such thoroughness would not be possible for any researcher.*

(Karl Jaspers)

■ BEYOND THE WORDS

- 6 We often read or hear stories of people who died in concentration camps or of non-Jewish people helping the SS, but there are also many examples of ordinary citizens who tried to help and who saved thousands of lives. Carry out some research and compare the story of these two heroes: Sir Nicholas Winton and Irena Sendler.



Name	Sir Nicholas Winton	Irena Sendler
Country	GB/Czechoslovakia	Poland
Way of fighting against the SS	Sending children to GB	Helping children escape from the Warsaw Ghetto
Other people involved in the process	Families in GB + volunteers	Families in Poland + volunteers