



Yad Vashem Memorial

**“And so we have to know these good people who helped Jews during the Holocaust. We have to learn from them and think of them in gratitude and hope.”**

**Elie Wiesel,  
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate**

**“I came to you with possibly a strange request – to remind you of the name of the man who has been dead for several years, but I owe him what I could not have repaid after the war – for saving lives of me and my family, because we were saved by his assistance. As the end of my life is coming close, my conscience is heavy. And that is the reason for writing to you...”**

**From a letter addressed to the  
Commission for Designation of the Righteous**



#### LIST OF AWARDED THE TITLE “RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS” (January 2015)

Albania	73	Estonia	3	Luxembourg	1	Slovakia	546
Armenia	24	Egypt	1	Macedonia	10	Slovenia	7
Belarus	608	France	3853	Hungary	823	United States	4
Belgium	1690	Greece	321	Moldova	79	Serbia	135
Bosnia	42	Georgia	1	Germany	569	Spain	7
Brazil	2	Netherlands	5413	Norway	59	Sweden	10
Bulgaria	20	Croatia	111	Peru	1	Switzerland	45
Czech Republic	115	Indonesia	2	Poland	6532	Italy	634
Montenegro	1	Ireland	1	Portugal	3	Turkey	1
Chile	1	Japan	1	Austria	104	Ukraine	2515
China	2	Cuba	1	Romania	60	United Kingdom	21
Denmark*	22	Lithuania	877	Russia	197	Vietnam	1
Ecuador	1	Latvia	134	Salvador	1	<b>Total:</b>	<b>25 685</b>

\*The Danish Underground requested that all its members who participated in the rescue of the Jewish community not be listed individually, but commemorated as one group.

**“This is to certify that in its session of \_\_\_\_\_ the Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, established by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Heroes’ & Martyrs’ Remembrance Authority, on the basis of evidence presented before it, has decided to honour MP who, during the Holocaust period in Europe, risked his life to save persecuted Jews. The commission, therefore, has accorded him the medal of the Righteous Among the Nations. His name shall be forever engraved on the Honour Wall in the garden of the Righteous, at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.”**

#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

Recommended websites:  
[www.upn.gov.sk](http://www.upn.gov.sk); [www.enrs.eu](http://www.enrs.eu)



EUROPEAN NETWORK  
REMEMBRANCE AND SOLIDARITY

## RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS

**“Righteous Among the Nations” is a title awarded to people of a non-Jewish origin who helped save Jews during the Holocaust by their actions. They risked not only their lives but also lives of their relatives in order to give selfless help often to unknown people.**





Commemorative medal with the name of the awarded person handed by the ambassador of the State of Israel



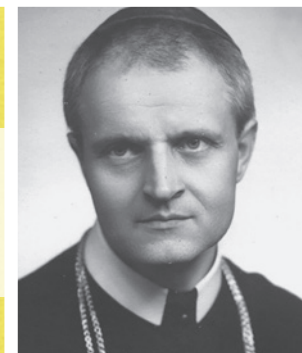
Names of the awarded people are inscribed to the list on the Wall of Honour for remembrance

Certificate bestowed by the State of Israel to the person awarded the title of the Righteous Among the Nations



The Garden of the Righteous with the names of honored is the part of Yad Vashem complex

In 2007, the Blessed Pavol Peter Gojdič, Greek-Catholic Bishop of Prešov, was also awarded the title of the Righteous Among the Nations in memoriam for his merits in saving several hundreds of Jews in Slovakia



## THE BRAVE AGAINST THE CURRENT

During WWII and the existence of a non-democratic regime in Slovakia between 1942 and 1945, the persecution of Jewish inhabitants culminated also in our territory. Through the official anti-Jewish policy of the Slovak State, and under the supervision and aid of Nazi Germany, around 70,000 inhabitants of Jewish origin died after being displaced from their homes, mostly to the territory of occupied Poland. Despite strict bans by the regime, many inhabitants of Slovakia risked their lives and the lives of their relatives under the threat of death to save Jews. They provided shelters, in particular, for up to several months, which saved Jews from almost certain extermination in liquidation camps. Slovaks often hid whole Jewish families, old people and children in their houses, prepared and brought meals for them to remote hiding places, secretly gave them things of everyday use. They often tried to provide necessary medical care for ill people and, for instance, assisted also during births. Priests and others tried to forge official documents. Whole communities mutually knew who were hiding Jews, but would not disclose their neighbours or acquaintances.

## YAD VASHEM MEMORIAL AND HONOURING OF THE RIGHTEOUS

In Slovakia, the honorific title of the “Righteous Among the Nations” is bestowed by the State of Israel through its ambassador. Specific cases are examined by the so-called Commission for the Designation of the Righteous, established in 1963 by Yad Vashem, Israel’s memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. The Memorial was created in 1953 and is situated in Jerusalem, at Har ha-Zikaron Mount (Mount of Remembrance). It comprises a large complex of buildings, memorials and statues to commemorate 6 million Jewish victims who died during the Holocaust. The Commission is headed by the Supreme Court of Israel, which meticulously studies all documentation, evidence, testimony of eyewitnesses, evaluates the historical circumstances and risks to the rescuers, and ensures fulfilment of the criteria:

1. Only a Jewish party can put a nomination forward.
2. Helping a family member or Jew convert to Christianity is not a criterion for recognition.
3. Assistance has to be repeated and substantial.
4. Assistance has to be given without any financial gain or expected reward in return.

The recognised persons are awarded a medal in their name and a certificate. Their name is then inscribed in the list on the Wall of Honour in the Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations which is part of the premises of the Yad Vashem Memorial. The Israeli law named after the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust makes it possible to confer an honorary citizenship upon the awarded title. If the awarded person has passed away, his or her relatives can request a commemorative citizenship. Recipients of the citizenship who choose to live in Israel are entitled to a pension equal to the average national wage, free health care, as well as assistance with housing and nursing care. If the awarded person lives in a different country, in case of any financial difficulties, he or she can gain financial assistance from the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous with the seat in New York. As on January 1, 2015, 2,685 persons from 51 countries were recognised as the Righteous Among the Nations. The State of Israel has valued such courage of as many as 546 persons from Slovakia by January 2015. Compared against the total number of inhabitants, Slovaks currently rank as the fifth highest number of persons recognised as the Righteous Among the Nations throughout the world.