

Beat: News

Poland marks sombre Auschwitz anniversary

Auschwitz Anniversary 2017

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PAP - Prime Minister Beata Szydłowska on Wednesday took part in ceremonies marking 77 years since the first deportation of Polish prisoners to the Auschwitz German Nazi death camp.

Speaking at the site of the former camp in southern Poland, Szydłowska said: "The Auschwitz-Birkenau camp is a place sanctified by the blood of over a million innocent victims, people who left a empty space in the hearts of their families and loved ones."

June 14 is marked in Poland as the National Day of Remembrance of Victims of German Nazi Concentration Camps and Extermination Camps.

"The shocking and shameful operation of murder carried out on an industrial scale in concentration camps has left a mark on the world forever," Szydłowska said.

"There is no excuse and never will be for these hate crimes. That is why it is so important to convey the truth about those events," she added.

On June 14, 1940 728 Polish political prisoners were transported to Auschwitz from a prison in Tarnow, south Poland. In the group were Polish soldiers caught while attempting to flee to Hungary, resistance members, students, school youth and several Polish Jews.

Around 1.1 million people, mostly European Jews, as well as non-Jewish Poles, Roma and Sinti, Soviet POWs and people of many other nationalities, perished at Auschwitz at the hands of the German Nazis occupying Poland during World War I

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

United Press Association, Inc.
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA
(702) 943.0321 Local
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile
info@unitedpressassociation.org
info@gna24.com
www.gna24.com