



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

How to teach “The Holocaust by Bullets”

European Teachers Seminar by Yahad-In Unum and the Mémorial de Caen Museum

November 7-8, 2015



Target

History teachers in high schools and secondary schools in Europe. Applications from Balkan states, Italy, Portugal, Hungary and Eastern Europe are particularly encouraged.

The Seminar Organizers

For more than 10 years, Paris-based **Yahad – In Unum** (“together” in Hebrew and Latin) has been working in Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Romania, Moldova, Belarus and Lithuania. It collects testimonies of eyewitnesses of mass crimes committed against European Jews (which we call the “Holocaust by Bullets”) and Roma by the Third Reich’s Einsatzgruppen, other units and local collaborators during World War II. Yahad – In Unum has conducted over 80 research trips, identified over 1 400 execution sites and interviewed close to 4 000 eyewitnesses in 8 countries.

Yahad – In Unum conducts field research and disseminates information to a broader public, including through educational programs for academics, teachers and students. Through its work, Yahad – In Unum endeavors to bring dignity back to the murdered victims and to keep their memory alive.

Yahad – In Unum’s educational efforts help increase public awareness of the history of “The Holocaust by Bullets” in Eastern Europe and teach, especially younger generations, to apply this knowledge to our reality through the decisions we make and through understanding the impact of individual responsibility on our common good. Thus, in 2015, Yahad presented the very first study guide on the Holocaust by Bullets, created in partnership with the Florida Holocaust Museum. This study guide is designed to help educators teach this chapter of history and includes interactive lesson plans, primary source material and extracts from Yahad's ten years of research.

In 2014, Yahad created the exhibition “Holocaust by bullets, 10 years of investigation”, presenting the steps of criminal process of the mass shootings committed by the Nazis in Eastern Europe. It presents the results of hundreds of days of fieldwork that enabled Yahad - In Unum to collect evidence of the massacres in order to give back to these murdered Jewish victims their memory and their dignity. It also underscores the "Holocaust by Bullets" as a precursor and model for mass crimes today.

In November 2010, Yahad delivered a collection of objects recovered during its research trips in Eastern Europe to the Mémorial de Caen. The collection consists of more than 150 artifacts, evidence of massacres, including bullet cartridges and weapons found adjacent to mass graves as well as victims’ personal effects discarded prior to execution or left behind in their homes. Many of these artifacts are displayed in the permanent exhibition at the Mémorial de Caen, in the section dedicated to the Holocaust by Bullets.

The Mémorial de Caen museum is one of the first memorial centers in Europe. In a state of constant renovation for the past ten years, its exhibition is now at the heart of the reflection on history's place in modern society. The historical journey of the Mémorial de Caen begins in 1918 and brings us to 1989 with the fall of the Berlin Wall. The exhibition dedicated to World War II is the heart of the museum. It represents the major themes of that period: the interwar years and the rise of totalitarianism, France’s defeat and collapse in 1940, the German occupation, collaboration and Resistance in France, spread of the conflict worldwide, liberation and consequences of the War.

This new exhibition focuses on the issues that are rarely featured in museums: the “Holocaust at close range”, mass violence, the characteristics of total war, private life in wartime, the life and death of a soldier... The Mémorial de Caen museum also has a notable educational impact. Nearly 100,000 students and teachers come each year to the museum and study through learning sessions. Students have the opportunity to analyze artifacts and historical documents and meet with witnesses and historians. Training seminars for new teachers are offered every year to help understand the question of memory.

Seminar

Yahad-In Unum and the Mémorial de Caen Museum are inviting European history teachers to participate in a two-day training session on “The Holocaust by bullets” and persecutions of the Roma in Eastern Europe. This seminar is designed to deepen teachers’ knowledge and understanding of **the Holocaust in Eastern Europe, and the Genocide of Roma in Eastern Europe**. Participants will be also introduced to **new teaching tools and sources (Study Guide, Interactive Map, and Application to Download Video Testimonies)**. The 2015 fall session is the sixth time that this seminar is offered by Yahad. As part of the seminar, participants will be invited to visit the Caen Memorial’s permanent exhibition, including the section dedicated to the Holocaust in Eastern Europe, which is based on Yahad’s research results.

Presentations will be made by historians and Yahad – In Unum’s research team. These will highlight the different aspects of the Holocaust in the East: the various steps and process of the extermination of the Jews in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Russia and Lithuania. Other areas of focus will include killing methods; the different phases of the concentration of Jews in work camps and ghettos, and the persecution of Roma communities. Speakers will discuss the various categories of actors, their roles and functions and the points of the extermination process at which they were involved. They will also share resources designed for use in the classroom based on material provided by Yahad – In Unum, including testimonies, photographs of artifacts and case studies.

The seminar will especially highlight the crucial role of collecting evidence and testimonies of survivors and bystanders in the reconstitution of genocide and in the transmission of its history to younger generations in order to prevent genocides or mass violence. **During the weekend, workshops will propose how to use such rich material as video testimonies of eyewitnesses, photos of artifacts, of killing sites and case studies.**

Date and Place

The seminar will be held **in English and French** (simultaneous translation), **on November 7 and 8, 2015 at the Mémorial de Caen museum** (Caen, France).

Participants are requested to arrive no later than November 6 and will return on November 9.

Accommodation, meals and transportation expenses will be paid by the organizers.

Application

All teachers interested in attending the seminar are requested to send a letter of interest and a resume by September 20, 2015 to the following contact:

Julia Garmash at j.garmash@yahadinunum.org

For more information, please contact Julia Garmash at j.garmash@yahadinunum.org