

Speech of Shlomi Chanoch at the memorial of Krailing on April 29, 2023

Most of us here were not born into a fear area, a fear time of the history. You don't know what fear is all about. We consider freedom of course to be here, because we live in freedom. But 90 years ago there was no freedom in this part of the world - just fear. And those words play each other all the time, because they are those important words. If you lived here 80, 90 years ago and you would be here protesting in the street, I think you would end up in a very nice camp called „Dachau“ with towers, quite frightening. So I have dedicated my time to my dad Uri Chanoch. His legacy was the remembrance. He could have stayed at home and hate the world, but, you know, he found his school friends, it started from Gauting by the Major Mr. Knobloch who published an ad, and that roled to a beautiful period of his life for his last 25 years. He was busy in the commemoration and helped the survivors with the last years of their lives to ensure that they have enough money to live their life in confidence and not perish as poor because they were not willing to take up any compensation money. He was a political figure, but loved also going to schools and tell the story of the family. The family, it was a beautiful family, started from Kaunas which is a beautiful town in Lithuania - and ended up in this hell that Hitler created or mastered. My aunty, my grandparents, all perished, I never met them. I was lucky enough to have my father and my uncle as survivors. My father survived the satellite camp of Dachau and my uncle has been to all the camps, he's been to Dachau, then Auschwitz, obviously Birkenau, Mauthausen and the rest of them. It's not easy to live in such a family. You have a lot of emotions and it's a new topic, but the message is that we can make the world better by marching, and the bigger we are the better it is. We should not take that freedom as granted. This freedom can be taken away quite quickly, you know, when you see what is happening to your neighbours not so far away from here. We open the TV and are horrified. Thanks to you, thanks to many friends here we opened the doors and decided that we are going to embrace those people and march with them and create a better future. So I hope to see more and more of you and I wish you good health and a good walk and thank you all for coming and marching. Thank you! (Transscribed from video by Thomas Schaffert)



Shlomi Chonoch with his daughters after the commemoration at Dachau on April 30, 2023