



# STUDY GUIDE:

## Investigating the Holocaust by Bullets

10 witnesses : Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, Russia



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## ABOUT YAHAD-IN UNUM

*“The Holocaust by Bullets is a model for modern mass crimes”*

**Patrick Desbois, President of Yahad-In Unum**

Yahad-In Unum combines the Hebrew word Yahad which means “together”, with the Latin phrase In Unum, which means “in one.” Founded in 2004 by Father Patrick Desbois, the organization is dedicated to documenting the evidence of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe and to work on the prevention of future genocides. Yahad-In Unum’s ongoing research on World War II crimes against Jews and Roma/Gypsy people in Eastern Europe has uncovered the location of more than 2,400 killing sites and documented more than 6,112 witness relating to these crimes.

The mass crimes and genocides which followed the Holocaust were not perpetrated in extermination camps but by similar methods to those utilised in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust by Bullets.

The methodology developed by Yahad-In Unum over ten years of research thus now enables us to gather evidence for and document other genocides and mass crimes. Learning from the past and educating the present, Yahad-In Unum is working to prevent genocide and mass killings in the future.

Thus Yahad-In Unum currently investigates:

- The ‘Holocaust by Bullets’, or the execution of 2.2 million Jews in Eastern Europe during the Second World War
- The genocide of the Roma people during the Second World War
- The fate of the victims of the Blockade of Leningrad (1941-1943)
- The fate of the Indian victims of the armed conflict in Guatemala (1960-1996)
- The genocide perpetrated by Daesh against the Yazidis in Iraq and Syria

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The holocaust by bullets wasn't a tsunami. It is a criminal story. These were men who killed other men. Each victim saw his or her assassin. The assassins conducted these massacres in public across a continent, from Serbia to the Caucasus, over more than 4 years, killing more than 2 million Jewish victims.

The "Holocaust by bullets" exhibition and the study guide that accompanies it are unique tools that will help each teacher enable his or her students to understand the particular criminal process of the Holocaust by bullets, as identified by Yahad - In Unum. Step by step, from the arrival of the assassins in a village until their departure at night. These tools also prompt us to reflect on the presence of neighbors in the areas near the mass graves.

This criminal process has become, as it were, the model for mass violence today. To this day, human beings are assassinated in mass groups, in public and while seeing their assassins. This is why the transmission of the history of the Holocaust by bullets by educators is key. More than tools, these are weapons and shields in the fight against mass violence today and tomorrow.

**Father Patrick Desbois**  
President of Yahad - In Unum

## GENERAL HISTORY OF THE HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS IN EASTERN EUROPE:

By Andrej Umansky, Historical Advisor and Secretary General of Yahad-In Unum

Between 1941 and 1944, thousands of executions occurred in seven Soviet republics (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia), in the lands from Eastern Galicia to the rivers of the Baltic, from the Muscovite Forests to the borders of Caucasus. If you consider solely the official territory of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, researchers estimate the number of Jews exterminated climbs up to at least 2.2 million. This number includes 1.6 million victims in Ukraine, at least 500,000 in Belarus and at least 120,000 in Russia.

More than 80% of the victims were shot; the rest were deported and assassinated in the death camps or in gas-vans. Other extermination practices included poison as well as the practice of burying victims alive, or death of victims in the mines and wells.

The death of Soviet Jews is not called the “Holocaust by Bullets” for nothing. This criminal “methodology” of murder by shooting, was used during the entirety of the Holocaust in the East regardless of the victim count; whether it be for the extermination of a Jewish family in a small town, or tens of thousands in a large Soviet occupied city. Throughout the summer of 1941, just as later in 1944, the perpetrators followed the same process: extermination of a Jewish population by shooting men, women and children, often just outside a village or town.

On the 22nd of June, 1941, Hitler began Operation Barbossa, the attack on the Soviet Union. The war carried out in the East by the Third Reich was an ideological battle, conquering of a *Lebensraum* (or living space), a war about total extermination of “Judeo-Bolshevism.”

Right from first days of the invasion, the pogroms were in full swing the the Baltic countries, in Eastern Galicia – notably in Lviv – in Volhynie (Ukraine), often in response to the discovery of an assassination of a local nationalist from a NKVD prisons.<sup>1</sup> The first victims of the Einsatzgruppen were Jewish men, in places like Tarnopol or Jitomir. The rest of the Jewish population, the women, children, and elderly, were confined to ghettos with abysmal living conditions leaving the Jews to starve, to freeze and fall ill – as they had, for example, in the Minsk ghetto in Belarus, created on the 20th of July 1941, or all the small Jewish neighborhoods scattered throughout the countryside. Between August and September 1941, the process of genocide carried out by the occupying German force intensified. Men were no longer the only ones being shot, but, now, women and children as well. In Belaïa Tserkov (Ukraine), 90 Jewish children were shot dead. On the 27th and 28th of August 1941, more than 23,000 Jews were executed by Nazis and their collaborators at Kamenets-Podolski (Ukraine). The widespread and exhaustive extermination of Jews throughout the occupied territories was carried out by the Romanian Army and Gendarmes, Hitler’s allies. Hundreds of millions of Jews were assassinated in Bessarabia and Bucovina. The majority of them were murdered as early as July 1941, while the rest were concentrated into ghettos, in places like Czernowitz, or in camps, as is the case in Mărculești and Vapniarka.

Very often the shootings carried out by the Nazis occurred in broad daylight, on the brink of the town. The perpetrators regularly requisitioned locals to dig and fill the ditches, sometimes even to transport the victims or their belongings.

One of the most consequential shootings occurred in Kiev and obliterated one of the main Jewish communities of the USSR. On September 19th, 1941, the German troops entered Kiev as explosions rang through the city generated by far off retreating Soviet forces and a raging fire engulfing the city. The flames had just barely been extinguished when more than 33,000 Jews from Kiev were shot in the ravine of Babi Yar, the 29th and 30th of September 1941, by the *Einsatzkommando* 4a, police battalions and the local militia.

The massacres intensified in autumn of 1941 as persecution persisted from the Baltic countries all the way to Crimea. The shootings were incessant on the outskirts of Kaunas, Minsk, and the Paneriai Forest (also known as Ponary) near Vilnius. Thousands of German, Austrian, and Czech Jews were also deported to the ghettos of the North-East, and were victim to the same fate as the local Jews. Another one of the biggest Jewish massacres occurred in Bogdanovka, a small town in Southern Ukraine, where more than 40,000 Jews (mostly native to Odessa and Bessarabie) were executed by Romanian forces and German colonists in just 10 days. Another method of extermination came about towards the end of 1941: gas vans. Soon, Jews were no longer the only victims of the Einsatzgruppen and other mobile killing units: communists, Soviet prisoners of war, partisans, “Gypsies,” mentally handicapped people, etc.

In 1942, Jews living in Russia and, notably, thousands of Jews evacuated from Northern Caucasia were either shot, or killed in gas vans. At the same time, in Belarus and in Ukraine, the ghettos were “liquidated,” a word used by Nazis to describe the extermination of all Jews that were not considered useful as laborers.

Up until spring 1944, the shootings would occur throughout the occupied Soviet territories, specifically for the Jews interned in labor camps and Jewish families that were caught by local police while in hiding.

The perpetrators were part of different German units. The most infamous are the *Einsatzgruppen*, “Intervention groups” that executed at least 500,000 Jews within the borders of the occupied Soviet lands. On June 22nd, 1941, following the directive of the *Reichssicherheitshauptamt*,<sup>2</sup> four *Einsatzgruppen* set-off eastwards. Comprising 2,800 to 3,000 men in total, the Einsatzgruppen were paramilitary units that included: men from criminal police and the Gestapo as the leaders of each division, assisted by a unit of *Waffen-SS*,<sup>3</sup> as well as a reserve battalion of ordinary policemen. These heterogeneous groups were completed with drivers, translators, cooks, and other personal staff. The units were completely motorized which allowed them to react quickly while in the field. The *Einsatzgruppen* were divided into *Einsatzkommandos* and *Sonderkommandos*. They had to follow the troops to the front to invest in Soviet administrative buildings, uncover important documents and identify local communist leaders. They were also in charge of systematic checks on the population, arrests, or raid of Jews and their extermination.

The Einsatzgruppen were divided into four groups: Einsatzgruppe A, in charge of the Baltic region and the north of Russia; Einsatzgruppe B, whose field of operations consisted of what we consider today Belarus and the Russian regions of Smolensk and Briansk; Einsatzgruppe C, responsible for Northern Ukraine; and finally Einsatzgruppe D, that worked in the southern parts of Ukraine and Russia.

<sup>1</sup> NKVD (Narodnii Komissariat Vnoutrennikh Diel): People Commissariat for Internal Affairs. Political secret police during the USSR that was created in 1934 and replaced in 1946 by the MVD (Ministry of the Internal Affairs).

<sup>2</sup> The central office for the security of the Reich, abbreviated to RSHA was an organization located in Berlin and created the 27th of September 1939 by Heinrich Himmler whose primary task was to fight against the “enemies of the Reich” and “undesirable” people.

<sup>3</sup> Literally translates to “weapon of the protection squadron.” One part of the military branch of the SS, that consisted also of Allgemeine (SS) and Sicherheitsdienst (SD). She was created originally by Heinrich Himmler as a political army.

Other units were present in the East, like SS units or Ordnungspolizei battalions “ordinary police.” Numerous battalions participated in the extermination of Jews in the East, for instance during the shooting of Jews from Kiev at Babi Yar on the 29th and 30th of September, 1941. The police battalions were originally supposed to maintain order in the occupied territory and lead the fight against partisans.

The Feldgendarmarie, one of the Wehrmacht groups dispersed in different administrative zones, played an important role – specifically for the extermination of the Jewish population. This group was in charge of maintaining order within the military apparatus as well as amongst the public. Due to these responsibilities, the members of the Feldgendarmarie were regularly drafted for summary executions of Jewish partisans or other enemies. A last unit, little known, was the *Geheime Feldpolizei*, also a military police, but in charge of political missions such as hunting the enemy within their own ranks. During the war, the *Geheime Feldpolizei* were focused on elimination the partisans and individuals that were considered “dangerous.”

## THE DEATH CAMPS AND SITES OF MASS SHOOTINGS DURING THE HOLOCAUST



### THE DEATH CAMPS

- A- Auschwitz-Birkenau
- B- Belzec
- C- Chelmno
- M- Majdanek
- S- Sobibor
- T- Treblinka



### SITES OF MASS SHOOTINGS IDENTIFIED BY YAHAD - IN UNUM UP TO 2018

# HOLOCAUST IN THE DEATH CAMPS

September 1, 1939:  
Nazi Germany invades Poland

January 20, 1942:  
Wannsee Conference

January 27, 1945:  
Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau

1939

1941

1942

1943

1944

1945

December 1941 – July 1944: Killing operations at Chelmno

January 1942 – January 1945: Killing operations at Auschwitz-Birkenau

March 1942 – Dec 1942:  
Killing operations at Belzec

May 1942 – October 1943: Killing operations at Sobibor

July 1942 – August 1943:  
Killing operations at Treblinka

October 1942 – November 1943:  
Killing operations at Majdanek

# HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS

September 1, 1939:  
Nazi Germany invades Poland

June 22, 1941: German  
invasion of the Soviet Union

Early July 1941: 4,000 Jews  
shot in Lvov, Ukraine

July 1941: 10,000 Jews shot in  
the Ponary forest, near Vilnius,  
Lithuania

July 10, 1941: 300 Jews  
shot in Pepeni, Moldova

August 27-28, 1941:  
More than 23,000 Jews shot  
in Kamenets-Podolsk, Ukraine

September 4, 1941: Mass  
shooting of 1,300 Jews  
from Berdichev, Ukraine

October 8, 1941: Mass shooting  
of at least 16,000 Jews from  
the Vitebsk ghetto, Belarus

September 29-30, 1941:  
More than 33,000 Jews shot  
in the ravine Babi Yar, near Kiev

October 16, 1941:  
Thousands of Jews  
shot in Lubny

October 28, 1941: Around  
9,000 Jews killed in  
Kaunas (Kovno), Lithuania

November 9, 1941:  
Between 1,300 and 1,500  
Jews shot in Mir, Belarus

November 27, 1941:  
1,800 Jews killed  
in Orsha, Belarus

July 15, 1942: Between  
1,200 and 2,000 Jews shot  
in Smolensk, Russia

December 16-17,  
1941: 1,500 Jews  
shot in Yalta, Crimea

October 29, 1942: Pinsk,  
mass shooting of 20,000 Jews

June 1, 1943: Mass shooting  
of Hundreds of Jews from  
the Lvov ghetto

September 1-9, 1942:  
10,000 Jews killed in  
Mineralnyie-Vody, Russia

February 2, 1943:  
German defeat  
at Stalingrad

September 23, 1943:  
Mass shooting of thousands  
of Jews from the Vilnius ghetto

Spring 1944: Hundreds of  
Jews killed in Kaunas,  
Lithuania

November 3, 1943: Aktion Erntefest  
("Harvest Festival"). Around 42,000  
Jews killed in the Lublin region

January 27, 1945:  
Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau

Some of the mass executions investigated by Yahad – In Unum

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Florida Holocaust Museum

## YAHAD-IN UNUM'S INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGY AND HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ADVANCES

By *Andrej Umansky, Historical Advisor and Secretary General of Yahad-In Unum*

### The Categories of Witnesses: Those Forced to Watch, the Requisitioned, the Curious,

The victims and perpetrators were not the only people present onsite during a shooting. Many villagers had witnessed the execution of Jews throughout Eastern Europe. They have been divided into two categories: the witnesses, those who saw because they fell upon it randomly, or out of pure curiosity, or because they were forced to watch; and the requisitioned, laborers who were asked by Germans, police, or staroste, to complete certain tasks related directly to the genocide.

#### The Village Witnesses

Indeed, some execution sites – notably in Belarus – were relatively isolated, mostly for security reasons related to the presence of partisans in the forests, nevertheless a large part of them occurred right on the edge of town, near a road, sometimes even in the local cemetery.

For the most part, the shootings took place in plain daylight. It was extremely rare for the village people to have not bore witness to at least one step of the extermination process: the rounding-up of victims, the column brought to the execution site, or the actual shooting. The spectators could have been simple passers-by going to the market, children on their way to school, peasants grazing their cows in a nearby field, or picking potatoes. There were also literal neighbors, those who lived right next to the execution site. The villagers would also occasionally be forced to watch certain executions.

### The Requisitioned

The investigations lead by Yahad – In Unum allowed for the exposure of numerous tasks the perpetrators asked the local population to complete regarding the execution of the village's Jews. This consisted of people forced to be present onsite during the execution for "logistical demands" essential to the crime that Nazis and their collaborators could not (or would not) complete alone: digging ditches, filling ditches, transporting the victims' clothes... a.k.a., the requisitioned. Not to forget, some people were forced to watch the shootings in the hopes of dissuading them from joining Soviet partisans.

Who was requisitioned? They were villagers who following the orders of the German and local authorities – whether it be staroste or local police –, on the eve of the execution, dug the victims graves with shovels. Those who, in the middle of the shooting, would throw shovels of dirt onto the victims – the same victims that were sometimes only wounded, but would nevertheless choke on the dirt and blood from the shooting. Those who would move the plank along the ditch – the same plank they had taken off their farms so as to be used by the victims as a means to cross said ditch. Those who brought their carts to the execution site and loaded the victims' property that had been left in piles, after the police and Germans helped themselves to the best belongings. Those who, would collect and patch up clothes of the dead during the night just to later auction it off – all with the okay of the occupiers and local authorities. And finally, those who, during the shootings, cooked, served and waited on perpetrators – spitting distance from the ditch.

In the Soviet Union, the practice of requisitioning villagers for community work existed long before the Second World War. In numerous kolkhozes, there was a corporal that could knock on any villager's door in the morning and ask them to work or assign them a task. Certain villages even had a *dessiatniki*. This was a person appointed the responsibility of 10 houses. The head of the *selsoviet* gave his orders to the *dessiatniki* who had the responsibility to communicate those orders to his ten households. To a certain extent, the *dessiatniki* also took on the role of the corporal, bringing villagers to work. At least since the 1930s, requisitioning was a widespread phenomenon that was shared amongst the villages throughout the Soviet countryside.

The *Einsatzgruppen* and other German units quickly adopted this model. As soon as the German troops arrived in the Soviet villages, they designated a *staroste*. He became the occupiers' spokesperson, transmitting orders to the villagers. Another pivot was the local police chief.

Those requisitioned were diverse, just as the shootings. Many factors that made each shooting different from the last, whether it be the local environment, the number of victims, the number of available perpetrators, their experience, or the climate. Nevertheless, the requisitioning of locals was a practice that we have regularly encountered. Here are a few examples.

In certain situations, those who filled the ditches were present, with their shovels, during the entire shooting, throwing dirt onto the victims in between groups and filling in the ditch after the execution. Nevertheless, the requisition continued after the shooting for another couple of days as they victim's belongings were sold and thus dispersed throughout the other inhabitants' homes.

For instance, villagers had to go to the execution site with their carts in order to transport the victim's belongings.

The shooting of Jews that occurred throughout the Soviet villages had to be done with a certain amount of improvisation; indeed, the Germans and their collaborators (the *starostes*, the policemen) had to show initiative, as each execution had to be reorganized based on the available villagers, carts, and planks.

### Interview Methodology and Cross-Referencing Sources German Sources

There are two main types of German sources available for researchers. First, the *Einsatzgruppen's* reports. Each commando redacted a report of their activities, the execution of opponents, as well as the atmosphere amongst the local population, the state of the agriculture and industry, the political opinions, the living standards... Precise documents that allow us to establish an accurate estimate of each village's victims and have insight on the internal organization of the *Einsatzgruppen*.

The second type of sources are those of the German trials that took place after the war against Nazi criminals. The hundreds of thousands of pages that were drafted as preparation for these trials can be found amongst the Federal Archives (*Bundesarchiv*) of Ludwigsburg, in Germany. These documents are made up of depositions of *Einsatzgruppen* members, of police battalions, of *Waffen-SS*, of German civilians that worked in the occupied territories (entrepreneurs, qualified workers...), of *Volksdeutsche* (also know as German leaders), Jewish survivors, and local witnesses. These precious documents have valuable information relating to shootings, the life in the ghetto, even the command chain amongst the German officials. These archives are essential as they fill in blanks that exist today in large part due to the Nazi's destroying their own documents at the end of the war.

## The Soviet Sources

Simultaneous to the liberation of the first Soviet territories occupied by the Nazis, a Soviet Extraordinary State Commission was created to investigate the crimes committed and the damages done by the Nazis and their collaborators. Working within a local framework, the Commission interviewed eye-witnesses of the massacres and documented all the mass graves with a medical-legal expertise. Additionally, it worked to make a list of victims, unfortunately often incomplete due to an inability to identify the corpses found. These archives, indispensable for research regarding the Holocaust by Bullets, has been accessible to western historians since the fall of the Soviet Union. Once criticized for their Soviet phrasing, today the Commission's work is largely used in occidental historiography.

Another important source: the KGB trials prosecuting the Nazis and their collaborators. The first trial was in 1943 in Krasnodar. The depositions and acts of these trials represent a considerable portion of archives. These documents allow for a precise insight on the genocide in each village, as well as the organization of the local police, and its pivotal role as an intermediary between the German occupants and the villagers.

## The 5 Steps of the Crime: The Round-Up, the Road, the Undressing, the Shooing, the Looting

The Nazis used different strategies in order to round-up the local Jews throughout the occupied Soviet territories before shooting them. They would put up posters that would announce, for example, registration for work, or a displacement of Jews to a camp or even Palestine. The creation of ghettos, whether it be open or closed, made the identification and rounding-up processes much easier. In certain cases, the German and local squadrons would encircle a village at dawn, go door to door arresting Jews and then bring them directly to the shooting site. A diversity of places were used as rounding-up points: the market square, a school building, stables, and other places where the local population could watch their Jewish neighbors get arrested.

The column of Jews brought to the shooting was a reoccurring step during the genocide throughout the occupied Soviet territories. By truck, by cart, often by foot. The victims sometimes had to walk kilometers through villages and countryside, in the cold or in the heat, with many weeks or months of deprivation, just to arrive at their execution site. The extermination had already begun at the time of the aforementioned march. The weak that could not follow the rhythm imposed by the guards were beaten to death, and shot. In this column there were not just victims and perpetrators, but also locals requisitioned to drive the carts to the execution site, destined to carry back the Jews' belongings after the shooting. Sometimes the victims did not yet know that they were being brought to their death. They would find out after a bend in the path where they would come face to face with the already-dug ditches.

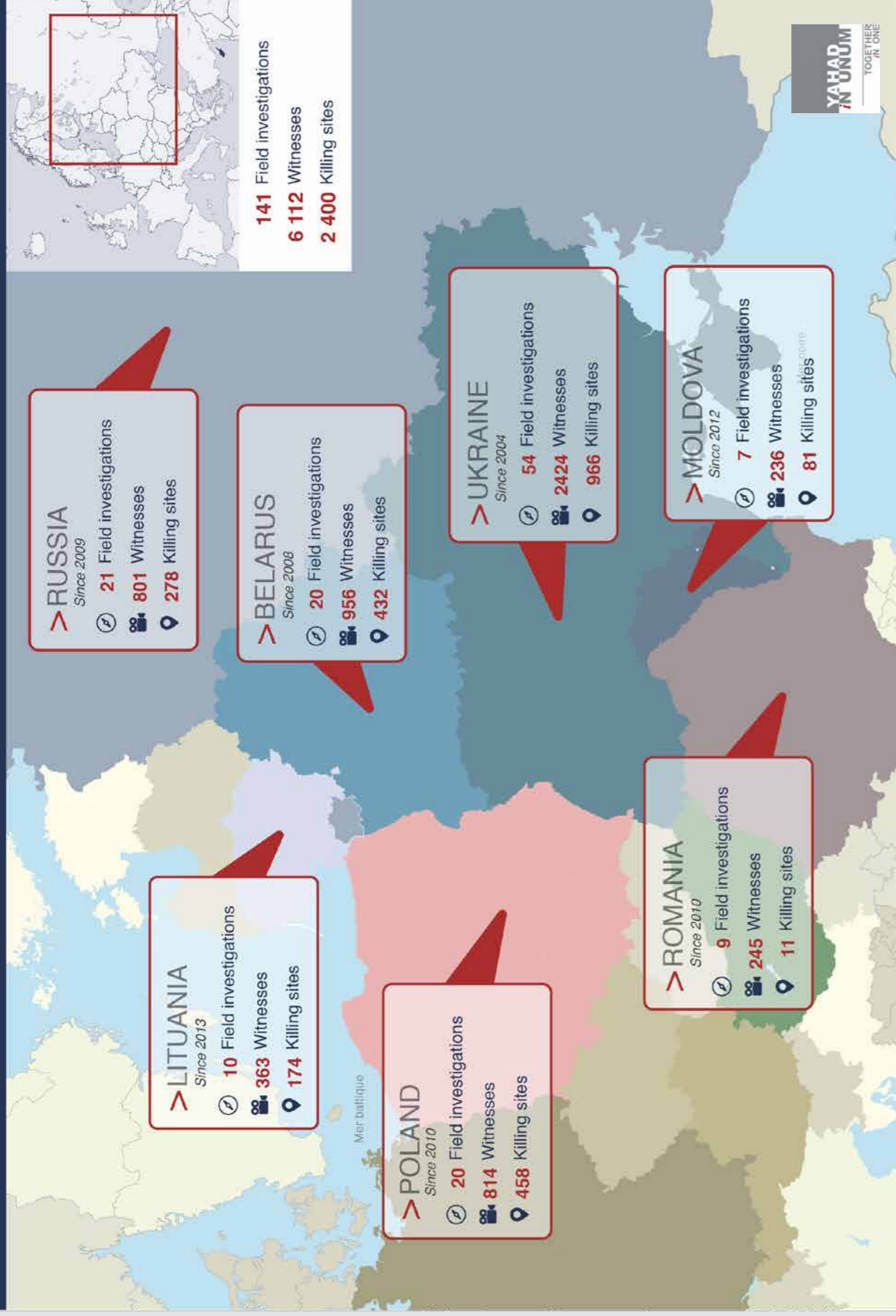
Once the victims arrived onsite, the ditches in which they would be shot had already been dug by either other Jews or requisitioned villagers. Occasionally, they had to dig them themselves. Then, between beatings and orders, men, women, children, and elderly were forced to undress completely, even in winter. They had to leave their belongings on the ground or in the carts, then were frisked for valuables.

After undressing, the victims were forced to line up on the edge of the ditch or inside the ditch. The Einsatzgruppen, or the members of other Nazi units, shot the victims in the back, in the nape of the neck, in the head. Often, the young children were thrown, alive, into the ditch or shot while still in their mother's arms. Group after group, every victim fell into the ditch as the perpetrators shot at them. Many were only injured as the requisitioned villagers filled in the ditches behind them.

## The Nature of Public Crimes

The extermination of the Jews in the death camps was a secret and hidden practice. Nazis used all possible means in order to destroy any evidence of genocide. One of the peculiarities of the Holocaust by Bullets in the East is that there exists a large amount of photographic and video evidence of the shootings. The executions were heterogeneous: the shootings happened during the day as well as at night, in the summer and the winter; publicly and secretly. The last remaining witnesses of the genocide are still alive and they remember the extreme violence. The killing units were often aware of the presence of the local population during the shootings, but it did not matter to them. Sometimes they even forced people to be present during the execution of their Jewish neighbors.

Once the victims were murdered, the ditches filled in, the perpetrators and policemen would riffle through the victim's belongings in search of valuables. The belongings were then loaded onto trucks or carts sometimes by the murderers themselves, but more often by the villagers. They were then stocked in a building, then imported into Germany or sold at auctions by the German or local administration. The Jews' homes, the ghetto, were searched and looted sometimes to the very last plank of wood by the Germans, the police, and a part of the local population.



## USER MANUAL

The 10 testimonies include 9 witnesses to the persecutions and shootings and one testimony from a Jewish escapee.

These 10 witnesses were interviewed during Yahad - In Unum field investigations in Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Moldova and Russia. The USB-sticks contain 10 short clips, one for each witness (each lasting 4-6 minutes).

Each page includes:

1. A questionnaire for students (10 questions).
2. An historical introduction of the locations studied (sourced from the archives) and on each witness.
3. A glossary.
4. Photographs of the witness, execution sites and of the Yahad - In Unum team during their investigation.

At the beginning of each page, you will find the first name of the witness, his or her year of birth, the town or village in which the investigation was carried out and the interview number. For example, "T796U18" denotes the 796th witness interviewed during the 18th field investigation in Ukraine (T for Witness; LT for Lithuania; B for Belarus; P for Poland; U for Ukraine; M for Moldova; R for Russia).

The line below indicates the themes covered by the witness in the short clip that will appear in the questionnaire.

Each page is independent from the others.



Aniceta's house at Pabalai.

## Aniceta B. - 1931 – Žagarė – (T12LT2)

Theme: Crime scene collaboration/ The five stages of the crime

### LITHUANIA

Aniceta B., born in 1931 in Pabalai, interviewed November 25th, 2013, in Pabalai.

Pabalai is located east of a little town called Žagarė which can be found on the northern border of Lithuania near Latvia. Before the war, approximately 2,000 people in Žagarė were Jewish, making up 40% of the population. The town was occupied by German troops in late June, 1941. In July 1941, a ghetto was created in Žagarė for the Jewish population of the Šiauliai region. Both Soviet and German archives reference a shooting in late August 1941 where approximately 40 Jewish men were killed by nationalists and Lithuanian policemen. In early October, 1941, the Žagarė ghetto was liquidated and almost 3,000 Jews were shot in a 120m-long ditch. The shooters were Lithuanian nationalists that were following German orders. After the execution, they organized an auction of the Jews' belongings at the marketplace. **Aniceta** witnessed the roundup, the execution of the Jews, and the auction of their belongings.

**Aniceta** brought the Yahad – In Unum team to the execution site. The monument there has *“Here marks the place where, on October 2nd, 1941, Nazi criminals and their local collaborators assassinated 3,000 Jewish men, women and children from the district of Šiauliai”* written in Lithuanian and Yiddish.



Lithuania - Pabalai.



Aniceta and the Yahad –In Unum team in front of the memorial.



Aniceta driving the Yahad-In Unum team to the execution site.

### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Aniceta at the time of the events?
- 2.- What is the lay-out of the village of Žagarė? At which two places did Aniceta witness the crime?
- 3.- How were the Jews brought to the place of execution? Where did the murderers come to find the Jews? Where did they take them? Why was it impossible for the Jews to flee?
- 4.- Who dug the pit?
- 5.- Who supervised the Jews? Who were the shooters? What is the relationship between the teacher and the shooters?
- 6.- What happened the victims' clothing?
- 7.- What are the five stages of the crime?
- 8.- What is Aniceta's opinion of the killers and looters?
- 9.- Why do you think the witness is willing to testify nearly 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think it's important to collect and teach about this type of testimony?

### Glossary:

#### Police/Local police:

Under the Soviet system, local police did not exist. Denunciation to the central administration was the rule. The creation of a local police force was the only German administrative reform in the occupied Soviet territories. This police force received no training and can be likened to a militia.

#### The 'white armbands':

The white armbands refer to nationalist units of 'partisans' (resistance fighters) involved in the massacre of Lithuanian Jews, just like local policemen.

[Link to the Interactive Map "In Evidence:"](http://yahadmap.org/#village/agar-zhager-zhagare-iauliai-lithuania.680)

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/agar-zhager-zhagare-iauliai-lithuania.680>



Eugenija at her home in Bazilionai.



Eugenija.

## Eugenija S. - 1927 - Bazilionai – (T30LT2)

Theme: Local collaborators

### LITHUANIA

Eugenija S., born in 1927 in Didlauké, interviewed on December 2nd, 2013, in Bazilionai.

Bubiai is a small village south-west of the administrative capital of Šiauliai. Before the war, almost 8,000 Jews lived in Šiauliai. On June 26th, 1941, German troops occupied the town and subsequently crammed 5,000 Jews into two ghettos. The German archives confirm a shooting in September 1941 where Germans, assisted by Lithuanian nationalists, brought 500 Jewish men, women and children from the Šiauliai ghetto to the town of Bubiai to assassinate them. **Eugenija** witnessed the arrival and execution of the Jews in Bubiai.

**Eugenija** brought the Yahad – In Unum team to the execution site. The monument has a plaque honoring the *“500 Jewish, men, women, and children shot by the Nazis and their collaborators on the 14th of September 1941.”*



Lithuania - Bubiai.

### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Eugenija at the time of the events?
- 2.- Where did the execution take place? Where were the pits dug? According to Eugenija, who dug the pits?
- 3.- How did Eugenija find out that the Jews were going to be shot?
- 4.- How were the Jews taken to the execution site?
- 5.- How did the Jews react when they saw the “white armbands”? Why did they react like this?
- 6.- What happened when the Jews stepped off the buses?
- 7.- Who organized the Jews’ arrival and execution?
- 8.- What was the role of the Germans?
- 9.- Why do you think that the witness has agreed to give a testimony 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think it is important to collect and teach about this type of testimony?

### Glossary:

#### The “White Armbands”:

The White Armbands were nationalist partisan units implicated in the massacre of the Jews in Lithuania, just like the local police.

[Link to the Interactive Map “In Evidence:”](http://yahadmap.org/#village/bubiai-iauliai-lithuania.682)

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/bubiai-iauliai-lithuania.682>



The house where Klara and her mother were arrested.

## 652B13 - Klara A. - 1934 - Chklov

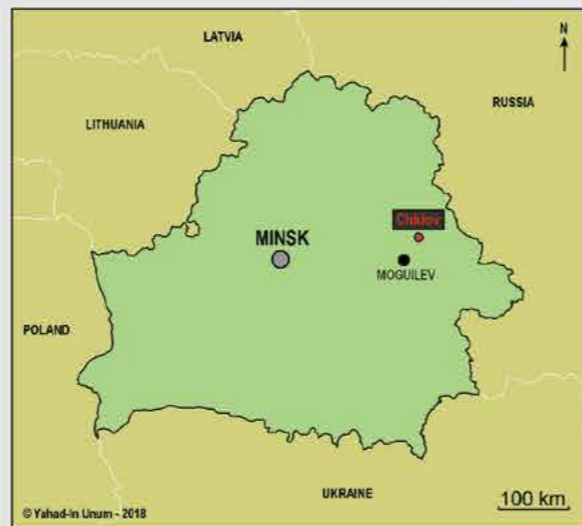
Themes: Survivor categories / Public nature of the crimes / Rescue

### BELARUS

Klara A. born in 1934 in Chklov, interviewed on June 21st, 213, in Chklov.

Shklov is a town located 35km north of the regional capital of Moguilev. Shklov is central to the Haskala movement. Towards the end of the 19th century, there were approximately 5,500 Jews making up 80% of the local population. Between the two wars, it was under Soviet rule and around a dozen Jewish families lived in a kolkhoze named "Iskra." On the 12th of July 1941, the German troops occupied Shklov and the shootings started soon after. By the end of July, two ghettos are created, one near the Orthodox Church, the other near the Linin factory. In August, the Sonderkommando 7b of Einsatzgruppe B arrived in the town in order to shoot the local Jews. According the Soviet archives, 3,200 Jews from Shklov and neighboring villages were assassinated. There were many shootings between summer and winter of 1941. Klara, born into a Jewish family, witnessed one of the shootings.

**Klara** brought the Yahad – In Unum team to the execution site. There is neither plaque nor monument at the site. According to Klara, the bodies are still buried there.



Belarus - Shklov



Klara and the Yahad - In Unum team on the banks of the Dnieper River, not far from the shooting site and mass graves.



Along the Dnieper, a route taken by the Jewish columns, not far from the shooting site and mass graves.

### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Klara during the events?
- 2.- Why were Klara and her mother arrested by the Germans?
- 3.- How did the Germans proceed with the arrest of the Jews from Shklov?
- 4.- Why did the Germans force the local population to watch the shooting?
- 5.- How were Klara and her mother saved? Who saved them?
- 6.- What would have been the fate of Klara and her mother if they had not been saved?
- 7.- In your opinion, what motivated the rescuers?
- 8.- Where are the graves in relation to the town of Shklov?
- 9.- Why do you think the survivor agreed to give his testimony 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think it is important to record and diffuse this type of testimony?

### Glossary:

#### Kolkhoze :

In the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (USSR), a kolkhoze was a collective farm, grouping together land, livestock, tools and the labor force of one or several villages in a collective framework. All production was delivered to the state.

#### « Aktion » against the Jews:

In the framework of the genocide, the German term "Aktion" designates the mass liquidation of Jews. Several Aktionen can take place over a period of time to murder the entire Jewish population of a village, a town or a region.

#### La Haskala :

From the end of the 18th to the 19th centuries, the Haskala refers to a progressive movement inspired by the philosophy of the Enlightenment, extolling equal rights, secular education and the modernization of the liturgy.

#### Link to the Interactive Map "In Evidence:"

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/shklov-sklou-shklov-mogilev-belarus.665>



The old synagogue building of Shklov.



Klara.



The site where the Jews were rounded up - the factory no longer exists.



Adolf guides the Yahad - In Unum team around the execution site.



Adolf and the Yahad - In Unum team at the site of the execution and mass grave.



Adolf and the Yahad - In Unum team.

## Adolf S. - 1928 – Siemnice - (T147P4)

Themes: The Jewish victims – the grave – Requisitioned locals

### POLAND

Adolf S., born in Siemnice in 1928, interviewed on August 18th, 2012, in Siemnice.

Siemnice is a small village in the Tomaszów Lubelski region, 107km south-east of Lublin, the regional capital. Before the war, a small Jewish community lived in Siemnice. Adolf remembers three Jewish families. From the very start of the war, the town was occupied – first by the Soviets then the Germans. A portion of the Jews were deported to the Belzec death camp while others were shot onsite in Siemnice. A deposition found in Polish archives references a shooting in 1942 of approximately 70 Jews that included children and elderly people. **Adolf** witnessed a shooting of thirty Jewish men, women and children.

**Adolf** brought the Yahad – In Unum team to the execution site in Siemnice. There is neither a plaque nor a monument there. In 2005, the bodies were exhumed in order for the bones to be buried in the Jewish cemetery in Komarów.

Poland - Siemnice.



### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Adolf at the time of the events?
- 2.- Who were the victims of the shooting witnessed by Adolf? How many victims were there? What was the distance between Adolf and some of the victims? (Information is given throughout the testimony)
- 3.- Does the date of the shooting given by Adolf match the date indicated in the archives? (See the introduction)
- 4.- Who organized the shooting?
- 5.- How did the Germans round up the victims?
- 6.- Did Adolf know that the Jews were going to be shot?
- 7.- Who is Hajka? What did he/she choose to do? In your opinion, why did he/she choose that path?
- 8.- What was the grave used for before the shooting? Please describe. Who filled in the grave?
- 9.- Why do you think the witness agreed to give a testimony 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think it is important to collect and teach about this type of testimony?

### Glossary:

#### Folwark :

An agricultural domain.

#### Gestapo :

The Gestapo, the state secret police, was responsible hunting down those people considered enemies of the Nazi Reich, such as resistants or Jews. They often relied on local auxiliaries in occupied countries.

#### Soltys :

The soltys was the village chief in rural zones. During the occupation, the Germans often named the soltys themselves.

#### The Anders army:

This was a Polish army led by General Władysław Anders. It was set up following an agreement between the Poles and the Soviets in August 1941. Its goal was to fight the Nazis with allied help.

#### Link to the Interactive Map "In Evidence:"

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/siemnice-lublin-poland.576>



Old seat of the Gestapo in Bibrka.



Iossif being interviewed by the Yahad-In Unum team.



Old synagogue of Bibrka.

## Iossif P. - 1927 – Bibrka – (T735U17)

Thematic: The requisitions – Crime-scene collaboration – The looting

### UKRAINE

Iossif P., born in 1927 in Bibrka, interviewed on January 7th, 2009, in Bibrka.

Bibrka is a village 30km south-east of the regional capital, Lviv. Before the war, 2,000 Jews lived in Bibrka and there was a synagogue. The German occupation started on June 30th, 1941. In August 1942, 1,260 Jews were deported to Belzec death camp. On December 1st, 1942, a ghetto was opened in the town. Quickly after, on April 13th, 1943, it was liquidated. More than 1,000 Jews were shot near the neighboring village of Volove. **Iossif** dug one of the two ditches. After, he hid in order to watch the shooting. The precise date of the brickyard shooting is not clear or indicated anywhere. Nonetheless, in August 1943, the Germans dug up the bodies in order to burn them, most likely during Operation 1005.

There is no monument at the site of the brickyard shooting.

Ukraine - Bibrka.



### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Iossif at the time of the events?
- 2.- In the Bibrka ghetto, where did the Jews hide to escape the roundup?
- 3.- What exactly happened to the Jews after their arrival at the site of the pits?
- 4.- Who dug the pits? Was Iossif implicated at this stage? Who ordered the digging of the pits?
- 5.- How was Iossif able to see the shooting?
- 6.- Who shot the Jews? Who exactly were the victims? Why can we conclude this to be a crime of genocide?
- 7.- After the shooting, where were the Jewish belongings taken? Why were the belongings taken?
- 8.- What did the shooters do after the killing?
- 9.- Why do you think the witness is willing to testify almost 80 years after the fact?
- 10.- Why do you think it is important to collect and make known this kind of testimony?

### Glossary:

#### 'Aktion' against the Jews:

In the context of the genocide, the German term 'Aktion' refers to a mass liquidation of the Jews. There may be many 'Aktionen', spread over time, to murder the entire Jewish population of a village, city or region.

#### Police / Local police:

Under the Soviet system, local police did not exist. Denunciation to the central administration was the rule. The creation of a local police force was the only German administrative reform in the occupied Soviet territories. This police force received no training, and can be likened to a militia.

#### Bojnista :

A western Ukrainian term denoting a synagogue

#### Operation 1005:

In spring 1942, the Nazis launched 'operation 1005' with the objective of destroying the bodies buried since the killings began in the summer of 1941. The graves were opened up so and the bodies removed before being burned on pyres.

#### Link to the Interactive Map "In Evidence:"

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/bibrka-bobrka-boyberke-boiberik-lviv-ukraine.20>



Stanislav at his house in Hrymailiv.

## 6- T796U18 - Stanislav M. - 1913 - Hrymailiv

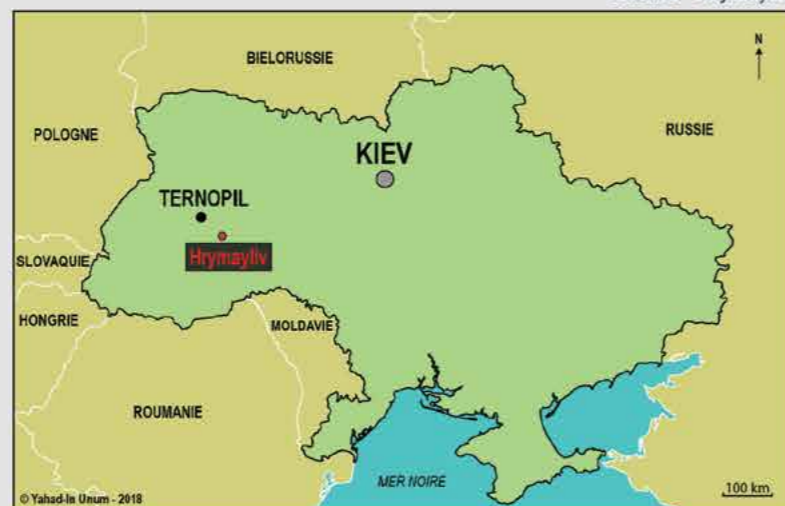
Themes: The public nature of the crimes/requisitioned locals/rescue.

### UKRAINE

Stanislav M., born in 1913 in Grymailiv, interviewed on the 9 May 2009 in Grymailiv.

Hrymailiv (Grymailiv before the war) is a village situated to the southwest of the regional capital Ternopil. In 1931, 1494 of the 4074 inhabitants of Grymailiv were Jewish. The majority worked at the flourmill, sawmill or at the distillery. The Soviet archives mention a 3-day pogrom against the Jewish population at the beginning of July 1941, during which 450 Jews, men, women, children and the elderly were shot before being thrown in the pond. Other 'Aktionen' followed in October 1941: shootings, deportations and the creation of a labor camp in Grymailiv. It is estimated that between the 5 July 1941 and the 23 March 1944, around 2530 Jews were executed. Stanislav was a witness to the first Aktion at the beginning of July 1941.

**Stanislav** showed the Yahad - In Unum team the site where the bodies of the Jewish victims of the first Aktion are buried; a mass grave situated in the former Jewish cemetery. There is no monument, or plaque, commemorating this tragedy.



Ukraine - Hrymailiv.



The Yahad - In Unum team with Stanislav on one of the mass graves



Ruines of the synagogue in the village of Hrymailiv, Ternopil region.

### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Stanislav during the events?
- 2.- Who organized and ordered the shooting of the Jews?
- 3.- When did the repression of the Jews begin? How long did it last?
- 4.- Where were the weapons distributed? Where were the Jews shot?
- 5.- Who shot the Jews?
- 6.- What happened to those who refused to shoot the Jews?
- 7.- How many Jews did Stanislav save during the war? Where were they hidden?
- 8.- In your opinion, what was the risk taken by Stanislav and others who hid Jews?
- 9.- Why do you think the witness agreed to give his testimony 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think it is important to record and diffuse this type of testimony?

### Glossary:

#### Hutsuls:

The Hutsuls inhabit the mountains of southwestern Ukraine, a part of the Carpathian Mountains that was once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

#### Link to the interactive map « In Evidence » :

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/hrymailiv-grymailiv-grimailov-grymailov-grzymalov-ternopil-ukraine.85>



At his house, Stanislav shows us the entrance to his cellar where five Jews were hidden.



German bullets discovered at one of the mass grave sites.



The pond in Hrymailiv where the Jews were murdered.



Building where the Jews were rounded up.



## levgueni S. - 1926 – Inhulets' - (T940U20)

Themes: Soviet heritage - Requisitions - The different stages of the crime

### UKRAINE

levgueni S., born in 1926 in the Kherson region, interviewed on the 2 June 2010 in Ingulets.

Ingulets (or Inhulets') is a village situated 150km to the southwest of the regional capital, Dnipropetrovsk. It was occupied by the Germans from 6 August 1941. They created a ghetto housing over 1000 people. In December 1941, they executed the elderly Jews. On the 20 May 1942, around 300 young Jews were transferred to the Novoselivka labor camp to work on building the road between Kryvyi and Dnipropetrovsk. The German archives indicate that in the "zone of the Soviet village of Ingulets, around 1800 Russians, notably Jews, were shot on the 10 and 11 June 1942". **levgueni** was a witness to this shooting.

**levgueni** accompanied the Yahad - In Unum team to the shooting site, today a wasteland at the site of an old quarry. A commemorative plaque states "At this site, the Jews of the Ingulets colony were shot in June 1942".



Ukraine - Ingulets.



levgueni and the Yahad - In Unum team in front of the execution site.



The commemorative plaque at the execution site

### Questions:

- 1.- How old was levgueni at the time of the events?
- 2.- What happened to the Jews from the village of Ingulets when the Germans arrived? What were Jews' living conditions like? What was the area where the Jews were forced to live called?
- 3.- Where were the Jews gathered before the shooting? Who rounded them up?
- 4.- Where did the shooting take place?
- 5.- Who dug the graves? What did the Germans order the Jews to do after they had taken them to the shooting site?
- 6.- What happened to the witness the day after the Jews were rounded up? How would you define the feelings the witness has for his Jewish neighbors?
- 7.- What were the main stages of the crime?
- 8.- Which elements of the investigation highlight the will of Nazis to totally exterminate the Jews?
- 9.- Why do you think that the witness has agreed to give a testimony 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think that it is important to collect and teach about this type of testimony?

### Glossary:

#### Policeman / local police:

In the Soviet system, there was no 'local police'. Denunciation to the local administration was the rule. The creation of a local police was the only administrative reform by the Germans in the occupied Soviet territories. This police, which received no training, often had the appearance of a militia.

#### Kolkhoze - Sovkhozes

In the USSR, a kolkhoze was a collective agricultural farm that grouped together the land, livestock, tools and manpower of one or several villages in a cooperative framework. All production was delivered to the state. Sovkhozes were state-owned farms where employees were paid a wage. The Russian presence can be explained by the colonial movement of immense agricultural areas like in Ukraine.

#### Jewish colony:

After the October 1917 revolution, the new regime began to favor the economic and social integration of the most disadvantaged Jews, who until then had no rights. Moscow therefore encouraged the creation of agricultural 'Jewish' colonies with the help of American and European philanthropic associations.

#### The Jews from western Ukraine

After the German invasion of the USSR, a large number of Jews from western Ukraine fled east to find refuge.

[Link to the interactive map « In Evidence » :](#)

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/ingulets-dnipropetrovsk-ukraine.94>



Execution and mass grave site at Hîncăuți.

## Maria J. - 1932 – Hîncăuți – (T72M3)

Theme: The importance of requisitions during the crime / The relationship between the Jews and their neighbors.

### MOLDOVA

Maria J., born in 1932 in Hîncăuți, interviewed on the 10 May 2013 in Hîncăuți.

Hîncăuți is a village situated to the north of the town of Edineț. The archives of the Soviet commission state that 47 people were shot during the German and Romanian occupation. Among the victims were 15 Jewish men, women and children. They were killed the day after the arrival of Romanian troops by three inhabitants of Hîncăuți. They are named in the archives: Victor Andreevich Dascaal, Alexei Petrovich Papovich and Fiodor Ivanovich Gonchar. **Maria** was a witness to the rounding up of the Jews and saw the bodies after the shooting.



The Yahad - In Unum team went to the execution site: a cultivated field on the edge of the village. There is a small monument put up in 2008 to the memory of "the fellow Jewish citizens murdered by the Fascists in July 1941". The names of the victims are engraved on the plaque. The monument is not situated on the exact site of the grave, but around 10 meters away on the other side of the road. The victims' bodies were exhumed and reburied in the Jewish cemetery in the village of Edineț.



Maria.



The monument at Hîncăuți.

### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Maria at the time of the events?
- 2.- Where were the Jews shot?
- 3.- Why was Maria at the scene of the crime just after the shooting?
- 4.- How many bodies were there? Were all the victims dead after the shooting?
- 5.- How did Maria and the Jewish victims of the shooting know each other?
- 6.- What was the role of the "man on the horse" in the organization of the shooting of the Jews?
- 7.- Were the three young men from the village of Hîncăuți forced to participate in the killing? Does Maria remember their names?
- 8.- What did Maria feel about the crimes she witnessed?
- 9.- Why do you think that the witness has agreed to give a testimony 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think that it is important to collect and teach about this type of testimony?

### Glossary :

#### Tatar (or Tatares) :

Throughout her testimony, Maria describes the presence of a "brown man on a horse", dressed in black. He makes her think of a Tatar. The Tatars were a minority of Turkish origin in the Soviet Union. The man she described was probably a local collaborator associated with the Romanian army.

#### Historical note on Moldova and Romania:

Under Soviet domination, Moldova was invaded by the Romanian army and gendarmes at the end of June 1941. Allied to the Nazis, the Romanians engaged in the massacre of the Jewish population. Antonescu's Romania was directly responsible for the murder of over 300,000 Jews along its border regions and in Soviet territories that it occupied.

[Link to the interactive map « In Evidence » :](http://yahadmap.org/#village/hinc-u-i-ginkautsi-ginkautsy-ghinc-u-i-edine-moldova.839)

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/hinc-u-i-ginkautsi-ginkautsy-ghinc-u-i-edine-moldova.839>



Vasile show the Yahad - In Unum team around the execution site.

## Vasile B. - 1921 – Scăieni – (T81M3)

Themes: Local collaborators – Shootings - Looting

### MOLDOVA

Vasile B., born in 1921 in Scăieni, interviewed on the 12 May 2013 in Scăieni.

Scăieni is a village situated to the east of Edineț. As soon as the Romanian troops arrived, all the Jews of the village were rounded up, shot and buried in the village. A local administrator, an attorney, complained to the Romanians that the Jews should not have been buried in the village. Thus, the bodies were exhumed and reburied on the edge of the village, in a pit reserved for animals. **Vasile** was a witness to the shootings of 2 columns of Jews who had stopped in Scăieni.

With **Vasile**, the Yahad - In Unum team went to the execution sites. Two graves are situated on a pasture around 50 meters from the road. There is no memorial and the bodies are still buried there. Nearby, there is another mass grave, containing the Jews of Scăieni.



Moldova - Scăieni.



Vasile and the Yahad-In Unum team.



Vasile and the Yahad-In Unum team at the execution and mass grave site.

### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Vasile at the time of the events?
- 2.- How was Vasile able to witness the shootings? How many of them did he witness?
- 3.- What happened to the Jewish children? Who dug the graves, What happened to the Jewish victims' bodies during the second shooting?
- 4.- Who were the killers? Who gave weapons to the villagers from Scăieni to kill the Jews?
- 5.- According to Vasile, what was the main motivation of the killers?
- 6.- Why were some of the killers unhappy?
- 7.- How did the Romanian gendarmes know where the Jews from Scăieni lived?
- 8.- What were the five stages of the crime?
- 9.- Why do you think that the witness accepted to give a testimony 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think that it is important to collect and teach about this type of testimony?

### Glossary

#### Historical note on Moldova and Romania:

Under Soviet domination, Moldova was invaded by the Romanian army and gendarmes at the end of June 1941. Allied to the Nazis, the Romanians engaged in the massacre of the Jewish population. Antonescu's Romania was directly responsible for the murder of over 300,000 Jews along its border regions and in Soviet territories that it occupied.

#### The paramilitaries:

The paramilitaries that the witness discusses were local auxiliaries or Romanians.

Link to the interactive map « In Evidence » :

<http://yahadmap.org/#village/sc-ieni-skayany-edine-moldova.843>



The execution and mass grave site today.

## Antonina V. – 1926 – Arkhangelskoye - (T537R14)

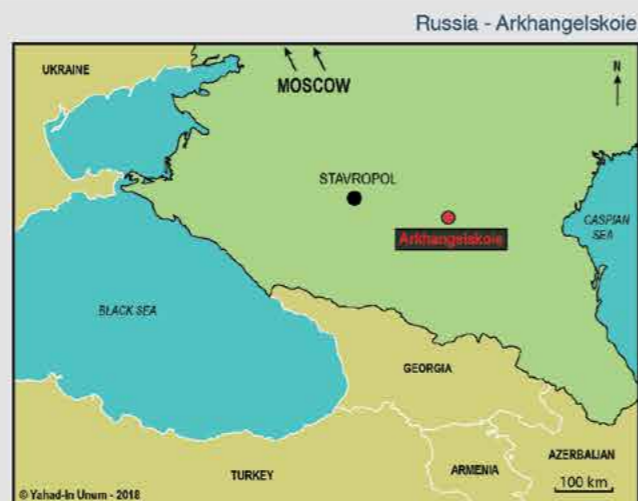
Themes: The fate of the children – Requisitions– The role of the local police.

### RUSSIA

Antonina V., born in Arkhangelskoye in 1927, interviewed on the 19 August 2015 in Arkhangelskoye.

Arkhangelskoye is a village situated near the Caucasus on the banks of the Kuma river, around 200km southeast of Stavropol and 200km north of the border with Georgia. Before the war there were no Jewish families in Arkhangelskoye. Once the war in the East began, Jews found refuge in the Stavropol region before the Germans occupied the territory in August 1942. The Soviet archives state that in September 1942, 48 Jewish refugees, including 21 children, were arrested by the Germans with the help of the local police. They were then driven to the site of the mass grave, usually reserved for animals. The Jews were forced to dig the pit themselves before being shot. The Yahad - In Unum investigation highlighted the fact that the children were poisoned, while the adults were shot. **Antonina** witness one of the scenes of the massacre.

**Antonina** took the Yahad - In Unum team to the execution site: a water tower in the middle of the village of Arkhangelskoye. There is no memorial or plaque and the victims' bodies are still buried there.



Russia - Arkhangelskoye.

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Antonina shows the Yahad - In Unum team around the execution site.



### Questions:

- 1.- How old was Antonina at the time of the events?
- 2.- What weapon was used to kill the children?
- 3.- When and how were the parents killed?
- 4.- Who were the criminals? Does Antonina remember their names?
- 5.- What was the role of the Germans in the criminal process?
- 6.- Describe the scene of the crime in detail: where were the children put in relation to their parents? Where were the executioners in relation to their victims?
- 7.- How does the specific crime of the children show the genocidal will of the Nazis?
- 8.- How did Antonina's mother react when she heard that her daughter saw the killing? Why did she react this way?
- 9.- Why do you think that the witness agreed to give her testimony 80 years after the events?
- 10.- Why do you think that it is important to collect and teach about this type of testimony?

### Glossary:

#### Policeman / local police:

In the Soviet system, there was no 'local police'. Denunciation to the local administration was the rule. The creation of a local police was the only administrative reform by the Germans in the occupied Soviet territories. This police, which received no training, often had the appearance of a militia.

#### The poisoning of children:

In southern Ukraine and southern Russia, the investigations carried out by Yahad - In Unum revealed the use of a toxic substance for sending children to sleep, or indeed killing them. The substance was put on their lips or under their nose. The children would pass out immediately. The nature of this substance is currently unknown. The regions where it was used correspond with the path taken by Einsatzgruppe D.

#### Link to the interactive map « In Evidence » :

[yahadmap.org/#village/arkhangelskoye-stavropol-russia.1108](http://yahadmap.org/#village/arkhangelskoye-stavropol-russia.1108)

# EVIDENCE <sup>iN</sup> THE MAP OF HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS

In-Evidence, the map of Holocaust by bullets, provides the location of the execution sites of Jews and Roma killed during the Second World War identified by Yahad - In Unum so far and gives a complete outline of what happened to the Jewish communities from towns and villages throughout Eastern Europe. The red markers on the map indicate the location of execution sites where Yahad - In Unum has added details of their investigations. There is a counter with the exact number of documented sites currently available online. By making the search you can read details about the site, including the number of victims, excerpts from the Soviet, German, Polish or Romanian archives and details and videos from eye witnesses' accounts to the mass executions. The full non-subtitled testimonies are available upon request by fulfilling a special form at the website.

You can also launch a search by country, scrolling through the "country" section in the column on the left of the map. By selecting a country, all the villages investigated by Yahad - In Unum in the selected country will appear on the map. You can also make a search with other criteria. For that, in the "Full text research" type any word, i.e. "children", "ghetto", "synagogue", "rabbi", and all the occurrences of the selected word published on the interactive map will be listed. Another type of search is a "media" search, where one can find all short clips, modern day and archival photographs related to the Holocaust or prewar Jewish heritage. In order to be redirected to the corresponding village's profile, please click on the picture. In-Evidence is a virtual memorial to the thousands of victims murdered by the Nazis, but also an interactive educational tool used to raise public awareness about the extent of the Holocaust by Bullets, to share Yahad-In Unum's research results and make complementary information available to the public.



### Photo credits

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- 4- T147P4 – Adolf : © Rita Villanueva / Yahad-In Unum
- 5- T735U17- Iossif : © Erez Lichtfeld / Yahad-In Unum
- 6- T796U18- Stanislav : © Nicolas Tkatchouk / Yahad-In Unum
- 7- T940U20 – Ievgueni : © David Merlin-Dufey / Juste des films pour Yahad-In Unum
- 8- T72M3 – Maria : © Victoria Bahr / Yahad-In Unum
- 9- T81M3 – Vasile : © Victoria Bahr / Yahad-In Unum
- 10- T537R14 – Antonina : © Christian Monterroso / Yahad-In Unum

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**Yahad-In Unum, 30 rue Garibaldi 93 400 Saint-Ouen (France) – [www.yahadinunum.org](http://www.yahadinunum.org)**

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Father Patrick Desbois with the Polish team of Yahad-In Unum at Jewish cemetery of Ogonowice, Poland, July 11, 2018 - © Emmanuelle Fousat / Yahad-In Unum



Artefacts found near the mass grave, Ossovnitsa, Belarus, August 15, 2009 - © Nicolas Tkatchouk / Yahad-In Unum



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