THE TOM LANTOS ARCHIVES ON ANTI-SEMITISM & HOLOCAUST DENIAL

THE LARGEST ARCHIVES IN THE WORLD OF TRANSLATED ARABIC, Farsi, Turkish & Urdu/Pashtu Material on Anti-Semitism from the Past Decade

www.memri.org/TomLantosArchives
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During Tom Lantos’ years in Congress, MEMRI worked with him closely, providing him with all of the expressions of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial prevalent in the Arab and Muslim world.

This material prompted Tom Lantos to pursue the first legislation against anti-Semitism in the history of the U.S. Congress, the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004. This legislation, USC 2731, which monitors and combats anti-Semitism, established an office within the State Department to monitor, report on, and combat anti-Semitism around the world.

At that time, Tom Lantos expressed his appreciation of MEMRI’s invaluable work, saying: “MEMRI’s enormously effective work, on behalf of truth, civilization, [and] open press of all kinds, is deeply appreciated by many of us in the Congress.”

After Tom Lantos’ passing, MEMRI joined with the Lantos family and his institute for human rights and justice to establish the Tom Lantos Archives on Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial, which became the repository of MEMRI’s monitoring, translation, and research on anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial in the Arab and Muslim world. Every year, hundreds of documents and videos detailing this research are added to the archives, which have been viewed by millions of people.

Every year since its founding, the Tom Lantos Archives on Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial holds an event in the Speaker’s Dining Room on Capitol Hill, with the participation of leading congressmen and senators, State Department officials, representatives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, academics, and other individuals involved in combating anti-Semitism.

At this event, MEMRI presents its annual report on the status of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial in the Arab and Muslim world, detailing and analyzing its findings.

The Tom Lantos Archives have been praised and their importance highlighted by Vice President Joseph Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Speaker of the House John Boehner, former Speaker of the House and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. As the late MEMRI Board Member Elie Wiesel said, “Thanks only to the tireless efforts of the invaluable Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), we know the true extent to which Holocaust denial has grown in the media of the Middle East and among Islamist as well as in other Muslim circles. MEMRI is the only organization in the world translating and documenting this horrific phenomenon…”

MEMRI’s work has a direct impact, particularly in Europe, where anti-Semitism, racism, and Holocaust denial are fought through legislation. Various Arab and Iranian TV channels, including Al-Sahar (Iran), Al-Manar (Lebanon/Hizbullah), Al-Aqsa (Hamas), and Iqraa TV (Saudi Arabia), have been prevented from broadcasting into Europe based on MEMRI’s exposure of their inciting content. Various media outlets in the Arab world have had to limit their anti-Semitic pronouncements due to the counter-measures imposed on them as a result of MEMRI’s research.

In 2011 MEMRI received a grant from the State Department to continue this research and assistance. As the State Department’s Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal said, “I couldn’t do my job at the State Department without the great work of MEMRI in tracking this phenomenon in the Middle East.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UNESCO director-general, the European Union, the European Parliament, the U.K. Parliament, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the German Foreign Ministry, the Swedish Parliament, Germany’s chancellor, Germany’s foreign minister, Sweden’s prime minister, France’s interior minister, and many more rely on MEMRI’s translations.
MEMRI’s Board of Advisors comprises a group of distinguished figures in government, media and academia. Among them are former prime ministers; attorneys-general; justice ministers; and recipients of the most prestigious awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the United States Congressional Gold Medal.

This group also includes former United States government officials, such as multiple directors of the CIA; U.S. Secretary of Defense; Secretary of the Navy; Ambassadors to the United Nations, Iraq, the European Union, and Romania; U.S. Secretary of Education; and head presidential counsel. Members of MEMRI’s Board of Advisors are bipartisan; they have honorably served Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama.

MEMRI’s work in anti-Semitism documentation is backed by international figures, many of whom are members of the MEMRI Board of Advisors; one such Board member was the late Nobel Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel. Today’s board members include leading scholars on Holocaust denial and on anti-Semitism in the Muslim world; among them are: Yehuda Bauer, former director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem and founder of the International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at The Hebrew University; Deborah Lipstadt, professor and Dorot Chair of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, known for her successful trial against British Holocaust denier David Irving; Anthony Julius, British lawyer who successfully defended Deborah Lipstadt in her libel case against Holocaust denier David Irving; Irwin Cotler, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and former director of the Human Rights Program and Chair of the McGill University-based International Human Rights Advocacy; Father Patrick Desbois, head of the French Bishops Conference’s Commission for Relations with Judaism; Alan Dershowitz, former Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, author of 27 works as well as over 100 magazine and journal articles; Bernard Lewis, Professor of Near Eastern Studies Emeritus at Princeton University; Stuart Eizenstat, former ambassador to the European Union; and Natan Sharanksy, former Israeli Minister for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs, Minister without Portfolio.
“The Tom Lantos Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial Archives will help future generations understand why we confront injustice, why we defend human rights, and why we honor all that Tom Lantos stood for.”

- Vice President Joseph R. Biden

“It’s astounding to think that someone could deny the Holocaust... When you hear the kind of rhetoric coming from places like Iran, it just shows us that the mission [of MEMRI’s Tom Lantos Archives on Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial] is that much more important, that Tom’s legacy, which was a bipartisan legacy, is one that needs to be amplified even more... Let’s make sure that this mission is fulfilled so that hopefully we don’t repeat these mistakes [that lead to the Holocaust].”

-Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives

“In April of 1945, after inspecting the newly liberated Ohdruf concentration camp near Weimar, Germany, General Dwight D. ‘Ike’ Eisenhower ordered all available American troops to go and witness the horrors he’d just seen. He also forced German citizens and officials from nearby towns to do the same... He understood that there must be a record, first-hand evidence, and incontrovertible answers to those who would deny the Holocaust. Ike’s example is reflected in the work of the Middle East Media Research Institute. The institute’s Anti-Semitism & Documentation Project provides clear, analytical monitoring of modern anti-Semitism so that today’s injustices may be confronted in the clear light of truth…”

- John Boehner, former Speaker of the House of Representative

“With his example, brilliance, eloquence, commitment, and dedication, Tom Lantos left us a legacy and a responsibility, and that is why his cause is now our cause, and that is why his work –the work of the Lantos Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial Archives – is so important to all of us.”

- Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader for the House of Representatives and former Speaker of the House of Representatives

“Let me first express my appreciation to MEMRI, the Middle East Media Research Institute, for invaluable work they’re doing. At a time when the line of division between the civilized world and terrorism is as clear as it is today, MEMRI’s enormously effective work, on behalf of truth, civilization, open press of all types, is deeply appreciated by many of us in the Congress.”

- The Late Tom Lantos (D-CA)
“Tom Lantos had as his mission in life a) that we not forget and b) that we show
tolerance, love, and understanding. How appropriate it is to honor the archives and
Tom Lantos by joining them together. The archives are about remembrance, but
more importantly they are about ensuring that in remembering we do not repeat
the violence of the past.”
— Sen. Steny Hoyer, Majority Whip of the House of Representatives

“[MEMRI’s] annual commemoration of the Tom Lantos Archives on Anti-Semitism
and Holocaust Denial is a vividly important institution [that] stands as a fitting
memorial to a great patriot who knew the dangers and cruelty of despotism and
dedicated his life to fighting tyranny and promoting the enduring values that we
hold dear... Education is the first step. And this is where the Tom Lantos Archives
on Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial play such an invaluable role in disseminating
vital and accurate information to create an informed public.”
— Sen. John McCain, Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Armed Services Committee

“These remarkable archives document anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial in
every form of media throughout the Middle East, and in all of its manifestations in
political, educational, cultural and religious spheres. These are the largest archives
in the world of translated Arabic and Farsi material on anti-Semitism from the past
decade, and have become an important source of information on the global upsurge
in anti-Semitism and on the promotion of antisemitic incitement by radical Islamic
forces worldwide. The Lantos Archives have become an effective tool in fighting
anti-Semitism, and is one way that the Lantos Foundation fights anti-Semitism and
holocaust denial wherever it is found.”
— Rep. Elissa Slotkin, member and former Chair of House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee

“Your organization has helped thousands of people to overcome the challenges
associated with ethnic and religious bias. Through the efforts of organizations like
MEMRI, people will be empowered to benefit themselves, their family, community,
and our state. I applaud MEMRI’s work to serve the needs of the Jewish population
throughout its diverse range of services and initiatives. Through outreach programs
to project research and press conferences and other public events. You are working to
improve the quality of life for members of our community. It is my hope that your
efforts serve as an example of the positive contributions an individual can make to
his or her profession, community and country.”
— Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY)

“I cannot think of a more fitting occasion on which to unveil the effort of the Lantos
Foundation and the archives in connection with the work — the tremendous work
that MEMRI does on behalf of peace, on behalf of justice and on behalf of human
rights.”
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“This are the largest archives in the world of translated material on anti-Semitism
from the past decade and have become the preeminent source of information
on the global upsurge in anti-Semitism and on the promotion of anti-Semitic
incitement by radical forces worldwide. The outstanding scope of MEMRI’s research
and translations has made these archives a primary resource for policymakers
and researchers... In 2002, you may remember... MEMRI’s translation of a 41-
part television series that was based on all of the worst stereotypes of the Jewish
people... It is a marvelous initiative [the Archives]... MEMRI is to be commended for
its continued efforts.”
— Secretary of State John Kerry, at the time a senator and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

“I want to start by thanking MEMRI. The MEMRI material that we get on an ongoing
basis and every year is vital to our work and is reflected in a lot of the reports you’ll
see, the two most important government reports I think come out every year, the
Human Rights Report... and the International Religious Freedom Report.”
— Ira Forman, U.S. State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

“I couldn’t do my job at the State Department without the great work of MEMRI
in tracking this phenomenon in the Middle East. MEMRI watches and listens to the
voices (good and bad) in the region, and shines a light on what is being said, who
is saying outrageous things, who is denying that the Holocaust happened, and,
worse, who is glorifying the Holocaust — and calling for another Holocaust to finish
the job.”
— Hannah Rosenthal, former U.S. State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism

STATE DEPARTMENT LAUDS THE
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“Tom Lantos had as his mission in life a) that we not forget and b) that we show
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the violence of the past.”
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“Memorialization is an important part of the healing process. MEMRI’s annual
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"Today, all of us, everyone here in this room, is on the front lines in what I call the battle for truth, as we witness these constant assaults against truth. And that’s what MEMRI is fighting for every day, to protect the truth and to expose the truth.”
- Sara J. Bloomfield, Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

"Thanks only to the tireless efforts of the invaluable Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), we know the true extent to which Holocaust denial has grown in the media of the Middle East and among Islamist as well as in other Muslim circles. With the rise of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the number one Holocaust denier in the world today, a year ago, Holocaust denial has reached new appalling levels. MEMRI is the only organization in the world translating and documenting this horrific phenomenon. Legislators, teachers, and media will be able to greatly enrich their knowledge with its documentary.”
- Elie Wiesel, Nobel Prize Laureate and MEMRI Board Member

"MEMRI’s invaluable research and translations on Arab and Iranian anti-Semitism, as well as its reports on the opposition to Jew-hatred by anti-radical Muslims, have become the preeminent source of knowledge on this issue by historians and academics generally, legislators, and journalists. If it weren’t for the tireless efforts of MEMRI, the full extent of incitement against Jews by Iran and the Arab world would not be known in the West. As MEMRI’s research has highlighted, the most recent and troublesome development to emerge from this phenomenon is unprecedented Holocaust denial from Arab and Iran political, religious and military figures which has saturated the media of the Middle East. At this critical historical juncture, the creation of a documentary film on Holocaust denial, that incorporates MEMRI’s hundreds of hours of TV monitoring and thousands of documents from their Anti-Semitism Documentation Project, is of the utmost importance.”
- Yehuda Bauer, former Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, founder of the International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and MEMRI Board Member

"MEMRI, which I value so highly, makes the world aware of both faces of Islam today – the one that incites violence and hatred toward others, and the other that advocateds reform, peace, and fraternity among all religions.”
- Hassen Chalghoumi, French-Tunisian Imam of the Drancy Mosque, Paris

"I’m deeply honored to be here, and thank MEMRI and the Tom Lantos Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial Archives for their important work... Working hard to stop anti-Semitism, I’ve discovered there are many positive ways to bring this education to the Muslim world: through speaking the truth, rejecting anti-Semitism, learning the history, and sharing the positive role of Muslims during the Holocaust...I ask all of us is to confront bigotry, but especially our leaders, who hold the keys to change upon this famous Capitol Hill. We must eradicate this hatred with sensitivity to the others who are marginalized everywhere….”
- Professor Mohsin Afzal, Pakistani-born Director of Manhattan College’s Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center

"[Anti-Semitism] is racism. It’s as simple as that...[R]acism has no foundation. It’s irrational and it’s carried and it’s conveyed from generation to... generation... It only flourishes because of something called ignorance, because no one in his or her right mind property educated could ever buy this... You can fight threat with physical armies, but ignorance can be fought only through education... Ignorance is the best ally of extremism, of anti-Semitism, of everything... It’s an ongoing daily fight. And at least we know the remedy to it. It’s education... What does MEMRI do so remarkably well? Precisely, creating a bridge”
- Dr. Lotfi Maktouf, Tunisian-French scholar

"Ladies and gentlemen, we must, we can’t ever, surrender. Tom Lantos said the veneer of civilization is paper thin. Hate and technology in the service of hate now made that veneer very, very porous... [A]nti-Semitism is just not a matter of something, it’s a social call we take up. It is something that is there. It is something that is gaining in momentum... [P]lease let us not surrender, and to remember that not all Muslims share in this nonsense about annihilating the Jews.”
- Dr. Khaleel Mohammed, Associate Professor of Religion at San Diego State University
Congressman Tom Lantos, distinguished Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was one of the world’s leading voices on human rights. In 1983 he co-founded the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and for nearly three decades led the fight for human rights and justice.

Congressman Lantos was the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to the United States Congress. An American by choice, he was born in Budapest, Hungary on February 1, 1928. He was 16 years old when the Wehrmacht occupied his native country and began the extermination of Hungary’s Jewish population. Congressman Lantos was sent to a forced labor camp north of Budapest. He escaped but was later captured, beaten, and returned to the camp. Following his second escape, which was successful, he worked as a courier in the underground and survived in an apartment building in Budapest that had been placed under the protection of Swedish diplomat and humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg. After World War Two, Congressman Lantos won a scholarship to the University of Washington (Seattle). He later earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California (Berkeley).

Congressman Lantos was a leading figure on the issues of anti-Semitism and Holocaust remembrance. He was a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, the federal government commission responsible for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and continuing education efforts on the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights. He was also co-founder of the Congressional Task Force Against Anti-Semitism, which monitors and coordinates congressional action against bigotry, racism, discrimination, and anti-Semitism. He played the key role in the negotiation and passage of the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act, which in 2004 committed the United States government to a more active stance in the fight against anti-Semitism worldwide. In August 2001 he headed the U.S. delegation to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and related intolerance, in Durban, South Africa, and led the walkout of the U.S. delegation at the conference.

Following his death in February 2008, his wife Annette and daughters established the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, which works to advance the idealistic vision of Tom Lantos, who said, “I see a day when the noble banner of human rights and justice will proudly wave over every corner of the world.”
THE TOM LANTOS ARCHIVES ON ANTI-SEMITISM AND HOLOCAUST DENIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

Tom Lantos Archives on Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial on Facebook

www.thememriblog.org/antisemitism
The Tom Lantos Archives on Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial on YouTube

The Tom Lantos Archives on Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial on Flickr