


[Home](#)
[Communities](#)
[Newsletter](#)
[About us](#)
[Contact](#)


WJC
News / Updates from our Communities / Spain

News

- ▶ [EJC - Organized Actions](#)

- ▶ [Updates from our Communities](#)

- ▶ [EJC Israeli Press Review](#)

- ▶ [Europe-Israeli Relations](#)

- ▶ [European Union](#)

- ▶ [International Organizations](#)

- ▶ [Holocaust Memory and Education](#)

- ▶ [EJC Partner Organizations](#)

Issues

- ▶ [Combating anti-Semitism](#)

- ▶ [Europe-Israel](#)

- ▶ [High level Meetings](#)

- ▶ [Inter-religious dialogue](#)

- ▶ [Shoah Memory and Education](#)

Links

- ▶ [World Jewish congress](#)

- ▶ [Jewish Communities](#)

- ▶ [European Institutions](#)

- ▶ [Jewish Institutions](#)

- ▶ [Media](#)



Father of Israeli Terrorist Victim Address Spain Conference on Terror

Tuesday, February 14, 2006



The father of a 15-year old victim of a Jerusalem suicide blast addressed participants on Monday, February 13th, for the two-day "Congress on Victims of Terrorism," held in the Spanish city of Valencia.

Arnold Roth, an Israeli lawyer representing his country at the conference, gave an emotional speech to the assembled guests, consisting of survivors and relatives of people killed in terrorist attacks worldwide.

"When you bring terrorism victims together, you find that we have a common language, a common pain," Roth said.

He also alluded to the current political situation in Israel and in the Palestinian Authority, stating, "some of the men and women who murdered my child are in prison in Israel. Others are alive and well and free and active. Some of them have even become newly-elected members of parliament - not the parliament of my country but the parliament of the neighbor with whom we desperately want to live in peace."

The summit was attended by survivors and relatives of those killed in the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, in the 2004 Beslan school seizure in Russia, in last July's London transit bombings and in bombings and assaults in Colombia, Spain and elsewhere.

The first Congress on Victims of Terrorism was held in Madrid in 2004, six weeks before the March 11 train bombings in the Spanish capital, which killed 191 people and injured 1,500 others. The second was held last year in Bogota, Colombia, according to the AP.

Latest updates on this section

[Father of Israeli Terrorist Victim Address Spain Conference on Terror](#)
02/14/2006

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09/14/2005

[The Jewish Community of Spain](#)

[Home page](#)
[Top of the page](#)

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