

Prime Minister, Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen
Speech at the Celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Denmark's liberation

4 May 2005

“(…) What was worse, as we know today, is that Danish authorities in some instances were involved in expelling people to suffering and death in the concentration camps. There were persons who sought safe haven in this country from the Nazi persecutors of the Jewish people. The Danish authorities expelled these people to the Nazis.

Also other innocent people were, with the active assistance of the Danish authorities, left to an uncertain fate at the hands of the Nazi regime. These are shameful incidents. A stain on Denmark's otherwise good reputation in this area.

The remembrance of the dark aspects of the occupation era is unfortunately also a part of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of Denmark. Thus I would very much like - on this very occasion and in this location - on behalf of the government and thus the Danish state, to express regret and apologize for these acts.

An apology cannot alter history. But it can contribute to the recognition of historic mistakes. So that present and future generations will hopefully avoid similar mistakes in the future”.¹ (…)

¹ Quoted in Vilhjálmur Örn Vilhjálmsson and Bent Blüdnikow, Rescue, Expulsion, and Collaboration: Denmark's Difficulties with its World War II Past, Jewish Political Studies Review 18:3-4 (Fall 2006), available at <http://www.jcpa.org/phas/phas-vilhjalmsson-f06.htm>