



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Baruch Tenembaum  
International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation  
34 East 67th St.  
New York NY 10065  
USA

Postbus 20061  
2500 EB The Hague  
The Netherlands  
www.minbuza.nl

**Our ref.**  
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Date 29 August 2009  
Re Your letter on Norway's Knut Hamsun commemoration


Dear Mr. Tenembaum,

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern on the events organised in Norway in remembrance of Knut Hamsun. In the light of Hamsun's well-known Nazi sympathies I fully understand your feelings.

The Dutch government has always supported holocaust education remembrance and research, and will continue to do so. As you may know, the Netherlands is a candidate for the chair of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research in 2011. The Dutch government agrees wholeheartedly that Hamsun's pro-Nazi views should be roundly condemned.

The Norwegian government, for its part, *has* condemned Hamsun's political sympathies. It has approached the sensitive issue of remembering the controversial writer in a careful and appropriate manner, celebrating his literary achievements while spotlighting his deplorable support for National Socialism. On several occasions during this Hamsun year, ample attention has been paid to the dark side of Knut Hamsun's life and career. The Norwegian government expressed its commitment to the Stockholm Declaration on the Holocaust repeatedly and actively supports the goals of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, of which Norway currently holds the chair.

Yours sincerely,

  
Maxime Verhagen  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands