

Speech
Mr. Eduardo Eurnekian
Chairman
The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation
Swedish Embassy
Paris, June 24th, 2013

Dear Ambassador Lund, thank you for your kind words and for offering your beautiful residence as the venue of this meaningful event.

Dear Ambassador Pisar, dear Judith, dear members of the Pisar family, dear Louise von Dardel, distinguished guests and friends:

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to be here, together with my friend and founder of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, Mr. Baruch Tenembaum.

Today we present the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal to Ambassador Samuel Pisar, a remarkable and multifaceted man whose biography resembles more the lives of several accomplished individuals.

Dr. Pisar was a small child, barely 10 years old when Hitler and Stalin dismembered his native country, Poland. He managed to survive the Soviet occupation and the horrors of Auschwitz and Dachau and after going through this inferno he was liberated by the US Army in 1945.

These tragic experiences did not thwart the young Samuel's ambitions. With the help of French and Australian relatives, he resumed his studies in Paris, graduated from Melbourne University and earned Ph.D.'s titles from two great universities: Harvard and the Sorbonne.

Dr Pisar became a world-reputed American, British and French lawyer, offering his professional advice to governments, multinational corporations, personalities and even to President John F. Kennedy himself. In 1961, he received the US citizenship by a special resolution of the American Congress.

He authored acclaimed books, such as "Coexistence and Commerce" and his personal memoir "Of Blood and Hope".

Today, Dr. Pizar is an Ambassador and special envoy of UNESCO and genocide education and in fact, he dedicated most of his adult life to the sacred task of teaching his Holocaust experiences and upholding the values of civic courage exemplified by Raoul Wallenberg and the other rescuers of victims of the Shoah.

One of Dr. Pizar's most poignant works in that respect is a libretto he wrote and narrates, appearing in the most prestigious venues and the best philharmonic orchestras around the world. I am referring to "Kaddish – a Dialogue with God", which he embedded on Leonard Bernstein Symphony No. 3.

Ambassador Pizar has received numerous awards and civic distinctions, such as the Grand Officer of the French Legion of Honor, the Commander of Poland's order of merit and the Officer of the Order of Australia, which was awarded in the name of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The "Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal" is being bestowed today upon Ambassador Sam Pizar in recognition to his lifelong commitment to promoting and divulging the courageous legacies of Raoul Wallenberg and all his likes, women and men who chose not to stand idly by in face of evil and reached out to those who were persecuted by the Nazi murderous machine.

This is also a wonderful moment to pay tribute to other Holocaust heroes, such as Angelo Roncalli (later known as Pope John XXIII), Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Luiz Martins de Souza Dantas and many others who risked their lives to save the persecuted. The whole world owes a huge gratitude to these heroes, a gratitude that should never expire.

A special word of thanks to Ms. Louise von Dardel, niece of Raoul Wallenberg, who came especially from Switzerland to attend this event and to greet the distinguished laureate. We know Ms von Dardel from the very early days of our Foundation. We have marched a long way together with her, with her sister Marie, with her mother Matti, and with her late father, Prof. Guy von Dardel, Raoul's brother, who dedicated all his life and energy to keep alive his brother's legacy and to campaign for his return. We cherish their relentless and unconditional commitment to our common cause and we feel that the

von Dardel's are a source of continuous inspiration for our Foundation.

Finally, I would like to thank once again our host, His Excellency, Ambassador Gunnar Lund and his staff, for having agreed to host this important event in this symbolic venue, a Swedish house that reminds us that the year 2012 marked the centenary of the birth of Raoul Wallenberg, a "Hero without a Grave" (a byname coined by our Vice-President, Dr. Yoav Tenenbaum, today here with us).

As we all know, Raoul Wallenberg disappeared after being arrested by the Soviet army in January 1945.

As we celebrate the centenary of Wallenberg's birth, we have multiplied our activities and also launched a significant reward of half a million US Dollars for reliable and scientifically verifiable information that could lead us to discover the true fate and whereabouts of this Swedish hero and of his chauffeur, Vilmos Langfelder.

Dear guests, we hope that this award will serve as a further reminder of our infinite gratitude to Raoul Wallenberg and his likes.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Our congratulations to Ambassador Sam Pizar for this merited recognition.