

Prime Minister's Office

Press release

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Prime Minister Göran Persson comments on the Wallenberg report

The Russian–Swedish working group is presenting its reports on Raoul Wallenberg today. Prime Minister Göran Persson comments on the reports as follows:

"Raoul Wallenberg's fearless and indefatigable efforts to save Hungarian Jews from persecution by Nazi Germany during World War II deserve to be remembered always. He is an example to us all.

For decades the fate of Raoul Wallenberg has touched people all over the world, and naturally it has been particularly painful for his relatives.

The Russian–Swedish working group's report which has been presented today contains new and valuable facts and findings about Raoul Wallenberg. As long as there is no unequivocal evidence of what happened to Wallenberg – and this is still the case – it cannot be said that Raoul Wallenberg is dead.

Against this background, we must continue with our efforts to obtain new facts which would throw light on Wallenberg's fate. These efforts must be based on the assumption that Raoul Wallenberg may have lived after 1947. The Government will therefore be allocating further resources in order to follow up the working group's reports. We shall also be asking an researcher to examine the actions of the leadership of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the Wallenberg case.

Even though Raoul Wallenberg has been the most important individual case ever handled by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and despite the fact that enormous efforts have been devoted to finding out the truth about his fate, there is reason for criticism of the way in which the case was handled during the first few years after 1945.

Of course, the main responsibility for Raoul Wallenberg's fate rests with the Soviet Government, which ordered and implemented Wallenberg's disappearance from Hungary. Nonetheless it is now clear that

more energetic and purposeful action on the part of Sweden during the 1940s could have led to a more successful outcome for Raoul Wallenberg and his relatives.

I should like today, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Swedish Government, to extend our deepest regrets to his relatives for these mistakes. At the same time, I promise that our efforts to obtain an answer on what really happened to Raoul Wallenberg will be continued".