

The Raoul Wallenberg Research Initiative RWI-70

Dear Friends,

A warm welcome to all of you who have joined our new project to mark the 70th anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's arrest and disappearance.

As you know, the aim of the RWI-70 is to create a joint, consolidated list of open questions and requests for access to a number of archival collections in Russia, Sweden, Hungary and several other countries.

This **Master List** of research is intended to help us answer the core question in the Wallenberg case: What exactly happened to Raoul Wallenberg once his official trail breaks off in the Lubyanka Prison in March 1947? Closely related to this are several fundamental background questions: What were the reasons for Wallenberg's arrest? And why did Stalin never order his release?

Below you will find a **list of archives for specific countries**, as well as a number of **suggested topics** for each. Please formulate your questions for any of these countries and their respective archives, depending on your specific interest and expertise, and **return them to me no later than October 1, 2015**. I will then circulate the resulting joint list for discussion and approval.

The final **Master List** will be presented to designated archives and officials in November, in the name of all participants.

The questions and requests should be stated in as **detailed and precise** a manner as possible. Please see **example questions** below. You may propose different topics than those listed here and submit as few or as many questions as you like. However, all chosen topics and questions should fit within the following **six basic categories**:

- Wallenberg's personal and professional background 1937-1945
- Wallenberg's selection and recruitment for the humanitarian mission to Budapest in the spring of 1944
- Wallenberg's contacts and activities in Hungary in 1944-1945
- Wallenberg's detention by Soviet military counterintelligence units in January 1945 and his subsequent disappearance in the Soviet Union
- Wallenberg's imprisonment and presumed death in the Soviet Union
- the official Swedish and Russian handling of the Wallenberg case since 1945

We are working to organize a meeting of experts in late November, in Budapest or Stockholm. So, let us get started and we take stock on October 1.

Looking forward to a truly interesting and inspiring discussion,

Susanne Berger

September 1, 2015

Coordinator

The Raoul Wallenberg

Research Initiative RWI-70

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EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

Topic: **Russia - The 'Smoltsov report'** (FSB Central Archive, TsA FSB)

1. In what Russian archival file or collection was the so called 'Smoltsov report' discovered?
2. When exactly was it found, by whom, and under what circumstances?
3. Why were no handwriting samples for Dr. A.L Smoltsov from the crucial year 1947 provided to the Swedish and Russian forensic experts who were asked to analyze the 'Smoltsov report'? We would be grateful if you could provide such additional handwriting samples now, for further analysis and comparison.

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SAMPLE TOPICS

Russia

The reasons for Raoul Wallenberg's arrest

- Stalin's knowledge and perception of Sweden, Swedish neutrality, Raoul Wallenberg and the Wallenberg family, before, during and after WWII
- special folders of the Politburo/Presidium
- the Soviet Legation, Stockholm. Aleksandra Kollontay, Boris Rybkin et al.
- Soviet foreign and military intelligence reports about Raul Wallenberg from Sweden and Hungary 1940-1945
- Soviet foreign and military intelligence reports about the official Swedish rescue efforts and those of other neutral countries in Hungary 1944-45, as well as the Swedish Legation in Budapest 1941-1945.

What happened in 1947?

- the system of numbering prisoners (under investigation and after sentencing)
- the sentencing of prisoners by the MGB Special Board (OSO)
- Prisoner no.7
- Raoul Wallenberg's personal effects
- Viktor Abakumov
- the Smoltsov Report and the Gromyko Memorandum
- the correspondence records of the NKGB/MGB/KGB and the Soviet leadership

The Soviet prison system

- the administrative records of the Soviet prison authorities (NKGB/MGB, NKVD/MVD)
- various records of investigative and punishment prisons, i.e. the Lybyanka, Lefortovo, Sukhanovo, Butyrka and Vladimir Prisons, including registers of interrogation, medical care and transfers of prisoners
- Dr. A.L. Smoltsov
- the personal and investigative files of Raoul Wallenberg's cellmates and fellow prisoners
- other Swedish citizens or Swedish nationals imprisoned in the Soviet Union after 1945

Swedish-Soviet behind-the-scenes discussions to clarify Raoul Wallenberg's fate

- Pavel Erzin, Åke Frey, Viktor Vladimirov (1955-1957)
- Nanna Svartz, Alexander Myasnikov, Grigory Danishevsky (1961-1965)
- Stig Wennerström, Wolfgang Vogel, Carl-Gustav Svingel (1963-1974)
- Stig Berling (1979)

Sweden

Raoul Wallenberg's personal and professional background

- Raoul Wallenberg's contacts with Kálmán Lauer, Sven Salén, Carl Matthiessen et al.
- Raoul Wallenberg's military service and his contacts with members of the Swedish intelligence establishment
- Raoul Wallenberg's contacts with the Wallenberg family, especially Marcus and Jacob Wallenberg and *Stockholms Enskilda Banken (SEB)*
- Raoul Wallenberg's and Kálmán Lauer's business contacts in Sweden, Germany and Hungary
- Raoul Wallenberg's contacts with Jewish refugees

Raoul Wallenberg's selection for the Budapest humanitarian mission

- the Jewish community, Stockholm
- the Hungarian Legation, Stockholm. Dr. Antal Ullein-Reviczky, Andor Gellert et al.
- the British Legation, Stockholm and the Special Operations Executive (SOE). Peter Tennant, Cyril Cheshire et al.
- the U.S. Legation, Stockholm and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Hershel Johnson, Iver Olsen, R.Taylor Cole et al
- war time Allied and Swedish intelligence reports on Hungary
- Swedish wartime economic relations with Hungary

The official Swedish handling of the Raoul Wallenberg case

- the actions and attitudes of the Swedish political establishment towards Raoul Wallenberg, especially those of Staffan Söderblom, Östen Undén and Tage Erlander
- Swedish-Soviet relations during the Cold War
- Swedish post-war economic interests in Eastern Europe and the Baltic region, including the compensation negotiations for lost business from 1945-1955
- the Swedish-Soviet negotiations for a trade agreement in 1946
- the opportunities and challenges of Sweden's neutrality policy
- the actions of the Wallenberg family (Marcus and Jacob Wallenberg)
- Swedish intelligence assessments of the Wallenberg case after 1945

The U.S.

Raoul Wallenberg's mission and the U.S. intelligence services

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the creation of the War Refugee Board
- War Refugee Board operations in Eastern Europe and the Balkans
- the role of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of the Treasury
- the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and 'the Pond'
- U.S. intelligence aims in Sweden and Hungary
- intelligence sharing agreements with Sweden, Britain and the Soviet Union

U.S. handling of the Wallenberg case after 1945

- the investigation of the SEB and the Wallenberg brothers by the U.S. Department of Justice 1945-1949
- Swedish-U.S. relations during the Cold War
- the handling of witness testimonies

Great Britain/Canada

Raoul Wallenberg's mission and the British intelligence services

- the role of the Dutch and British officers, escaped prisoners of war in Budapest in 1944-45
- British intelligence aims in Sweden and Hungary
- SOE/ISLD operations in Hungary
- the debriefings of former prisoners in the Soviet Union
- the debriefings of Soviet defectors

Hungary

The Hungarian resistance movement

- Raoul Wallenberg's contacts with different resistance groups and representatives in Hungary
- the contacts and activities of the Swedish Legation, Budapest
- the Hungarian aristocracy and its contacts with Sweden and the Allies
- separate peace negotiations

The planned 1953 show trials

- the role of the official Soviet liaison officials
- the official instructions from and communications with Moscow

Germany/Austria

Raoul Wallenberg's contacts with German Nazi authorities

- Raoul Wallenberg's contacts with German war criminals like Kurt Becher, Edmund Veessenmayer, Adolf Eichmann, Walter Schellenberg
- Swedish ball bearing deliveries and other war materials to Hungary and Germany in 1944-45

German Prisoners of war

- the testimonies of former German and Austrian prisoners in the Soviet Union

Israel

Jewish resistance groups in Hungary

- contacts to Raoul Wallenberg and the Swedish rescue effort
- contacts to and negotiations with German and Hungarian Nazi authorities

The Israeli intelligence Services and the Soviet Union

- the testimonies and debriefings of former prisoners in the Soviet Union
- Israeli intelligence information on Soviet prisons and special camps, i.e. prison conditions
- records of the Adolf Eichmann trial

Switzerland

Raoul Wallenberg's contacts in Switzerland

- Raoul Wallenberg's and Kálmán Lauer's business contacts in Switzerland
- Alfred Schäfer and the *Schweizerische Bankverein*
- Karl Wolff, Allan Dulles and *Operation Sunrise*
- the testimonies of former Swiss prisoners of war in the Soviet Union

ARCHIVES

Russia

The State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)
The Central Archives of the FSB (TsA FSB)
The Archives of the SVR (ASVR)
Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense (TsAMO RF)
The Russian State Archive of Contemporary History (RGANI)
The Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (RGASPI)
The Archive of Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation (AVP RF)
The Russian State Military Archive (RGVA)
The Russian State Archive of Economic History (RGAE)
The Archives of the Russian Ministry of the Interior (TsA MVD)
The Archives of the President of the Russian Federation (AP RF)

Sweden

The National Archives (Riksarkivet)
Archives of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Military Archive (Krigsarkivet)
The Archives of the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MUST)
The Archives of the Swedish Security Police (SÄPO)
The Foundation for Economic History Research within Banking and Enterprise
(Stiftelsen för Ekonomisk Historisk Forskning inom Bank och Företagande, SEHFBF)

U.S.A.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Archives
The Joint Distribution Committee Archives
The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
The U.S. Shoa Foundation

Great Britain

The National Archives
The Churchill Archive Center (Churchill College)

Hungary

The Hungarian National Archives (Magyar Országos Levéltár)
The Budapest City Archive (Budapest Főváros Levéltára)
The Holocaust Memorial Center (Holokauszt Emlékközpont)
The Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archive (Magyar Zsidó Múzeum és Levéltár)
The Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security (Állambiztonsági Szolgálatok Történeti Levéltára)

Germany

Archiv des Auswärtigen Amts (AA)
Deutsches Bundesarchiv (DBA)
Archiv des Bundesnachrichtendienstes (BND)
Archiv des Bundesamts für Verfassungsschutz (BfV)
Institut für Zeitgeschichte
Internationaler Suchdienst, Deutsche Rotes Kreuz (DRK)
International Tracing Service (ITS), Bad Arolsen

Austria

Österreichisches Staatsarchiv
Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Kriegsfolgenforschung, Graz
Österreichisches Rotes Kreuz

Switzerland

Schweizerisches Bundesarchiv (BAR)
Archiv für Zeitgeschichte (AfZ)
The International Committee of the Red Cross Archive (ICRC)

Israel

Yad Vashem
The Joint Distribution Committee Archives
Israel State Archives

