



February 1, 2008

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

The United States Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust, and created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to those victims. In accordance with its Congressional mandate, the Museum will again lead the nation in the annual Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust. This year's observances will take place from Sunday, April 27 through Sunday, May 4, 2008. The Day of Remembrance, *Yom Hashoah*, is May 2.

The Museum has designated "***Do Not Stand Silent: Remembering Kristallnacht 1938***" as the focus as the theme for the 2008 Days of Remembrance. Seventy years ago, on November 9-10, 1938, the Nazis staged vicious pogroms (state sanctioned, anti-Jewish riots) called Kristallnacht against the Jewish community of Germany. Initially a cynical reference to alleged Jewish wealth (hence the literal meaning, "Night of Crystal"), the name "Kristallnacht" (now commonly translated as "Night of Broken Glass") refers to the untold numbers of broken windows of synagogues, Jewish-owned stores, community centers, and homes plundered and destroyed during the pogroms. For over 48 hours, violent mobs—made up of Nazi Party officials, Nazi storm troopers, and Hitler Youth dressed in street clothes and joined by some civilians—rampaged through the streets of German cities assaulting Jews, and vandalizing their property.

We respectfully encourage you to commemorate the Days of Remembrance with appropriate ceremonies and programs and to issue, as your office has done in the past, a special Days of Remembrance Proclamation for distribution to your constituents. A sample is enclosed for your consideration along with a background piece on the theme. For further information on Days of Remembrance you may wish to visit the Museum's website at [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org).

Situated among our national monuments to freedom, the Museum is both a memorial to the past and a living reminder of the moral obligations of individuals and societies. Through educational activities, programs for leaders, and global outreach, the Museum works to ensure that all generations, now and in the future, learn the timely and urgent lessons of the Holocaust.

In today's troubled world the lessons of the Holocaust are more urgent than ever. We are grateful for your leadership and support in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Zeidman  
Chairman

Sara Bloomfield  
Director

Enclosures