

REFLECTION

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Extract from the powerful speech by the Mayor of Thessaloniki for the Holocaust Remembrance Day by MAYOR BOUTARI - THESSALONIKI, JANUARY 30, 2018.

1. Very few ... were saved. Only a thousand Salonika Jews out of over 45 thousand. They survived the deportation, Auschwitz, the **death** march, the labor camps. They survived because they were able to withstand the unspeakable violence, the humiliations, the medical experiments, the rapes. And having survived, they returned to the city of their birth. As heroes? Far from it. Jews who had been taken to the mountains, hidden in the cities, or escaped to Palestine, treated the men and women who returned from the camps as traitors, collaborators of the Germans or, for the women, as whores. The Christians on the other hand saw the survivors as "unmined pieces of soap" according to the report of an American reporter, a threat from a past that refused to die. Heroes, according to the local newspaper "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" were only those 5 young Jews who, after fighting with the Greek army in the Albanian Front and surviving the crematoria, fell in October of 1948 "heroically in the battles of Mt. Grammos and the other mountains, as they fought against the (communist) gang members."

Q: How were Jews who returned from the camps treated?

Comments/Questions
