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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.

2. Who mourned in 1945 their lost neighbors? What monuments were raised? Which ceremonies were held? Only the community, decimated and in rags fought to restore its existence and to mourn its dead. The city, the society, the entire country turned a blind eye. They hid behind their finger. They pretended that they did not know what had happened, who did it, who assisted, who protected when others, many tore down buildings, burned, looted, occupied the spaces and the goods of the many absent and the few present. Mourning in any case concerned individuals. It took almost twenty years, we reached 1962 before a memorial for the victims was created. Where? In the new Jewish cemetery, as if the issue only concerned the members of the city's Jewish community. And when, 35 years later a monument was finally realized in a public space, this was exiled to the edges of the city center to a location that was barely visible. And when this monument was finally moved to its natural place, Eleftherias (Liberty) Square, this was greeted more with surprise than with satisfaction. We had to reach the year 2004 for the Parliament of Greece to establish by a unanimous vote the Day of Remembrance. We had to reach the year 2011 until an equivalent day of remembrance existed in our city and the year 2014 for the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki to have a monument that recalls the destruction of the cemetery. Perhaps the day is not too far when we will see a similar votive plaque in the yard of Agios Demetrios, the "Agios Demetrios of the dead Jews," the real Jewish mausoleum of Thessaloniki.

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

Comments/Questions
