

Hillel Kook

By Suzana Gun de Hasenson, Ambassador of El Salvador to Israel

His Excellencies Ambassadors Arens, Hovari and Rydberg. Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends

Faced with the memory of these giants of humanity, it is my privilege to stand here tonight and make my humble words as brief as possible.

We are gathered here tonight to honor the heroism of extraordinary men, men who did not remain silent but acted for human decency with courage and determination. Men who did not point at their fellows and say YOU do something, it is YOUR responsibility, but who realized that by pointing one finger at others, four fingers point back at ourselves.

The Government of El Salvador thru its diplomatic and honorary staff in its Consulate in Geneva, both Jewish and gentile, by issuing thousands of nationality papers, acted on behalf of fundamental human rights and offered light to the Jewish people during that period of darkness. I hope that the courage, compassion and initiative of the Salvadorian Government as well as of the righteous men we honor this evening will leave a lasting legacy that will inspire our generation and those to come.