

# Mourners remember Auschwitz liberation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSWIECIM, Poland — Rabbis chanted mournful prayers for the dead that reverberated over the crematoria, barracks and watch-towers of Auschwitz-Birkenau on Thursday, the 66th anniversary of the death camp's liberation.

As darkness fell, names of Hitler's victims were read out over loudspeakers in a recitation that

seemed long but ultimately included but a fraction of the 1.1 million Jews, Gypsies and others murdered at Nazi Germany's most notorious death camp.

Christian clerics also prayed at a gathering that included the Polish and German presidents, diplomats and Holocaust survivors. Former camp inmates, many moving tentatively with canes, wore blue-and-white striped scarves

that evoked the look of the prisoner garb they once wore.

Germany's President Christian Wulff and Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski laid wreaths at the concrete wall where Nazis executed Polish resistance members at Auschwitz, then walked with former camp inmates beneath the entrance gate bearing the inscription *Arbeit Macht Frei* — or "Work Sets You Free" — a notorious slo-

gan used by the Nazis in camps where they subjected their victims to slave labor, torture and murder.

The ceremony at Auschwitz is one of several being held across the world on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the global day of commemoration established by the United Nations. The date was picked to coincide with the anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation by Soviet troops Jan. 27, 1945.

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A wreath is laid in front of the ovens in the crematory during Holocaust Memorial Day at the Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald near Weimar, Germany.