

Barouch Dayan Haemet: Our dear President Erika van Gelder has left us

Written by Anouk

We are deeply saddened to announce the parting of President of BBE Erika Van Gelder. All our thoughts and our prayers go to David, her husband, her daughters, Natalie and Sara, and her grand children.

She was a strong and determined woman, yet kind and very concerned for other people's well being.

She spent her life fighting against anti-Semitism and building bridges

She had a life live to the fullest.

She is, and will be sorely missed.

The funeral will take place on Sunday.

THE SILENCE

It started with some small incidents

"It's nothing, it's just a rogue",

They thought

Broken windows in Synagogues,

"Kids playing ball"

They thought...

Swastikas on Jewish tombs,

"They'll get those hooligans",

They thought...

Old men were beaten, young girls were raped

"It can't get any worst",

They prayed

Then, in the night the sirens blared

their names...

By dawn they were in Dante's flames.

Yet come the morrow,

Nothing was said and nothing was done...

Only the wind and smoke

Broke the silence

of their sorrow.

Erika van Gelder

Amsterdam, 22/5/2015