

**Opening remarks by Hartmut Rank, Human Dimension Officer, OSCE Mission to
Moldova**

Dear friends,

We are gathered here today to pay our respects to the thousands of people who were murdered on this spot, here in Dubasari, 75 years ago. Just as there can be no justification for this crime, there must be no repetition. As with other mass atrocities, the events in Dubasari in 1941 should serve as a constant reminder of how the Holocaust took place much closer to home than many realize.

It is very important not to forget that here too there were murders, ghettos and concentrate camps not far from where we are standing. It is imperative that we both denounce and discuss these crimes. Behind this global catastrophe there lies a regional tragedy – one that touched every town, village and community.

That is why the OSCE Mission to Moldova welcomes activities to preserve historical memory on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River, as well as efforts to research and study the Holocaust that occurred here. Following the practice of other OSCE participating States, the Moldovan authorities have declared 27 January as Holocaust Remembrance Day. They have also committed to include this topic in school history books, as it is crucial that the younger generation have access to reliable information about this tragedy. Young people of all nationalities should be aware that the Holocaust was not a remote event that took place many thousands of kilometres away.

A week from now will be the 70th anniversary of the end of the Nuremburg trials. This important event serves as a constant reminder that no crime against humanity should escape justice. It is especially important to recall this now as we pay tribute to the victims of the massacre here in Dubasari.

I wish you all peace and thank you for your attention.