

Love Your Neighbour exhibition moved to Ilford

by Philip Blake

I was interested in attending the Yad Vashem traveling exhibition that should have taken place in Golders Green recently. Sadly it was cancelled, as the [Jewish Chronicle](#) reported.

The Love Your Neighbour Exhibition had been due to take place at the Markaz (Centre for Islamic Enlightening) in Golders Green, [however it abandoned plans for the event](#) – organised with local Jewish groups and the help of Israeli Holocaust centre Yad Vashem – after the Iranian regime’s media outlets criticised it for collaborating with “Zionists”.

A mosque in Redbridge has agreed to host the exhibition to ensure the story about Albanian Muslims who saved Jews is told. The precise location will be revealed closer to the event to ticket holders,

The Markaz faced a boycott, notably from 5Pillars, a Muslim news and opinion site that opposed the exhibition’s ties to Yad Vashem.

5Pillars editor Roshan Salih, who also works for PressTV, which is funded by the Iranian government, objected to the event being held at the Golders Green mosque, tweeting: “No to normalisation. Boycott Israel and Israeli institutions.”

On Twitter, PressTV UK described the Holocaust exhibition as “outrageous” and described it as an “‘interfaith’ event with Zionists”.

The story was then picked up by the Islamic Republic's Mehr News Agency.

Mehr described the event as cooperation with a "Zionist institution", and described the Markaz as a "Shirazi cult".

When the exhibition was rescheduled I ordered a ticket for the alternative venue, the community hall in Eton Road Ilford which is the premises of the League of British Muslims.

Meanwhile [funeral in Hertfordshire](#) for six victims murdered in Auschwitz whose ashes had been donated to the Imperial War Museum. Rabbi Wollenberg was going on later to a circumcision of a baby boy; death, lives saved in Albania and new life, cause for hope.

Then Councillor Jas Athwall Leader of Redbridge Council.

Followed by the Commissioner for Countering Extremism Sara Khan. Again she spoke of the danger of extremism, without mentioning the ideology behind the threats which resulted in the change of venue, the ideology of Islam



which has been responsible for, as Mike Gapes MP said, "so many terrible crimes". Not to mention (and they didn't mention) the hundreds of deaths in England alone since July 2007 attributable to jihad.

Finally Vivian Aisen Director of Public Diplomacy at the Israeli Embassy. She was brief. "I know there were some concerns about my arrival but I think this sort of venture is very important. I hope to hear of more such in the future." She didn't say who had concerns about her presence, and what those concerns were.

Yusef Patel began to conclude; it was running late and past the listed finish time. I had to leave.

Outside a police officer stood and a man from Barnet Holocaust History gave me a flyer "In order to learn from history it

must not be selective" pointing out that while some brave Albanians were saving Jews, elsewhere other Albanians were joining the SS Skanderbeg Division (cf the Bosnia SS division raised by The Mufti of Jerusalem).

I think a lot of the people involved on Sunday meant well. But no good is achieved by constantly glossing over the most dangerous of the extremist ideologies at work attacking our society.

The text most often quoted that afternoon, which I know is in Judaism, and I suspect Islam took it from there is "If one saves one person it is as if one saves the whole of humanity and if one kills an innocent person, it is as if one kills the whole of humanity' But define innocent. Muslims are never asked about the next verse in the Koran, the definition of a guilty (ie non-innocent) person. It is someone who 'spreads mischief' in the land. Often defined as being non-muslim, or critical of Islam, or what you will.

Anjem Choudary lived or will live again soon in the next street. Muslims who do not challenge the evil of that ideology are the sea in which jihadists like him swim.

To quote one of the speakers, they must not be bystanders, they must be upstanders.