

Statements of the Ambassador of Israel, Noam Katz for Events to mark the International Day against Fascism and Antisemitism in Rhodes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to address these remarks to you, in the Museum of the Jewish Community of Rhodes — to mark the events for the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism.

The devil of antisemitism has again been unleashed under the pretext of developments in the Middle East. Across the world, and often under the guise of so-called “criticism of Israel,” Jew hatred is being repackaged, legitimized, and ignited on the streets.

Greece has taken a principled stand by adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This definition does more than provide words — it provides clarity. It exposes how the old antisemitism has taken new form: through the demonization, delegitimization, and double standards applied to the State of Israel.

Let us be clear: antisemitism is not only a Jewish problem — it is a human problem. It corrodes the moral foundations of any free society that tolerates it. When hatred against Jews rises unchecked, democracy itself is in danger.

We commend the Greek Government for its leadership — through education, remembrance, and legislation — in confronting this evil. But remembrance must not become routine; it must be a call to action. We must strengthen our resolve, take concrete action, and build strong coalitions to expose and combat antisemitism, Fascism, racism and bigotry wherever they appear.

Here, in Rhodes, that truth is written in history. Of the 1,800 Jews who once lived on this island, only 151 survived the Nazi barbarity of the Holocaust. Yet the story of the Jews of Rhodes is also one of resilience; a community that continues to honor its heritage and teach the world the meaning of survival and faith.

Jew hatred begins with the Jews — but it never ends with them. To fight it is to defend the very soul of humanity: truth over lies, tolerance over hatred, and freedom over fear.

Let us ensure — together — that these values will always prevail.