



Resources

Holocaust Unit

Bystander - Resource B

The Murder of Ilan Halimi

Ilan Halimi was a Jewish man from Paris who was kidnapped on January 21, 2006, and tortured for 24 days. During this time, his 20 kidnappers, beat him, completely wrapping his head in duct tape, except for his mouth. Ilan was tortured in order to receive a ransom of 450,000 Euros from his family. They stripped him they cut him with knives, and finally poured gasoline on him and set him afire.

During these three weeks, neighbours in the apartment block where his kidnappers lived heard the commotion and came to watch. No one ever called the police. 27 people have so far been charged with joining in. 19 people have been convicted and given long prison sentences. One of the torturer's fathers knew what was happening and did nothing to stop them. This man, Alcino Ribeiro, was sentenced to 8 months, but this sentence was suspended. He has served no time. Those neighbours known only to have watched were not convicted, most not even indicted.

Halimi was found handcuffed and bound with nylon rope, naked, to a tree about 40 yards inside a woodlot from a railway outside Paris, on February 13. More than 80% of his body had been burned with acid, as well as gasoline, to the point that he was difficult to recognise. Ilan died en route to a hospital.

Source: <http://listverse.com/2009/11/02/10-notorious-cases-of-the-bystander-effect/>

