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'I AM 70' – TOM HOFFMAN

VIDEO

Tom Hoffman on-camera

AUDIO – VOICEOVER ONLY

My name is Tom Hoffman and I am 70 years old. (3)

I was born on May 8th, 1944 in Budapest Hungary. (5)

A few months earlier, the Germans had entered to complete the final solution, which was the extermination of all Jews. (10)

We had entered the Budapest ghetto. But my mother knew that we couldn't stay there. So we were hidden in a Christian family for several months. (14)

Margeet and Pista worked for my dad and Margeet came into the ghetto and carried me and my sister out as if we were her children. She took us into her home and she hid us when the Germans came ... put us into a false wall. From some miracle, the two infants never cried. (26)

These were heroic people who risked their

lives. (5)

How do you pay back... you know... someone who did that. (6)

We were hidden until the liberation, early 1945, when the Russians and the Americans entered Budapest. (11)

I feel very fortunate. I feel very lucky. (3)

And I know a lot of people were deprived of that. Children.... (6)

We know as the mothers were walking to the gas chambers, sometimes holding the hand of their children they sang a song: *Ani Ma'amin, Ani Ma'amin* . And those two words mean, "I believe". (20)

Sometimes, people wonder why I am so committed to undoing injustices. (8)

I became a lawyer because I wanted to help others as I was helped. (4)

I try to help people who've been unjustly convicted and try to save them as I was saved. (8)

The United Nations and the principles that it stands gives us hope that we could do things together in a peaceful way and allow the world to finally put these holocausts behind us and to

live together. (23)

My name is Tom Hoffman and I am 70. (3)

This report was produced by Alexandra King
and Nathan Beriro. (4.5)