

Selected records from the National Archives of Tunisia RG-86.001

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Selected records from the National Archives of Tunisia

Dates: 1941-1951

Accession number: 2010.243

Creator: Archives Nationales de Tunisie

Extent: 57 digital images
1 CD-ROM

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Languages: French

Scope and content of collection

Contains records of the Jewish community of Tunisia pertaining to the spoliation of its members by the German authorities from December 1942 to April 1943 and subsequent efforts to recover confiscated assets. These records include reports detailing the chronology and extent of the spoliation of Jews in Tunisia by the SS as well as the attempt by the French colonial authorities from 1944 to 1947 to compel the Jewish community to compensate its own members for damages wrought upon them by the Germans. The most significant document in this group of records attests to the destruction of the so-called 'Jewish census' ordered by the Vichy authorities in 1941 as well as the asset declarations filed by each individual member of the Jewish community before they were Aryanized and expropriated.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on reproduction and use: No restrictions on use.

Preferred citation: Preferred citation for USHMM archival collections; consult the USHMM website for guidance.

Acquisition information: From the Archives Nationales de Tunisie (National Archives of Tunisia). Records created by the Jewish community of Tunisia and held by the National Archives of Tunisia. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the digitized collection via the United States Holocaust Museum International Archives Programs in September 2010.

Existence and location of originals: Archives Nationales de Tunisie

Processing history: Processed by Aleksandra Borecka, 2010.

Historical note

The Jewish community of Tunisia originated as home to scholars exiled from Palestine, from Talmudic sages of the 2nd to the 4th centuries to today's Torah scribes. During the Byzantine period, Emperor Justinian excluded Jews from public life, prohibited their practice and ordering synagogues to become churches. Many Tunisian Jews fled into the mountains and the desert, joining secluded Berber communities there, and most remained there even after the Arabs conquered Tunisia in the 7th century, allowing Jews to practice again. Jews lived openly in Tunisia, albeit as second-class citizens, until the Spanish invasions of 1535-1574 chased Jews inland once again. The Jewish community returned to the coast under Ottoman and thrived under French rule until 1940, when Vichy subjected them to anti-Semitic laws. In 1942 Germans overran Tunisia, deported much of the Jewish population to labor camps and seized their property. The Tunisian Jewish community rebuilt itself through a decade of Allied rule until the country achieved independence in 1956. The new Muslim government eliminated the Jewish Rabbinical tribunal and Jewish community councils, destroying the Jewish quarter of Tunis. After the Six-Day War in 1967, Muslims laid waste to the Great Synagogue of Tunis; much of the Jewish population fled to Israel throughout the 1970's and '80's, leaving a dedicated community of about 2000 Jews, primarily in Tunis and on the island of Djerba in the towns of Hara Keriba and Hara Sghira, where Jews have been worshipping at the El Ghirba Synagogue for almost 1900 years. The Jewish population today numbers about 3,000, most of whom live mainly in Tunis and on the island of Djerba in the south of the country.

Indexing terms

World War, 1939-1945--Confiscations and contributions--Tunisia.

Jews--Legal status, laws, etc.--Tunisia.

Vichy (France)--Politics and government.

Jewish community centers--Tunisia.

Jewish property--Tunisia.

Jews--Tunisia.

CONTAINER LIST

Carton 224 (D.224)

- 17- Amendes infligées aux Israélites pendant l'occupation allemande en Tunisie.
- 18- Travailleurs juifs victimes du risque de guerre.

- **SG 2/ 0140/0011**

1943

Amende infligée par les allemands au "Conseil de la communauté israélite" pendant l'occupation et solutions proposées pour son remboursement par la "Caisse foncière".
Abrogation des lois du gouvernement de Vichy relatives au licenciement des fonctionnaires juifs.

Finances publiques

- **SG 2/ 0149/ 0005**

1944

Notes sur les avantages accordés aux juifs et aux personnels de service d'ordre légionnaire après la période de l'occupation.

Affaires politiques

- **SG 2/ 0149/0009**

1944

Correspondances au sujet d'une requête formulée par Georges Chemla pour la restitution d'une somme de 40.000 F lui ayant été spoliée et versée au secours national.

Affaire sociale

Réquisition / requête

- **SG 2/0152/0007**

1944

Correspondance et notes au sujet d'une motion votée par la Section d'Alger de la "Ligue des droits de l'homme et du citoyen" concernant la défense des droits des israélites.

Affaire politique / Droit de l'homme

- **SG 3/ 0003/0007**

1946-1951

Notes, correspondances et tableaux statistiques sur les quantités d'or remis par la communauté israélite de Jerba aux allemands lors de l'occupation de la Tunisie par les forces de l'axe.

Affaire politique

- **SG 5/ 0035/ 0001/0015**

1941

Recensement des juifs de la Tunisie.

Recensement

- **SG 5/ 0159/ 0016**

1942-1954

Travail obligatoire imposé aux israélites sous l'occupation allemande en Tunisie du 8 novembre 1942 au 7 mai 1943.

Affaires militaires

- **SG 5/ 0159/ 0017**

1942-1943

Attestation du secrétariat général certifiant que tous les jeunes israélites ont été requis par les allemands au travail obligatoire pendant l'occupation de la Tunisie par les troupes de l'axe du 8 novembre 1942 au 7 mai 1943.

Affaires militaires

- **SG 5/ 0274/ 0004/0001** **1941**
Application du statut des juifs aux membres juifs des syndicats.

- **SG 9/ 0178/0002** **1944**
Procès verbal et correspondances concernant l'opération de destruction du fichier des juifs et
des déclarations souscrite par les israélites sur leurs biens pendant l'occupation
Affaire politique