

A Call for Revenge/ From the Will of Shmuel Srebnik, One of the Last Prisoners at the Chelmno Death Camp

This will is one of several written by the last Jewish prisoners at the Chelmno death camp in Poland, before they were murdered. The wills were found at the camp after it was liberated by the Red Army.

"This is written by Sewek Srebnik, living in the ghetto, initially on 17/32 Lutomierska Street, and afterwards on 21/48 Lutomierska Street. My entire family was poisoned by gas here Dabie, near the towns of Kolo and Konin [i.e. the Chelmno death camp]. I want to avenge them, but I am unable to. Day and night I dream of revenge. Here I work as a shoemaker. My brother was sent from the Lodz ghetto to work, I don't know where, but I think the same place I was sent to. My blood boils, I need revenge, but what can I do? I am too weak to do anything, and I am forced to die, carrying my secret to the grave. Everywhere I look I see muzzles of machine-guns and rifles. The whole Jewish people calls upon you to take revenge for the death of innocents.

"Srebnik Shmul, Srebnik Sewek"

Source: Krakowski, Shmuel and Altman, Ilya, *The Testimonies of the Last Prisoners at the Chelmno Death Camp*, Yad Vashem, Research Anthology 21, Jerusalem, 1991, p. 117.