

Nazi camps comparison is rejected

Foreign Staff

THE veteran Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal rejected comparisons between detention camps in Bosnia and second world war Nazi concentration camps yesterday, saying they trivialised Nazi Germany's treatment of Jews.

"To call the camps 'concentration camps' is a minimisation of Nazi concentration camps, because not even the (Soviet) gulag camps could be compared with the Nazi camps," Mr Wiesenthal said.

Mr Wiesenthal, aged 83, has helped bring more than 1,100 Nazi war crimes suspects to trial for their role in the killing of six million Jews.

The president of the rump Yugoslavia, Dobrica Cosic, yesterday asked the United Nations to send a commission to investigate allegations of abuses in Serbian-run camps, and said that another Holocaust survivor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, should lead it.

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Serb Camps Unlike Nazis', Expert Says

Reuters

VIENNA — Simon Wiesenthal, the veteran Nazi hunter, said Tuesday that he rejected comparisons between detention camps in Bosnia and the Nazi concentration camps of World War II, saying they trivialized Germany's treatment of Jews.

"To call the camps 'concentration camps' is a minimization of Nazi concentration camps, because not even the gulag camps could be compared with the Nazi camps," he said, referring to the Soviet labor camps, in an interview at his Jewish Documentation Center.

Mr. Wiesenthal, who spent four and a half years in German concentration camps, also accused the West of blaming only the Serbs for human rights abuses in the former Yugoslavia.

"The first refugees were the 40,000 Serbs who fled Croatia after a constitutional amendment defined them as a minority," he said.

He said the Serbs themselves had legitimate fears in light of the killing of hundreds of thousands of their people under the Croatian puppet government set up by pro-Nazis in World War II.

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