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**STATEMENT REGARDING SHOOTING INCIDENT TODAY AT THE U.S. HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL MUSEUM from Janet Langhart Cohen**

Mrs. Cohen is saddened by the horrific shootings that occurred this afternoon at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, a sacred memorial to the millions of victims of the Holocaust. She and former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen offer their sincerest condolences to the victims and families of today's tragedy.

Secretary Cohen was 30 feet away from where the shots were fired. Mrs. Cohen was in transit to the final rehearsal of her play, *Anne and Emmett*, at the time of the shooting, but was unable to enter the building upon her arrival. Staff, actors, and crew in the building at the time of the shootings have been moved to a secure area and are safe.

For security reasons, tonight's performance at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has been cancelled. Every attempt will be made to reschedule a performance of *Anne and Emmett* at the Museum at a later date.

Anne and Emmett will be performed at George Washington University's Jack Morton Auditorium as scheduled on Friday at 7:00 p.m. The play is **sold out**. By releasing the play to the public on Anne Frank's birthday, June 12th, we offer both a time of reflection and remembrance for all in attendance.

In one concord, the Cohen's and all of tonight's invited guests offer their condolences to the victims, their concern for all staff and visitors at the museum during this tragedy, and their hopes for a safe and compassionate world.

Anne & Emmett is centered on an imaginary conversation between 14-year-old Anne Frank and 15-year-old Emmett Till. One was murdered because she was Jewish, the other because he was black. These two teenagers were fatal victims of anti-Semitism and racism. The play explores the commonalities and parallels between their lives. This play will give all who view it an inside look at why it is so vital that the world learn more about genocide and how we can act to prevent it before it is too late.

For more information about the play, please visit www.anneandemmett.net. Mrs. Janet Langhart Cohen and Mr. William S. Cohen are available for limited interviews.