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House of Commons Debates  
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS



**Poland**

Mr. Chandra Arya (Nepean, Lib.):

**Mr. Speaker, February 10 marks the 81st anniversary of the first mass deportation of Polish citizens to Siberia and the Soviet Union during World War II. More than one million people were forcefully displaced. Many died from disease, starvation and the terrible conditions. Most never returned to their homeland.**

**Because of the pandemic, the Canadian Polish Club is unable to organize a commemoration event. A prominent community figure in Nepean, Ms. Alice Basarke, was born during the deportation. Her family escaped to refugee settlements in India and her father joined the Royal Air Force. After the war, her family immigrated to Canada.**

**Let us not forget about the tragedy of not only Alice's story, but of all the other survivors. It is a story of hardship and amazing resilience.**