

NAHOS, INC.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH CHILD HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, INC.
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September, 21, 1999

The Honorable Mr. Judah Gribetz, Esq.

Dear Mr. Gribetz:

Thank you for inviting NAHOS, Inc., to submit its suggestions for an equitable allocation of the Swiss Banks' settlement proceeds. After due deliberations, the NAHOS board of directors respectfully proposes the following:

A: The total proceeds and/or each subsequent installment to be partitioned into categories as described below. All eligible claimants may, or may not, be able to get allocations from more than one category (*). The categories are not listed in a progression to be construed as an order of priorities; they are placed in a sequence to facilitate the computation of the (considerable) balance to be divided among categories (3) to (5).

Category (1): All approved (by the impartial panel) Swiss banks' depositors, or their heirs, to receive restitutions according to the formulas agreed upon by the negotiators. Recognition of claims to be granted as per agreed-upon relaxed standards of proof.

Heirs to be recognized in this category to include:

- a) direct descendants, or, if the latter deceased,
- b) the depositor's grandchildren, or, if none,
- c) individuals who can prove family-ties to depositors.

Category (2): The NAHOS leadership recognizes that attorneys have a right to be compensated for their time, talents and efforts. Evidently, the indemnification of attorneys is not high on most survivors' priority-list, but must be addressed before suggestions for the balance can be made.

The class-action lawyers, who ask to be compensated, to be remunerated based on reasonable, non-exorbitant, demonstrable hourly fees.

Category (3): After the amounts for categories (1) and (2) have been adjudicated, NAHOS proposes the following for the balance: All former slave-laborers, or their heirs, with acceptable evidence of their ordeals, ought to share in this category, the size of it to be determined according to the percentage their numbers bear to the aggregate number of all eligible claimants in categories (3) through (5); for example: if 30% of all approved claimants in categories (3), (4) and (5) were slave-laborers, then a 30% allotment ought to be set aside for this category.

Furthermore,

a) In fairness to the Romanies (Gypsies) who performed slave-labor (but not those that performed remunerated 'forced' labor), they would have to be included in this category. The Court to arbitrate if full or (only) partial shares ought to be assigned, keeping in mind that Himmler wrote in his appointment book, on April 20, 1942: "The Gypsies should not be exterminated."

b) Heirs in this category to include direct descendants, or, if the latter deceased, the slave-laborers' grandchildren. No other heirs beyond children or grandchildren to be recognized. Only one share per deceased slave-laborers to be divided among heirs.

Category (4): All Jewish survivors, who can affirm with plausible evidence, that they unsuccessfully sought entry into Switzerland, or were admitted and maltreated, to share in this segment whose size to be determined according to their relative numbers to all approved claimants in categories (3) through (5), as per example/formula described above in category (3).

NAHOS opines that heirs ought not to share in this category. In all likelihood, they will be able to obtain some allotment from category (5), if not (also) from (1) or (3).

Category (5): All other Jewish survivors, or their heirs, including children that were placed in hiding, whose assets or their parents' assets were looted or confiscated or had to flee and leave these assets behind, including survivors that were eligible to share in categories (1), (3) or (4) above, to be entitled to participate in this category.

The rationale for this all-inclusive suggestion is that the final destination of the proceeds of looted assets (including the gold teeth of martyred relatives), cannot be ascertained.

It is expected that the overwhelming number of claimants will fall into this category and hence the largest component of the balance after (1) and (2) have been satisfied, will be part of this category. Although the respective payments to each claimant are likely to be small, it will nevertheless be a gratifying symbolic recognition.

To leave many survivors out of this meaningful allocation, at this point in time after expectations in the survivors' population have been hyped to unreasonable and/or unrealistic proportions, might result in hurtful frustrations and serious psychological distress to the aging Nazi-victims.

Heirs in this category to be limited to children or grandchildren, as in category (3).

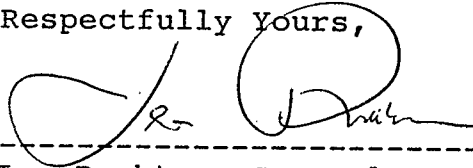
B: Finally and most importantly, the NAHOS organization and its sister organizations around the country, are adamantly opposed to any deductions, for whatever charitable cause that may have been suggested by American Jewish organizations. The survivor-community has been very generous in the past, but we emphatically object to any large organization making decisions of what amounts ought to be diverted from restitution-proceeds. If there are charitable causes that need support, including help to certain classes of survivors, then the large Jewish organizations that have been (soliciting and) receiving our contributions throughout the years, ought to fill that need. Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters who suffered under communism as well as under the Nazi-rule. The majority will, most

likely, be able to share in the proceeds of category (5). We are cognizant that they never received any 'Wiedergutmaching' as many survivors did in Western Europe, but neither did 86% of the survivors who were children or teenagers during the Shoah (even if they lost their parents) because of German age-criterias and/or other restrictions; nor many adult survivors because of a multitude of exclusionary rules and/or inadequately publicized deadlines. We sincerely hope that Eastern European Nazi-survivors will get supplementary support from the entire world-wide Jewish community and large philanthropic organizations. But, to ask us throughout decades for contributions for all kind of charitable causes and then to turn around and convey that the survivor-community ought to be taxed to, disproportionately among all Jews, support survivors that are in need, is highly unfair and discriminatory.

During the Shoah we had to suffer decisions being made without our consent. We would hate to see this happen again !

We would welcome an opportunity to present the honorable 'Special Master' with the considerable documentary evidence ('protest-letters') against any form of a priori deduction, for whatever cause.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Rechter', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Leo Rechter, General Secretary
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(*) To illustrate: A Swiss bank depositor, whose other assets were also looted, who was deported and worked as a slave laborer, might get shares from (1), (3) and (5).

c.c: The Honorable Judge Korman



**Federation
of Jewish
Child Survivors
of the
Holocaust**

We are the Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust, persecuted during the Nazi era in ghettos, in camps, in hiding, on the run, or forced to leave Nazi occupied Europe. Our objectives are to represent the interests of the child survivor community and to support each other, to keep alive the memory of the six million Jews-- including the 1.5 million children murdered during the Holocaust, and to pass on our legacy to future generations. We pursue these objectives by telling the stories of our survival, by community interaction, education, and by holding conferences and fighting antisemitism.

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Melbourne Child Survivors of the Holocaust

Canada
CHILD Survivors Group of British Columbia
Montreal Child Survivors/Hidden Children
Toronto Child Survivors/Hidden Children

Czech Republic
Hidden Child Praha

England
Child Survivor Assoc. of Great Britain

Germany
Hilf Haschoa/Children of the Holocaust

Hungary
JCF Foundation of Child Survivors

Poland
Association Children of the Holocaust in Poland

Switzerland
Swiss Association of Hidden Children

Ukraine
Jew Organization-Holocaust Memory

United States
The Bay Area Hidden Children, CA
The Hidden Child Foundation/ADL, NY
The Greater Boston Child Survivor Group, MA

Child Survivors/Chicago, IL
The Hidden Children/Chicago, IL
Rocky Mountain Regional Gathering of
Child Holocaust Survivors, CO
Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut, CT

Hidden Children/Child Survivors
of Palm Beach County, FL

Child Survivors of Holocaust,
South Florida Group, FL

Child Survivors/Hidden Children of Houston, TX

Hidden Child/Child Survivors of Michigan, MI

Hidden Children of Rockland County, NY

Hidden Child Foundation/ADL,
Long Island Chapter, NY

Hidden Children of Westchester, NY

Hungarian Hidden Children, New York, NY

Child Survivors of Holocaust, N.E. Ohio, OH

Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors of the
Delaware Valley, Philadelphia, PA

Association of Child Survivors in the
Washington-Baltimore Area

Greater Seattle Child Survivors, WA

A-Kindertretransport Association, NY

Executive Committee

Chairperson: Stefanie Seltzer

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Also: CS Group of Sydney, Australia—Terezin Initiative, Czech Republic—Hidden Children of Bergen County, N.J.—Het Ond ergo-
nken Kind, Holland—Grupo Argentina—CS of the Former Soviet Union (FSU)—Organizacia Hidden Child Slovenska, Slovakia—
CS Group of Orange County, California—Aloumim, Israel—CS of the Holocaust, Los Angeles—CS Group of St. Louis, MO

November 28, 1999

Dear Judge Korman:

This is to confirm that either Mr. Leo Rechter or Dr. Norbert Bikales or Mr. Werner Hasenberg are authorized to speak for the Federation of Jewish Child Survivors on the issue of disposition of settlement funds.

Our membership of forty-two Child Survivor chapters feels very strongly that only individual survivors and no American Jewish Organizations other than survivor organizations should participate in the distribution of funds.

To that effect, together we have approximately 1500 letters and petitions signed by our members and will be happy to present them upon request.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Seltzer

Chairperson

Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust



Federation
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Newsletter of the Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust
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Mishpocha!

A link among child survivors around the world.

Autumn 1999

MEMBER CHAPTERS

ARGENTINA

- Grupo Argentina

AUSTRALIA

- Melbourne Child Survivors of the Holocaust
- The Child Survivors' Group of Sydney

CANADA

- Child Survivor Group of British Columbia
- Montreal Child Survivors/Hidden Children
- Toronto Child Survivors/Hidden Children

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Hidden Children Praha
- The Terezin Initiative

ENGLAND

- Child Survivor Assoc. of Great Britain - London

GERMANY

- Jaldej Hashoa/Children of the Holocaust - Berlin

HUNGARY

- The Kút Foundation of Hungary

HOLLAND

- Het Ondergedoken Kind - Amsterdam

ISRAEL

- Aloumim

POLAND

- Association Children of the Holocaust in Poland

SLOVAKIA

- Organizacia Hidden Child Slovenska

SWEDEN

- Holocaust Barn I Sverige

SWITZERLAND

- Swiss Association of Hidden Children

UKRAINE

- Kiev Organization - Holocaust Memory

UNITED STATES

- The Bay Area Hidden Children, CA
- Child Survivor Group of Orange County, CA
- Child Survivors of the Holocaust, Los Angeles, CA
- The Hidden Child Foundation/ADL, NY **
- The Greater Boston Child Survivor Group, MA
- Child Survivors/Chicago, IL
- The Hidden Children/Chicago, IL
- Rocky Mountain Regional Gathering of Child Holocaust Survivors, CO
- Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut
- Hidden Children/Child Survivors of Palm Beach County, FL
- Child Survivors of Holocaust, South Florida Group
- Child Survivors/Hidden Children of Houston, TX
- Hidden Children/Child Survivors of Michigan
- Child Survivors of St. Louis, MO
- Hidden Children of the Holocaust of Bergen County, NJ
- The Hidden Children of Rockland County, NY
- Hidden Children of Long Island, NY
- The Hidden Children of Westchester, NY
- Hungarian Hidden Children - New York
- Association of Holocaust Survivors from the Former Soviet Union - Brooklyn, NY
- Child Survivors of Holocaust, N.E. Ohio
- Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors of the Delaware Valley, Philadelphia, PA
- Association of Child Survivors in the Washington-Baltimore Area
- Greater Seattle Child Survivors, WA
- KTA - Kindertransport Association, NY**

** and affiliated groups



THE STORY OF EVA (EWA) AND HELENA/TERESA

by Irena Cynkier, Vice-chairperson of our Swedish group, "Holocaust Barn I Sverige"

I met Eva in 1960. We were both studying chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute in Poland. It was the same year in which I had lost my father and mother; the rest of my family had perished in the ghetto of Broda in 1943, so that I was all alone. Eva introduced herself to me and told me that she was also Jewish. She said that she also had no one but her adoptive father, but that she did have aunts and uncles and a sister who had been born in 1941, though she did not know what had happened to her. Eva's aunts and uncles and their families took me in as though I too were a member of their family—a lost sister.

Helena had been an infant. Their mother knew that she could not save both children and had placed the baby in the care of a convent. She subsequently learned the name of the family that had adopted her and they also knew that her new name was Teresa.

Eva's family left Poland and settled in Israel, the USA, and Denmark. Eva remained in Poland. Her mother died in 1952. Everywhere family members went, they continued their search for Helena.

In 1975, at my invitation, Eva came to Sweden through Denmark and again we tried everywhere to find her sister without any results. In 1991 at the Hidden Child conference I also posted a notice. In 1997 I was in Poland and checked with Red Cross, the Jewish Historical Institute, and the Polish Group of Child Survivors. Last year in Rockville, I also made inquiries. At yet another meeting in Poland, through Wiesia L., we gave the details of the information to a Polish journalist and asked for his help. By mid-May, the journalist had tracked down Helena/Teresa, who knew that she had been adopted but knew nothing further about her background. At the end of May, Eva and I flew to Warsaw, where Teresa met us with her son and her son-in-law. *The sisters had finally met after 57 years.*

We went back with them to Teresa's home, where we met her husband, daughter, and grand-daughter. For four days the sisters talked about everything that had happened in their lives. Teresa's adoptive parents are no longer alive. She is a practicing Catholic who went to church every Sunday. Teresa is a dentist in a small town where news of her new-found family traveled like lightning. People talked of nothing else, and their reaction was positive. I hope it will remain so in the future. Eva and her family have since traveled to Poland to spend time with Teresa's family. Eva Sonne now lives in Denmark.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I wanted to start this sentence with: "The Prague conference is but a memory—" and then a parade of faces, and a rush of emotions flooded my senses and I realized that I still live in the heightened emotional state of excitement at meeting all the people who had been only names on e-mails, letters, or, to me, unknown members of our many groups. I myself did not meet a long-lost relative or wartime friend, but instead I found many new and wonderful friends from all over the world. There was Barbara Frydman Kostrzewa, who had found out that I, too, had been smuggled out of the Radomsko ghetto, and had thoughtfully brought me a picture, from Treblinka, of the stone bearing that town's name; there was Mira Zelichower-Aleksiu in whose warmth I found a sister; there was Ruth Bolliger who went out to buy me a necklace simply because I had admired the one she had purchased. How can I forget the gift of laughter Henry Blumenstein (my protector) gave me? Fred Taucher, who at this, his first conference, plunged right in and offered to help arrange a conference. Irena Cynkier and the sisters Ewa and Teresa, whom none of us will forget and whose reunion brings joy to our hearts and the hope that we, too, might still find a lost loved one. And then there is the special bonding with the group which traveled to Poland before the conference; the memories of being together in Majdanek and Auschwitz are seared into my mind, the experience of being with Tova Friedman in Birkenau when she went in search of the gate through which she had remembered having walked with her mother. Never will I be able to forget the sense of oneness we experienced being swept up into her memories. The pride I felt in Debra, my daughter, and all our Sons and Daughters for wanting to be there with us, the knowledge that they will be our Memorial Candles (a term coined by Dina Wardi). I cannot begin to name all of you who will always be in my heart; you all know what you mean to me and who you are. My personal thanks and all our gratitude to all who helped with the conference by contributing of their time and effort in the planning, the actual conference, the workshops, and the help people offered each other freely in the logistics of getting around and finding the sites of the conference.

I can never leave out what for me is always the most moving, heart-tugging closing ceremony; the moments when we link arms, sing Hebrew songs, and close with Hatikvah.

PRAGUE PICTURE GALLERY

Our special thanks to Martin Hron (you

all know who he is) for all the work he did prior to, during, and even since the conference. His newest effort is a picture gallery of the conference, available on the Federation website, by clicking on "upcoming conventions" at: www.fjcs.org/prague.htm or directly on: www.ntk.cz/pic/gallery1.htm Unfortunately, those of you who do not live on-line will have to ask a friend to copy these for you. Martin designed this gallery as a basis for adding pictures of past and future conferences, so that if you have pictures in suitable digital format or even paper snaps you can get in touch with him and he will include them in the photo album.

OUR GROWING NUMBERS

Since our return from Prague, we have grown to forty-two chapters, most recently the Child Holocaust Survivors' Group of Los Angeles. We welcome all our brothers and sisters. There is strength in numbers and we have much to accomplish. Please know that each and every one of you can contribute in a meaningful way; tell us that you want to help and for your giving you will be amply and deeply rewarded.

OUR REPRESENTATIVE ON ISSUES OF RESTITUTION

We are fortunate to have Norbert Bikales represent our Federation on issues of restitution (see his article on the American Gathering meeting, the article on Papon and the listing for Federation Services). Those of us who know him have great respect for his ability to see things clearly and state matters succinctly.

COOPERATION WITH NAHOS

For some time now Leo Rechter of NAHOS, the New York group, and I have been cooperating and coordinating our letter-writing campaign to Judge Korman and to Special Master Judah Gribetz. In separate conversations, we have made Mr. Gribetz aware of our joined effort on behalf of all Child Survivors, and that we have collected hundreds of letters on the issue of allocation of the Swiss Banks' settlement. Mr. Gribetz asked Leo for a position letter on this issue. Leo and Norbert discussed it; due to its length, we are here excerpting, quoting, and paraphrasing only parts from the letter Leo sent to Mr. Gribetz. Regarding the distribution of total proceeds and subsequent installments:

Category 1: all known Swiss banks depositors, their heirs and descendants, or, if none, individuals who can prove family ties to depositors.

Category 2: Reasonable compensation to class action lawyers based on demonstrated hourly fees.

Category 3: All former slave-laborers,

or their heirs, ought to share in this category, the size of which is to be determined according to the percentage of slave laborers to the total number of all eligible claimants in categories 3 through 5. In this category Romanie (Gypsies) who performed slave (but not forced) labor would be included (see distinction made in previous Mishpocha newsletter). No heirs beyond children and grandchildren to be included in this category, and only one share per deceased former slave laborer to be divided among heirs.

Category 4: All Jewish survivors, who can affirm with plausible evidence, that they unsuccessfully sought entry into Switzerland, or were admitted and maltreated (again, apportioned based on formula of relative numbers).

Category 5: All other Jewish survivors, or their heirs, including children who were placed in hiding, whose assets or their parents' assets were looted or confiscated.

Leo ends the letter by stating our commonly held adamant opposition to any deductions suggested by American Jewish organizations.

YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION SOUGHT

Your overwhelming requests for a conference in 2000 are convincing proof of your desire for the continuation of our gatherings and exchange of information. We must have your input, your brains and your muscles to continue. Please get in touch with any of us listed under Federation Services.

Looking forward to seeing all of you again soon.

Stefanie

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