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The honorable Edward Korman
Chief Judge
U.S. District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Judge Korman;

It is my understanding that you are close to making a decision about the allocation of some \$600,000,000 of moneys that were negotiated and obtained for the purpose helping elderly survivors. Your current plan is to allocate this money mainly to the elderly survivors in the Former Soviet Union. I write this to you in the hope that my unique background and arguments would persuade you that the bulk of the money would never end up in the hands of the real needy survivors in those countries and that large groups of needy survivors here and in Israel will be completely neglected.

First, I would like to introduce myself: I am a child survivor from Hungary. I had survived in Budapest and at the end of the war I was 11 years old. I lived under the communist rule until 1956 when I escaped and shortly thereafter I came to America. Here I had a 39 year long Aero-space Engineering carrier in Academia and with the U.S. Navy. I retired in 1995. I have been a student, and teacher, of the Holocaust for twenty years. I did-and still do- research and also published a number of studies about the Holocaust in Hungary as well as work about children in the Holocaust (in process of publication). My engineering/ scientific background trained me to look at facts and draw conclusions from them. Although, I am very compassionate about my fellow survivors, I am -at the same time- take an objective, analytical, view of their situation and their plight. I am not beholden to either the US Jewish power establishment or the Holocaust establishment. I have never been a recipient of compensation from either organization. On the contrary; I have been a contributor to both, to the extent of my limited financial abilities that I augment with my volunteer time (I have been a volunteer in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for 11 years). Therefore, I believe that in the matter that you are about to decide I can be objective.

I frequently visit Hungary, to do research and because I still have a few elderly relatives there. I am familiar with both the local Jewish leadership there and the needy survivors. I believe that Hungary's Jewish survivor situation is typical of the situation in the countries of the FSU. After all; Hungary was a colony of the FSU for 45 years. The Jewish leadership in Hungary is corrupt- and I believe that this corruption exist in all the countries of the FSU- and most of the moneys that are sent through them for the benefit of survivors ended up lining their pockets. Secondly, for obvious reasons, they greatly exaggerate the number of survivors. The **real** number of survivors in Hungary -and I am positive in the FSU countries- is quite small. Of course, many among the survivors are destitute, but that is also true for the survivors of the western countries and in Israel.

I strongly believe that the moneys that had been negotiated for the survivors should have been provided to those survivors in the past 50+ years. As you may or may not know this has not been the case. Let me recite some pertinent facts with respect to the performance of the Claims Conference (CC).

- Fact #1: IN 1952 exactly 50 years ago- when the CC first sat down with the German Government to negotiate on Material Claims. exactly 0 survivors participated in the negotiations.
Fact # 2: For **decades the books of the CC were not open**, it took a court order to do that.
Fact # 3: In the Board of Directors of the CC in 2002-2003 -among the 24 organizations represented, only one is a survivor organization.
Fact# 4: A small group of people over the **overwhelming objections of the survivors and their organizations** decided to take 20% of all the monies received by the CC and provide such funds (hundreds of millions of dollars) to Yeshivots. I believe that these learning institutions should be maintained

as the responsibility of their various ideological leaderships and memberships, **But, not with survivor designated money.**

Fact # 5: While one has to be in deep poverty to receive Article 2 funds ("sorry the Germans insisted on this"), the CC disbursed millions of dollars to various Holocaust Museums and educational foundations. I guess the Article 2 fund restrictions do not apply to these Memorial Institutions. **I believe it is the collective Jewish Community's responsibility to maintain such institutions.** For the survivors it is enough to provide them with volunteer work and the moral authenticity of being survivors. These institutions are not entitled to the money that was designated to the survivors.

Fact #6: **To this day not one child survivor organization is represented in the CC's board of directors.** Stefanie Selzer, the President of the World Federation Of Child Survivors (with over 10,000 individual survivor members) is a member of the Board, but only as an ad personam member with no membership in any decision making committee. The "child survivors" are now between the ages of 60 and 78. Perhaps we are mature enough to be part of the decision making process, but we are not part of such a process.

Fact # 7; \$ 26,000,000 per year is expended to administer the survivors money, by the CC. I find that outrageous. .

My sources to this information mainly come from the very glossy 2002 CC Yearly statement and the CC's 20th Year Book.

The purpose of the above is to illustrate that even here in the US the survivor's moneys had been grossly mismanaged. How would they be managed in countries whose accountability standards are non-existent? Furthermore, our needs are very far from being satisfied. About 25% of the survivors in this country are living in poverty. If all the residual money is spent now what will happen to us "child survivors" when we grow "old"? Aren't we entitled to some modicum of dignity in our twilight years from the residuals of the money left?

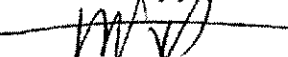
I believe that it is the supreme moral obligation of the world's Jewish communities to take care of the destitute FSU Jews. But not from the money that is specifically designated for the survivors. Because, most of the FSU Jews do not qualify as survivors of the Nazi Holocaust.

I am greatly distressed, that no consideration is given to those survivors who are either now, or in the future, are in need and who live in this country. I am sure, you realize that the safety nets in this country range from fragile to non-existent and many survivors, who now live in open or hidden poverty could not bring themselves to beg for welfare even if it existed. Is this what they deserve? To rob them of their dignity in the twilight of their troubled lives? To make them feel, once more, that they have been abandoned and denied what is rightfully theirs? I hope not.

I guess when all is said and done, your Honor, **the fundamental questions to be answered would be: do the old and sick survivors in this country -in all countries where they live- have the right to live and finish their lives in dignity and without fear of poverty?** And if that is so, should the residual money go to them in such a way that ensures that they are the only beneficiaries and nobody misuses the money for "administrative " costs , more Holocaust edifices, staff, research projects, lining their own pockets, or anything else.? And lastly: what is a just formula for distribution among the needy?

I would like to apologize for the length of my letter, but I believe that a shorter version would not have done adequate justice to this issue.

Most sincerely yours



George Pick