

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2004

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

We write to request your assistance in efforts of Holocaust survivors to achieve proper restitution in *Irvin Rosner, et al, v. United States of America*, the survivors' long-running case against the United States government.

At the end of World War II, U.S. occupation authorities in Austria mismanaged the handling of assets looted from Hungarian Jews during the War. The funds and valuables of many were plundered by, in many cases, U.S. personnel, including high-ranking officers. During the 1990s, this unfortunate episode in U.S. history came to light. Numerous survivors have come together since then, seeking justice through a class action lawsuit brought against the U.S. government.

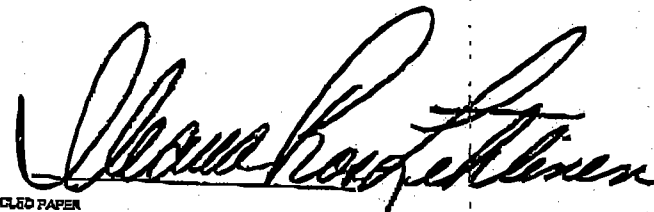
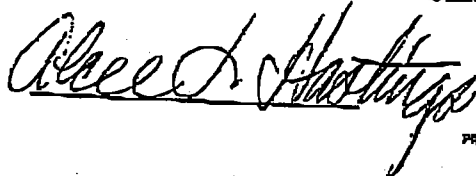
Ongoing delays in the proceedings and verdict of *Irvin Rosner, et al, v. United States of America* have come to resemble the treatment survivors regularly receive from many foreign governments while seeking restitution. The United States, which has been at the forefront of the effort to achieve restitution for those who had been deprived of it for so long, must now come forward and do the same.

We were also troubled to read that the Department of Justice has insisted on taking the depositions of several elderly survivors. We were further alarmed to read that the Department of Justice has again chosen to reassert technical defensive motions and refuse to answer the Hungarian Jews' specific allegations. It is our understanding that the District Judge has insisted that the Government participate in mediation, and the parties have agreed that Mr. Fred Fielding will be the mediator. We sincerely hope that the Department will use this opportunity to negotiate seriously, in good faith, and with an eye toward our nation's moral responsibility and legacy.

An average of 10 Holocaust survivors is dying every week. Every day another survivor passes on, he or she is deprived of the assets that were rightfully his or hers. Survivors need and deserve our help and immediate attention. We urge you and the Justice Department to help resolve this unfortunate matter and achieve restitution for survivors in a timely manner.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter, and we look forward to your expeditious response.

Sincerely,



Shelley Berkley
Michael H. Michael

Robert Udel
Ariane E. Watson

Steph L. Sand
John R. [unclear]

N

[unclear]

Phil English
Neil Abernethy

Carolyn McConkey

Bob Finner

John J. [unclear]
Walter R. [unclear]

John Dutch

George Miller

Jane [unclear]
Richard A. [unclear]

Mc Finner

Howard S. Berman

Gregg [unclear]

Tom Lantos

Kendrick B. Meek

Henry Waxman

John Longmire

Signatories for Gold Train Dear Colleague (As of 7/7)

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