



BENJAMIN MEED  
PRESIDENT

## AMERICAN GATHERING of JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

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January 22, 2004

The Honorable Edward R. Korman  
U.S. District Court/Eastern District of NY US. Courthouse  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Judge-Korman:

*This letter is in reply to your request for an evaluation regarding the distribution of the remainder of Swiss funds under your jurisdiction,*

*As such, we must bring to your attention and stress that a substantial number of survivors presently in the United States live in deplorable conditions without adequate means to pay for medical care and other necessary living expenses.*

*Due to the new status restrictions imposed by various Jewish organizations as of late, their plight has worsened even further. Our recent meeting held in Washington, DC, attended by over 7,000 survivors and their families, greatly emphasized these distressing findings, which prevail in many parts of the United States today.*

*Unfortunately, countless individuals are under the impression that such misery and despair among survivors cannot be possible in our United States, the richest and most powerful nation in the world. However, their assumption is far from the truth, since the facts speak for themselves and prove to be far different.*

*Because we are such a prosperous country, the problems experienced by needy survivors are that much more pronounced. The latest study, based on a National Jewish Population Survey, indicates that approximately 25% of Holocaust survivors in the United States live below the poverty' line! In addition, it must be taken into consideration that living expense, particularly the cost of medical care is far greater for survivors in the United States than in most other countries. A valid illustration would be the cost of home care in the Former Soviet Union which ranges between \$.50 and \$1.00 per hour, while in the United States the cost is over \$10.00 per hour*

*Therefore, we respectfully ask that your Honor consider all of the- above factors when forming judgment as to the distribution of the balance of the monies to be distributed. Please keep in mind that the Jewish community at large does not adequately assist survivors in need, and the only additional supplemental monies to help them are provided by the Claims Conference, and funds such as this from the recent Swiss and insurance settlements.*

*It is vital that your decision consider the needs of survivors living in the United States and that you revisit the current disproportionate allocation method and make it a system of fairness for all. .*

*Sincerely,*

*Ben Meed*  
Benjamin Meed  
President

*Sam Bloch*  
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Sr. Vice President

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