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**MORESHET** 

Mordechai Anielevich Memorial
Holocaust Publications - Yaikut Moreshet

FEB - 9 2004

LEGAL SERVICES

22 January, 2004

Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation P.O. Box 8300 San Francisco, CA. 94128-8300 U.S.A.

We are honored to forward to you our request for financial support to rescue our archive materials at the **Moreshet Archives**, located at Givat Haviva, Israel.

Our request to you is in accordance with the instructions we received from those authorized to do so in Israel.

The Moreshet Archives are a spokesman and give real expression to the last wishes and requests of hundreds of Holocaust survivors, most whom have since died. In their entrusting us with their documents and artifacts which they carried with them on the long and exhausting journey from the regions of the Holocaust in Europe all the way to Israel, they ordered us, first of all, to protect them from all harm, and if at all possible – to use them to commemorate and teach about the era from which they came.

Moreshet Publications obeys the request of those who have entrusted this evidence of their lives and the period in which they lived through by the publication of books on all aspects of the Holocaust over the past fourty years.

In our pedagogical center, at Givat Haviva in Israel, we educate the youth, soldiers and the new immigrants who come to us, to better understand the historical facts, and to foster in them the humane Jewish values that gave the Jews spiritual strength during the Holocaust and helped them survive and even resist the destruction.

However the Archives upon which our work is based, is slowly disintegrating, because the paper upon which it is written is disintegrating, the writing is becoming unreadable and there is no possibility to repair it. The only way to save the Archives is to transfer everything possible to computers – by the use of scanners, and then catalogue on computer to allow efficient research and examination of the scanned material. The ability to do this is not available to us at the moment.

We turn to you to provide us with the ability to save and rescue what it is possible to save.

We thank you in advance for your assistance and understanding.

Sincerely,

Amira Hagami, Director Moreshet



Mordechai Anielevich Memorial Youth Movements Campus - Givat Haviva

# **Grant Request**

Name of Institution: <u>Moreshet-The Mordechai Anielevich Memorial</u> <u>Holocaust Study and Research Center</u>

Address: Givat Haviva

M.P Menashe 37850 Israel

Phone:

972-4-6309204

Fax: 972-4-6309305

Title of Project: Development of Moreshet Archives

Contact person for Project: Amira Hagani, Director

Total estimated budget of Project: \$254,350

Amira Hagami Amira Hagani AMIRA HAGANI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MORESHET FOUNDATION



### **Development of Moreshet Archives**

### I. Background:

Moreshet Archives was founded in the early 1960's. Immediately upon its opening, hundreds of documents flowed to it – in the main, materials brought with them by Holocaust survivors. These materials, most of which arrived in poor condition – after having wandered with their owners during the period of the Holocaust and the years of displacement afterwards – are stored, catalogued and listed in the computer of the Archives. However, access to them and use is almost impossible due to their physical state.

## The Archives Inventory

- 1. Testimonies and memoirs, including written and taped testimonies, both audio and video tapes.
- 2. Manuscripts on the subject of the Holocaust, many of which have not yet been published.
- 3. Personal collections and archives (total 97 collections).
- 4. Objects originating in the camps, the ghettos and the various communities in Europe after the War.
- 5. Jewish and other newspapers from the Holocaust period and thereafter, on the subject of the Remainder of Jewry.
- 6. Articles of art and literature (among them, original drawings made during the Holocaust period, in the camps and the ghettos).
- Books of the Communities, a unique library including hundreds of books on communities which were destroyed.
- 8. Archive guides (catalogues of various archives in Israel and abroad on the subject of the Holocaust).

A significant and most important portion of the material in *Moreshet* Archives was collected and donated by Holocaust survivors, including survivors of the camps, partisans and Jewish fighters, Jewish immigrants and refugees from different countries.

Moreshet Archives is officially recognized by the State of Israel.

### II. Need:

Many of the documents and objects of the archives are in urgent need of restoration. The paper is in a state of decay, the ink and the printed letters are fading. Many of the photographs are already completely spoiled, and in many others the photographed individuals are barely recognizable. This situation turns the Archives, a most important multi-faceted tool in terms of its contents, and an invaluable resource for study and research, into a source of potential which is mostly not utilized. The total loss of its irreplaceable items is only a matter of time.

Today, most of the individuals who personally underwent the ordeal of the Holocaust are no longer with us, and within a few years there will be nobody to tell or write what they saw and lived through. Therefore, the preservation of written and photographed testimonies, as well as documents that substantiate the living testimonies, is of the utmost importance. There is also a need to increase public access to the archives through modern technology. Within the foreseeable future, the Archives will be the major – if not the only – resource for any study, research, and historiography. Therefore, the restoration and preservation of the Archives should be considered a rescue operation, the immediate implementation of which is crucial.

### III. Project Goals:

- 1. To preserve documentation
- 2. To increase public access through on-line access

### IV. Project Description:

### A. Activity:

In order to change the situation, we intend to take several major steps:

- A comprehensive scanning operation, which will include all the important documents – and first of all, all those which cannot be used due to their condition. Such a comprehensive scanning will create an archive which is accessible to all interested parties.
- Training a staff person, and allocation of the resources necessary to
  preserve those documents which are disintegrating which must be done
  even before they can be scanned.

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- 3. Writing of computer software which will be put into use in parallel both in the Archives and in the Central Library at Givat Haviva. This software will also provide users in the Reading Room of the Library with direct access to the materials in the Archives. It will be available for use by students and all interested parties, and not to researchers only. In addition, the program will open up access to all the possibilities available in educated use of the Internet.
- 4. A comprehensive, precise mapping of the Archives' inventory, its computerization and cataloguing. Upon completion, an updated catalogue will be issued and distributed among academic bodies and Holocaust research institutions. It will also be at the disposal of the public at large.
- 5. Incorporating the bulk of material into the *Moreshet* Internet site.

### B. Methods Used:

- 1. Professional Advisement-including visits to other Archives
- 2. Outsourcing for Digitalized Conversion of current Archive
- 3. In-house Restoration and Digitalization

### C. Target Audience:

- Historians in all scientific institutes
- · Students, teachers, researchers
- Schoolchildren, studying and preparing work on the Holocaust
- The public interested in the field
- International visitors

### D. Venue:

The Moreshet Archives is located at the Givat Haviva campus which was founded in 1949 as the national education center of the Kibbutz Artzi Movement. Givat Haviva is a dynamic institution which conducts seminars and workshops, host conferences, and offers formal and informal education programs for adults and children. The Mordechai Anielevich Memorial Holocaust Study and Research Center is one of its most prominent centers.

### E. Resources Required:

### 1. Personnel

- Director-Coordinator: a certified archivist, specializing in Contemporary Jewish History and well versed in modern methods of document preservation, use of advanced archives software and ability to communicate with other archives in order to promote the exchange of documents, learning from prior experience and savings in the preservation work.
- An experienced computer person who will operate the archives software from a comprehensive viewpoint of the Archives inventory, and an understanding of the importance of the documents and objects contained therein. Knowledge of Contemporary Jewish History would be an important advantage for this person.
- Academic advisor in the field of Contemporary Jewish History, a
  specialist in the field of the Holocaust, who would be at the disposal of
  the archivists for any question or deliberation regarding the
  organization of the Archives, classifying of the materials, and the
  optimal method of providing access to them for the public at large.

2. Essential Equipment

- 2 modern sophisticated computers, including printers.
- 2 scanners for photographs and documents.
- Modern archive software
- Tools for adaptation to the network which will connect the Archives computer to the Library computers – which will enable incorporation of the Library materials into the Archives software, as well as the possibility of connecting to the Archives software from the Library's computers (including the Reading Room).

F. Urgency:

The time factor is an active and significant factor in the field of preservation of the Archives. Materials currently in grave condition are deteriorating further from day to day at a rapid rate, despite the proper conditions in which they are stored. The proposed project is indeed an urgent act of rescue.

V. Organization Description:

Established in the 1960's as a center for collecting testimonies of concentration camp survivors and resistance fighters from the ghettos, *Moreshet* has developed into a leading research and education center for the study of the Holocaust. The center provides authoritative and up-to-date knowledge and imparts universal values of humanistic education for tolerance and democracy (see enclosed material.)

VI. Projected Budget: \$254,350 (see attached)

Development of Moreshet Archives
Preliminary Budget
Two Years
U.S. \$

Exchange Rate: 4.4

Budget Line	Cost per Unit	Unit/Month	Total
Personnel			
Project Director (Part time)	2000	24	48000
Project Staff			
Technical Specialist (Full time)	2000		
Restoration Specialist (Full time)	2000		
Advisor (Part time)	1000	24	
Subtotal			\$168,000
		<u> </u>	
Specialized Program Expenses			2200
Computers	1100	<del></del>	
Printers	230		460
Scanners	120	+	240
Digital Camera	1360	·	1360
Archive Software	22700		
Restoration Material	5000	) 2	10000
Work Material (disks, ink, paper,			3000
etc)	1500	4	2 3000
Miscellaneous and unexpected	0000	,	4000
costs	2000	<u> </u>	
Subtotal			\$43,960
Administration and Overhead			\$42,390
			\$254,350
Total	L		Ψ2.0-1,001

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MORESHET FOUNDATION

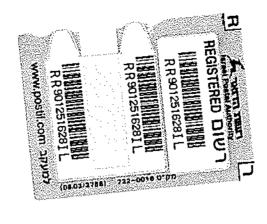
Moreshet, the Mordechai Anielevich Memorial at Givat Haviva, was founded by survivors, their friends and families, and Partisans who survived the battles in the ghettos and forests, as a repository of their Holocaust era documents and personal effects. The material was entrusted to Moreshet to preserve and make available for future generations.

Moreshet now has an extensive archive of original diaries and materials including unique material from Jewish partisans.

We ask you to join us in this essential work. Please help us preserve the truth for future generations. As we come closer to the day when witnesses cannot testify, the written records in our archive must speak for them.

The written records must go forth to confront the deniers and to tell our children's children about this period when the forces of evil tried to destroy the Jewish People.

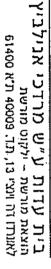
Mike Flax

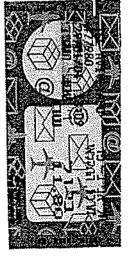




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LEGAL SERVICES

3 February, 2004

Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation P.O. Box 8300 San Francisco, California 94128 – 8300 U.S.A.

Re: Moreshet - Application for Assistance

Dear Sirs,

Pursuant to the instructions of Judge Korman and representatives in Israel, we sent our application via FedEx on 23 January, 2004 (copy of the receipt attached).

When we called FedEx the next week to confirm that the application had in fact been delivered, we were informed by FedEx that they will not deliver the package to a Post Office Box! Although they promised to rectify the situation, we suspect that they have not done so.

Not wishing to continue relying on FedEx, we sent the application once again, by registered mail (copy of the receipt attached) on 29 January, 2004.

Please advise us if you have not received our application and we will re send the material immediately.

If you have already received our material we would ask you to confirm receipt. You can contact us as follows:

Ahagani@zahav.net.il

Or by fax:

\*\* 972 4 6309305

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely.

Mike Flax



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