



STATE OF ISRAEL  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES

Jerusalem, 11 March 2004

The Honorable Judge Edward R. Korman  
United States District Court,  
Eastern District of New York

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Honorable Judge Korman,

I am sure you are well aware of the history and terrors of the German Nazi regime, especially in its attempt to rid German territory of people who did not fit its vision of a "master Aryan race." Foremost among their "racial enemies", were the Jews.

Most people around the world are at least marginally aware about Hitler's attempted genocide of the Jewish people of the world. However most people do not know of the forgotten victims of the holocaust.

The Nazi campaign against homosexuality targeted the more than one million German men who, the state asserted, carried a "degeneracy" that threatened the "disciplined masculinity" of Germany. Denounced as "antisocial parasites" and as "enemies of the state," more than 100,000 men were arrested under a broadly interpreted law against homosexuality. Approximately 50,000 men served prison terms as convicted homosexuals, while an unknown number were institutionalized in mental hospitals. Others—perhaps hundreds—were castrated under court order or coercion. Analyses of fragmentary records suggest that between 5,000 and 15,000 homosexual men were imprisoned in concentration camps, where many died from starvation, disease, exhaustion, beatings, and murder.

In the racist practice of Nazi eugenics, women were valued primarily for their ability to bear children. The state presumed that women homosexuals were still capable of reproducing. Lesbians were not systematically persecuted under Nazi rule, but they nonetheless did suffer the loss of their own gathering places and associations.

Nazi Germany did not seek to kill all homosexuals. Nevertheless, the Nazi state, through active persecution, attempted to terrorize German homosexuals into sexual and social conformity, leaving thousands dead and shattering the lives of many more.

Honorable Judge, there are many wrongs we need to write with regards to the atrocities and legacy of the Nazi government perpetrated. In Israel, like in America we need to mend the scars not only of the holocaust survivors, but of their descendants. Generation after generation, we do our best to alive the pain of these victims.

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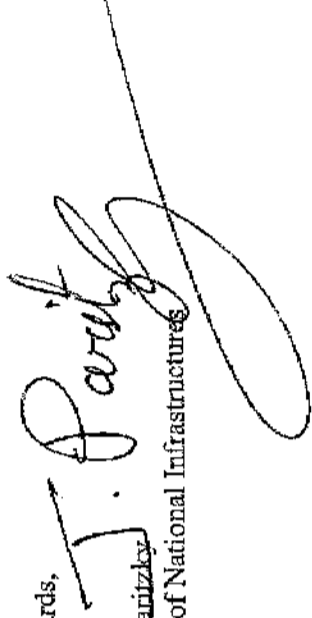


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Please, do not forget the homosexual community, and lets raise the awareness, alleviate the suffering of survivors and fight homophobia in all its ugly forms. Let us not forget any of the horrors the Nazis perpetrated. Let us remember the Nazi campaign against homosexuality, in an effort to honor its victims and prevent other regimes from adopting similar policies.

The Agenda, the GLBT in Israel, has been working for the past 25 years on all aspects concerning the gay community in Israel. I wholeheartedly support their application for allocation of funds. I would be grateful for your favorable attention to this request

Best regards,

  
Joseph Paritzky  
Minister of National Infrastructures

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