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March 10, 2004

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LEGAL SERVICES

Honorable Edward J. Korman
United States District Judge
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Special Master to Swiss Banks Litigation
Judah Gribetz, Esq
c/o Richards and O'Neil
885 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Re: *Holocaust Victim's Assets Litigation*, CASE NO. 96CV4849
(ERK)(MDG) (consolidated with CV 96-5161 and CV 97-461)

Dear Judge Korman and Special Master Judah Gribetz

On behalf of Amnesty International USA I respectfully submit this letter of support for the proposal submitted by the Pink Triangle Coalition. This proposal calls for a modest allocation of settlement monies to support the establishment of a fund that would provide direct monetary support to gay and lesbian holocaust survivors as well as support research and public education on Nazi persecution of gay and lesbian people and promote respect for gay and lesbian human rights today.

The Nazi regime carried out a brutal campaign of repression against homosexuals during the Third Reich. Tens of thousands of homosexuals were arrested during the Nazi period under Paragraph 175 of the German Penal Code outlawing homosexual relations. It is estimated that as many as 15,000 gay men were deported to concentration camps. Most of these men were killed. Additionally, gay and lesbian community organizations, businesses and gathering places were systematically destroyed throughout Germany. The assets of these individuals and institutions were stolen and for the most part never recovered by the victims or their families.

The extent of the persecution of homosexuals during the Nazi period has only recently begun to be understood. This is largely due to the fact that even after the fall of the Nazi regime laws criminalizing homosexuality were in effect in Germany until 1969. Criminalization combined with pervasive discrimination in Germany and throughout much of the world meant that the stories of these victims have been for the most part erased from history. It is only in recent years that a few homosexual holocaust survivors have felt secure enough to come forward and tell their story.

Today, lesbian and gay people continue to face widespread discrimination and are the victims of serious human rights abuses. The human rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals

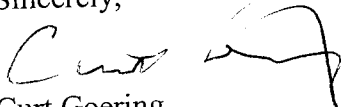


and transgender people are violated daily. Some seventy countries still criminalize homosexual relations. Not only are people beaten, imprisoned and sometimes killed by their own governments for engaging in homosexual acts, but those suspected of being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender are routinely the victims of harassment, discrimination and violence.

In recent years, Amnesty International has documented a wide range of human rights abuses against lesbian and gay people around the world. In our 2001 report, *Crimes of Hate, Conspiracy of Silence*, Amnesty documented ongoing torture and ill-treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in some forty countries including every region of the world. We acknowledge that those abuses documented in our report are likely only the tip of the iceberg.

Given the above history, and serious ongoing human rights problems, Amnesty International strongly supports the Pink Triangle Coalition's proposal to provide funds directly to gay holocaust survivors and to support historical research, public education and human rights advocacy.

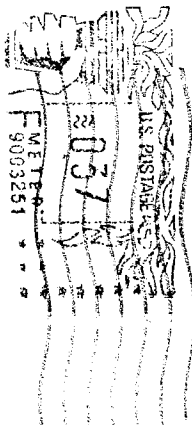
Sincerely,



Curt Goering
Senior Deputy Executive Director
Amnesty International USA
322 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10001



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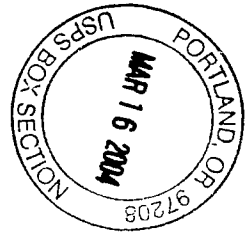


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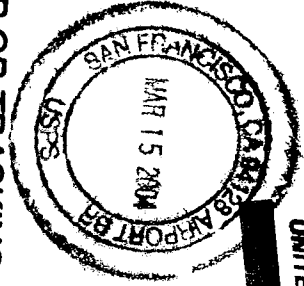
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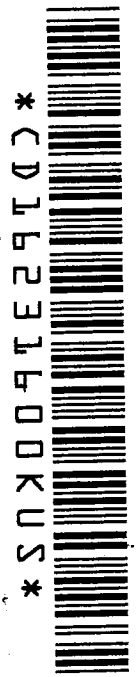
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