



# Holocaust Survivors' Foundation - USA

## Member Organizations (Partial List)

September 21, 2010

Amer. Assn. of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Greater Boston  
Assn. of Holocaust Survivors from Former USSR, Los Angeles  
C.A.N.D.L.E.S., Terre Haute, IN  
Child Survivors of Arizona  
Child Survivors/Hidden Children of The Holocaust  
Coalition of Holocaust Survivor Clubs in South Florida  
Council of Nazi Holocaust Survivor Organizations of So. California  
Habonim Cultural Club, Miami  
Holocaust Child Survivors & Friends of Greater Hartford  
Holocaust Survivors Club of Boca Raton  
Holocaust Survivors of Greater Detroit  
Holocaust Survivors of Greater Pittsburgh  
Holocaust Survivors of South Florida  
Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada  
Houston Council of Jewish Holocaust Survivors  
The Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Friends of Greater Washington  
Jewish Survivors of Latvia, Inc. New York  
National Assn. of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors, Inc.  
New American Jewish Social Club, Miami  
New Cracow Friendship Society, New York  
Survivors of Atlantic City, NJ  
Survivors of the Holocaust Asset Recovery Project, Seattle  
Survivors of the Holocaust of New Mexico  
Tikvah Acharay Hashoah, San Francisco

**The Honorable John Conyers  
United States House of Representatives  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20510**

**The Honorable Steven Cohen  
United States House of Representatives  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on  
Commercial and Administrative Law  
Washington, D.C., 20510**

**Subject: HR 4596 -- the Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act of 2010.**

**Dear Chairmen Conyers and Chairman Cohen:**

**We are Holocaust survivors, and members of the executive committee of the Holocaust Survivors Foundation, USA, which includes elected leaders of groups throughout the country representing thousands of survivors. We came together nearly a decade ago because we were alarmed about the growing poverty and deprivation among our fellow survivors that was being ignored by the national political and communal leadership, and about the failure of the "restitution" establishment to deliver anything close to the promised "measure of justice."**

**We are writing today to thank you for co-sponsoring the Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act of 2010, HR 4596, and for holding the hearing on Wednesday September 22. This hearing is an important opportunity for Congress to have a full and honest airing of the problems that we survivors and our families have faced in attempting to locate and collect our insurance policies, and to reconnect with our families' histories. We are taking the liberty of distributing this letter to your colleagues on the Committee.**

**This measure may be our last hope to require insurance companies doing business in the United States to honor policies they marketed to our parents and grandparents prior to WWII, but failed to pay after the Holocaust. Certainly, for many among us, they will not be here next year if this effort fails.**

**These companies had the audacity to demand death certificates after the war that Hitler never gave and original policies that no survivor could possibly have after Auschwitz. HR 4596 would, at long last, invoke Congress's proper authority to restore our rights - outrageously denied by executive branch machinations and court cases - and validate state laws requiring insurers to publish the names of pre-war policy holders, and allowing survivors, heirs, and beneficiaries to bring lawsuits against companies who refuse to settle on reasonable terms.**

**"JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR SURVIVORS"**



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September 21, 2010  
Page 2

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Holocaust Survivors, Inc.

New American Jewish Social Club,  
Miami

New Cracow Friendship Society,  
New York

Survivors of Atlantic City, NJ

Survivors of the Holocaust Asset  
Recovery Project, Seattle

Survivors of the Holocaust of  
New Mexico

Tikvah Acharay Hashoah,  
San Francisco

Survivors are distressed by the U.S. government's actions that have allowed global insurance companies to pocket billions of dollars from insurance policies that our beloved parents and grandparents paid for, but were never honored. ICHEIC failed to address the rights of 97% of the universe of account holders. Conservative estimates show that the value of insurance policies to Jews in Europe prior to WWII that have not been paid exceeds \$20 billion in today's value. Court decisions giving insurers more than they bargained for from President Clinton have wrongly deprived survivors and heirs of our legal rights.

It is unthinkable after all we endured that we are now second class citizens in the United States legal system.

The State Department's role in defending insurers and participants on the International Commission for Holocaust Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) against Holocaust survivors and heirs has been very troubling. The Department has exaggerated ICHEIC's achievements and misrepresented the scope of the U.S. government's commitments to foreign countries and companies in order to thwart survivors' and Congressional efforts.

Recently, documents we obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show that the Department of Justice under two Administrations has also distorted U.S. policy in the service of insurance companies' interests.

Most members of Congress may not be aware that in the United States today, tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors cannot afford adequate food, medicine, shelter, home care, dental care, or other basic needs. According to data collected by Professor Ira Sheskin of the Miller Center at the University of Miami, the leading Jewish demographer in the U.S., in 2004, over 40,000 survivors in America lived at or below the official poverty level, and another 40,000 had incomes so low they are considered poor. Those numbers are likely somewhat smaller today, but the number of desperately poor survivors in the U.S. today numbers in the tens of thousands.

You will undoubtedly hear from the insurance industry and their allies that it is time to move on, that there are not that many unpaid policies. If there is no great exposure, then why have these global insurers spent millions of dollars lobbying Congress over the past three years? They are simply trying to perpetuate their massive theft of our families' money. And, they are trying to sweep their corrupt histories under the rug without a full accounting of their conduct. You must not let them succeed.

*"JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR SURVIVORS"*



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September 21, 2010  
Page 3

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Tikvah Acharay Hashoah,  
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**You will also hear that passage of legislation to restore survivors' rights might endanger funds from Germany which help provide for some of the services needed by survivors today. This is also a false argument, one which even the German government has repeatedly denied. Why do the insurers have to resort to these cheap scare tactics when all we are asking for is the restoration of our basic rights?**

**Finally, we learned that certain non-survivor Jewish NGOs are circulating their "arguments" against HR 4596. We find it disgraceful for Jewish groups to oppose our interests. It is beyond the cynical for groups who have absolutely no right to speak about our legal rights to give the false impression, because of their good names, that they have any role in the debate over this legislation. This is about our legal and moral rights, period. Moreover, their financial dealings with the culpable insurers make their opposition to our rights an utter disgrace, such as ADL's questionable connections with Generali.**

**We are attaching our letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 2008, which is still relevant. However, we would add to the list of conflicts of interest that in the past year, the American Jewish Committee has entered into a "partnership" with Allianz whereby the insurance giant funds trips by young professionals to Germany. This is the height of hypocrisy – and we would appreciate it if you ask AJC how it can morally reconcile accepting money from Allianz today when the company failed to honor billions in policies sold to Jewish Holocaust victims.**

**In this regard, we are also attaching the list of bona fide Holocaust survivor groups and organizations of the second generation – children of survivors – who support HR 4596 and wish to see Congress restore our and our families' legal rights. This measure enjoys the overwhelming support of the survivor community.**

**We regret that it was not possible to have survivors testify at the hearing, especially because some among us were invited but due to health concerns could not travel to Washington. It is a shame that, with such profound moral principles at stake, no actual survivor with an insurance claim will be able to address this historic hearing. However, we have asked Sam Dubbin, our long-time counsel, to do his best to represent our point of view, and he is someone we have counted on for over a decade. We should add here that he has our full confidence, as well as our gratitude for his years and years of selfless work on behalf of Holocaust survivors and our families.**

**"JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR SURVIVORS"**



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September 21, 2010  
Page 4

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Tikvah Acharay Hashoah,  
San Francisco

**This is our final request. Even though we will not physically be present at the hearing on Wednesday, this entire discussion should revolve around us and only us. The collateral and diplomatic obfuscations we have had to endure in obtaining what is rightfully ours must stop. This is about one issue and one issue only – are Holocaust survivors, and the children and grandchildren of Holocaust victims – equal citizens under U.S. law? We think the answer is obvious, and urge you to pass HR 4596 without any further delay.**

**We look forward to a positive report on the hearing, and more importantly, a mark-up to follow immediately. Time is not on our side, and we are depending on you.**

Respectfully,



David Schaefer,  
President

## JOINED BY HSF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Israel Arbeiter, Boston MA  
Sello Fisch, Bronx NY  
Nesse Godin, Washington D.C.  
Louise Lawrence-Israels, Washington D.C.  
Herbert Karliner, Miami Beach, FL  
David Mermelstein, Miami FL  
Alex Moskovic, Hobe Sound, FL  
Leo Rechter, Queens NY  
Jack Rubin, Boynton Beach, FL  
Henry and Anita Schuster, Las Vegas NV  
Ivar Segalowitz, Great Neck, NY  
Fred Taucher, Seattle WA  
Esther Widman, Brooklyn NY

**"JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR SURVIVORS"**

**Groups Supporting HR 4596 – The Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act of 2010**

Holocaust Survivors Foundation, USA, Inc.

National Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors (NAHOS)

Child Survivors/Hidden Children of the Holocaust

Southern California Council for Soviet Jews

The Shaarit Haplaytah – Holocaust Survivors of Greater Detroit

Florida Holocaust Survivors Coalition

Holocaust Survivors of Greater Boston

Holocaust Survivors of Greater Miami

Holocaust Survivors of Southern Nevada

Survivors of the Holocaust Asset Recovery Project, Washington State

The Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Friends of Greater Washington (D.C.)

Habonim Cultural Club, Miami

Holocaust Survivors Club of Boca Raton

The New American Social Club

Holocaust Council, United Jewish Communities (UJC) of Metro West, New Jersey

Houston Council of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

Generations of the Shoah International

Second Generation Holocaust Survivor Association of Silicon Valley, CA

Second Generation Los Angeles

The Generation After in the Washington, DC area (VA & MD)

CHAIM (Children of Holocaust Survivors Assoc. in Minnesota)

CHAIM (Children of Holocaust-Survivors Assoc. In Michigan)

Generation After Milwaukee, WI

Generations of the Shoah-New Jersey

Holocaust Remembrance Committee, Baltimore, MD

Holocaust Resource Center-Temple Judea, Manhasset, NY

Holocaust Council of MetroWest, UJCNJ, New Jersey

Generations After at the Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, FL

Second Generation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Houston

Phoenix Holocaust Survivors' Association

St. Louis Descendants of Holocaust Survivors and Victims

3G NY (New York Group of grandchildren of survivors)

New York Legal Assistance Group (Legal Aid Group)

The Blue Card, Inc. (New York City Holocaust survivor social service delivery group)

Jewish Community Relations Council of Boca Raton

Jewish Community Relations Council of Minneapolis-St. Paul



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May 8, 2008

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- Habonim Cultural Club, Miami
- Holocaust Child Survivors & Friends of Greater Hartford
- Holocaust Survivors Club of Boca Raton
- Holocaust Survivors of Greater Detroit
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- Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada
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- Survivors of Atlantic City, NJ
- Survivors of the Holocaust Asset Recovery Project, Seattle
- Survivors of the Holocaust of New Mexico
- Tikvah Acharay Hashoah, San Francisco

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
 United States Senator  
 716 Hart Senate Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Submission for Official Record of Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing of May 6, 2008

Dear Senator Nelson and Other Members of the Committee:

We are Holocaust survivors, and members of the executive committee of the Holocaust Survivors Foundation, USA, which includes elected leaders of groups throughout the country representing thousands of survivors. We came together nearly a decade ago because we were alarmed about the growing poverty and deprivation among our fellow survivors that was being ignored by the Jewish leadership, and about the failure of the "restitution" establishment to deliver anything close to the promised "measure of justice." In our view, the restitution enterprise of the last decade has allowed multinational corporations to keep billions in unjust enrichment without demanding sufficient funds to provide *all* survivors with dignity in their last years.

Thankfully, the House of Representatives is addressing one such area with legislation to require global insurers to account for policies they sold our parents and grandparents before the Holocaust. These companies had the audacity to demand death certificates after the war that Hitler never gave and original policies that no survivor could possibly have after Auschwitz. HR 1746 would require such insurers now doing business in the United States to publish the names of pre-war policy holders, and allow survivors, heirs, and beneficiaries to bring lawsuits against companies who refuse to settle on reasonable terms. We are asking the Senate to do the same, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee.

In the late 1990s several states passed laws to hold these insurers accountable, but they have been nullified by court cases giving companies immunity under the "International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims", or "ICHEIC." Companies were supposed to open their files and pay claims under relaxed standards of proof, but those goals were not met. When it closed, ICHEIC paid less than three percent (3%) of the total amount owed, leaving \$17 billion in 2007 dollars unpaid.

The current bill would restore survivors' rights against the insurers. It is opposed by the insurance industry, the German Government, the U.S. State Department, and certain Jewish groups affiliated with ICHEIC. Germany, and hence the opponents, argue that the insurers were promised "legal peace" in previous deals, and that if the bill passes, Germany will no longer deign to give survivors the token payments negotiated periodically by the Claims Conference.

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The *deal* cited is the German-U.S. Executive Agreement where Germany demanded that insurance be included in a global "settlement" before it would pay about \$1 billion to Jewish slave laborers and \$3 billion to non-Jewish forced laborers. This was bad enough because survivors never agreed that our insurance rights could be limited in exchange for German manufacturers doing what they should have done decades ago – i.e. compensate human beings who were forced into slave and forced labor in WWII. One thing has nothing to do with the other. But even in the *deal*, the U.S. never agreed to give insurance companies the immunity they now demand. And though courts have given the insurers greater protection than they bargained for, Congress has the authority to, and should, restore survivors' rights.

Congressman Tom Lantos, a great champion of human rights and especially survivors' rights, who, sadly, passed away last month, courageously resisted Germany's threats and, with ranking member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, led HR 1746 to unanimous passage through the Foreign Affairs Committee a few months ago.

At the Financial Services Committee hearing in February, opponents hatched their surprise weapon – letters from the World Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, and B'nai B'rith opposing HR 1746. The groups repeated this gambit at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on May 6, joined by the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism and Agudath Yisroel.

The survivors present at the hearings were appalled at the disrespect shown by Jewish groups we have supported for decades. Their organizational forbearers were largely silent during the darkest days of history, when they could have saved millions of human lives by speaking out. How dare they use those voices *today* to *defeat* the interests of living Holocaust survivors who only want the right to speak and act for ourselves? As Congressman Wexler said: "I don't know how these American Jewish leaders can sleep at night." Chairman Frank also strongly defended the right of every survivor to decide for him or herself what is acceptable when it comes to reconciling with those who wronged us.

It is no secret that the groups are doing the bidding of the Claims Conference, who participated in ICHEIC and had much to do with its decisions. Chairman Julius Berman has told survivors that the Conference is opposing the bill to protect its "credibility" as the negotiator over survivors' rights, and its leaders, previously working behind the scenes, are now operating in the open to scuttle the legislation. But why are these other groups lending their good names to protect insurance companies and Germany and undermine Holocaust survivors' rights?

The ADL and B'nai B'rith have received hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years from the Claims Conference. The AJC is a Claims Conference board member and participated on ICHEIC, and has a vested interest in the appearance that the process was a success. The WJC is also a Claims Conference board member and was a key ICHEIC player, led by its recently dismissed former Chairman Israel Singer. The Reform Movement and Agudath Yisroel are also Claims Conference Board members and some of their institutions have received grants over the years as well. All of these groups refuse to challenge the Claims Conference policy of using millions of precious restitution funds for research, education, and documentation projects including millions in grants to board members, despite the fact that tens of thousands in the U.S. and worldwide cannot afford a decent quality of life.

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There are other conflicts as well. ADL received \$100,000 from one of the most culpable insurers, Generali, around the time Abe Foxman wrote an op-ed urging restraint in the pursuit of property claims such as insurance. The ADL letterhead brandished by Foxman bears the name of Kenneth Bialkin, who has led Generali's legal fight against survivors seeking their families' insurance policies. ADL's former lobbyist Harry Wall is now Generali's lobbyist. So, who is ADL speaking for when it opposes HR 1746?

It is depressing enough that these groups have no shame in presuming to have a relevant opinion when it comes to survivors' rights. Let me be clear -- this is none of their business. Having built huge organizations by invoking the horrors of the Holocaust to raise money and engender sympathy for their "human rights" programs, the groups have now abused their sacred obligations to those of us who endured the ultimate horror.

Worst still is that the ADL, the AJC, WJC, B'nai B'rith, and the others have been silent all these years in the face of grinding poverty among the dwindling family of Holocaust survivors among us. They have ignored what my colleagues and I cannot ignore -- over 80,000 survivors in the United States who live at or below the poverty line, or who are so poor they cannot afford adequate food, medicine, home care, dentures, eyeglasses, shelter, and other necessities. The unique hardships suffered during the Holocaust make for even more tragic health and emotional problems for all survivors, but are especially cruel for the poor among us.

During the past decade of "restitution," we survivors have been alone without the backing of any of the so-called leaders of the Jewish community, including the Federation and UJC leadership. Even Elie Wiesel has been absent and his voice surely would have helped to stop this suffering among survivors who are living in poverty. We know he is aware of the unabated suffering. Their silence has been the most devastating blow to us in our search for righteousness and dignity for our fellow survivors.

The tens of thousands of poor survivors throughout the world are witnesses to the failure of the entire restitution enterprise which these groups have now embraced. It is time for an honest accounting of the current debt owed by all to the living victims of history's greatest crime.

Senator Nelson, the Floridians signing this letter know you personally and we trust in what you told us when we sat with you after the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee hearing in February -- that you are behind us, and that you support legislation restoring the right to go to court for survivors and heirs, and requiring the publication of names. We also know you were one of the first public officials anywhere who took the time to listen to our concerns about the devastating effects of poverty on those among us who are in need, and you were willing to work with us to do the right thing.

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However, survivors throughout the United States are frustrated that non-survivor organizations we never chose and others are so presumptuous as to interfere with our individual rights as Americans. We are also perplexed at the possibility that any elected official, much less a member of the United States Senate, might confuse the interests of such organizations with the rights of those of us who personally lost everything and now seek only the truth and fairness to us as individuals.

Up until now, the real survivors' voices have been drowned out by these organizations and thousands have suffered as a result – and it is hard to imagine but deaths are accelerating among those not receiving the help they desperately need. It is not too late for you and your colleagues in Congress to take the actions necessary to provide survivors what they need and deserve.

We appreciate your placing this letter in the official record of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing of May 6, 2008 for the benefit of your colleagues and the public. We hope you and your colleagues move swiftly to enact HR 1746.

Respectfully,

David Schaeeter, President

## Executive Committee:

Israel Arbeiter, Boston MA  
Nesse Godin, Washington DC  
David Mermelstein, Miami FL  
Alex Moskovic, Hobe Sound FL  
Leo Rechter, Queens NY  
Jack Rubin, Boynton Beach FL  
Henry and Anita Schuster, Las Vegas NV  
Fred Taucher, Seattle WA  
Lea Weems, Houston TX  
Esther Widman, Brooklyn NY

**"JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR SURVIVORS"**

**Property Battle Shunning Anti Defamation League Receives \$100,000 from Generali**

The contribution arrived at full heat of the dispute over the Holocaust victims' policies.

Itamar Levin 24/01/1999 17:44:14

The Anti Defamation League last year received a contribution of \$100,000 from insurance company Generali, which, for over a year, has been in the midst of a long drawn out confrontation concerning the policies of Holocaust victims. "Globes" learned that the organisation consented to accept the contribution, despite its reservations as to the manner in which the Holocaust victims' property issue is being handled.

The Anti Defamation League is headed by Abraham Foxman, a Holocaust survivor. In recent months, Foxman has publicly asserted that "this type of argument will distort the Holocaust". In an article in the "Ma'ariv" newspaper last month, Foxman expressed his misgivings that "the final impression made by this century will be that the Jews died, not because they were Jews, but because they had bank accounts, gold, art works and property... That is too high a price for the justice we will never be able to obtain".

The organisation had previously expressed its opposition to the imposition of sanctions on the Swiss banks, although it criticised them during the deposits crisis. Last August, the organisation praised Generali for agreeing to pay \$100 million in the policies affair, but refrained from expressing an opinion when the agreement ran aground a few weeks later.

The Anti Defamation League, founded in 1913, acts to protect Jewish rights world-wide. It gained prominence mainly for its fight against anti-Semitic manifestations, against Holocaust denial and against terrorism. It has \$50 million annual budget, so that the Generali contribution is not significant for it in budgetary terms, but may prove meaningful in terms of Generali's image.

Generali set up a \$12 million fund for ex gratia payments to the heirs of insured parties, aid to needy Holocaust victims, and to organisations engaged in the research and commemoration of the Holocaust. It was only in recent days that the fund started examining applications from such organisations, and it is thus obvious that the contribution to the Anti Defamation League was not part of the fund.

The League's Jerusalem office confirmed that the organisation received a \$100,000 contribution last year from Generali. It said the moneys are designated for projects relating to efforts by Italians to rescue Jews during the Holocaust, as part of the League's activity in that context. The organisation said it had no problem with accepting the contribution in general or receiving it under present circumstances in particular.

*Published by Israel's Business Arena January 21, 1999*

OFFICERS OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMISSION

NATIONAL CHAIR  
GLEN S. LEWY

NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
ABRAHAM H. FOXMAN

PAST NATIONAL CHAIRS  
BARBARA B. BALSER  
HOWARD P. BERKOWITZ  
KENNETH J. BIALKIN  
MAXWELL E. GREENBERG  
BURTON M. JOSEPH  
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GENERAL COUNSEL  
BETTY B. ROBBINS



February 4, 2008

The Honorable Barney Frank  
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services  
US House of Representatives  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-2104

Dear Chairman Frank:

We are writing to express the view that House Resolution 1746, the Holocaust Insurance Claims Accountability Act, is not necessary and undermines the credibility of efforts by the U.S. government, and many non-government organizations to resolve these problems.

Over recent years, culminating in the agreement Concerning Holocaust Era Insurance claims on October 16, 2002, there have been a series of hands-on steps to make sure that all Holocaust survivors who have insurance claims receive a measure of justice.

In addition to all the claims that have already been recognized and for which monies have been dispersed, the ICHEIC also has made clear that its "member companies intend to continue to address inquiries that are sent to a specific company and will honor legitimate claims." Such cases, which we understand to date are few in number, are and will be handled in a serious fashion.

It is therefore our belief that the agreements which were comprehensive in nature and which were supported by many of the most outspoken institutions on behalf of Holocaust survivors, including State Insurance Commissioners, members of the Administration, and major Jewish organizations, should be respected and continue to be the foundation for resolving any future claims.

HR 1746, as we noted, is unnecessary and does not serve the needs of Holocaust survivors nor the interest of the credibility of agreements on these matters of great sensitivity.

Sincerely,

Abraham H. Foxman  
National Director



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**WHAT WE'RE SAYING**

[AJC Praises New EU Sanctions Against Iran](#)

[AJC Urges Removal of UN Rapporteur Richard Falk](#)

**OPINION & ANALYSIS**

[David Harris Blog on Huffington Post: Spain's Pro-Israel Tag Team](#)

[Kenneth Bandler on FOXNews.com: Why Isn't Anyone Pointing Fingers at Hamas?](#)

[David Harris Op-Ed in IHT: Secrets of a Disappointed Life](#)

[Ben Cohen on Huffington Post: The Hezbo\(ti\)lla](#)

[AJC Op-Ed in the Daily Pilot: MSU's Suspension Warranted](#)

**OUTREACH**

President Obama re-appointed Felice Gaer, Director of AJC's Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, to the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom. Gaer has served on the commission since 2001... AJC's Women's Campaign hosted a sold-out conversation with Ayaan Hirsi Ali, author of *Nomad*... A group of young U.S. Jews are visiting Germany on a joint AJC-Allianz program, sponsored by the German insurance giant.

**IN THE MEDIA**

[The Jerusalem Post](#) quoted David Harris on the resignation of Israel's Ambassador to the U.N. Gabriela Shalev... Harris' op-ed, "Spain's Pro-Israel Tag Team" was also picked up by the [Latin American Herald Tribune](#)... Harris' previous op-eds were also picked up and published in [J Weekly](#), the Jewish Weekly of Northern California and in Uruguay's leading paper, [La](#)

**FEATURED AUDIO**

[AJC Radio Message: Gilad Shalit Held 4 Years Too Long](#)



**IN THE MEDIA (cont.)**

[JTA](#) quoted Jason Isaacson, AJC Director of Government and International Affairs, about U.S. – Turkish relations... Director of Russian Jewish Community Affairs Sam Kliger quoted in [New York Jewish Week](#) about ties between Bukharian Jews and Muslims in Queens, New York... [Haaretz](#) quoted Alex Weininger, AJC Public Relations Associate, on AJC's decision to meet with Turkish officials in Washington... Boston' Regional Office Director Rob Leikind was cited by the [Associated Press](#) regarding a Massachusetts ballot initiative focusing on Israel's marriage and immigration laws... Director of Communications for AJC's Los Angeles Regional Office Eli Lipmen contributed to an op-ed in the [LA Jewish Journal](#) on the importance of a viable transportation system in LA to becoming energy independent... [New York Jewish Week](#) profiled two ACCESS leaders in a piece about emerging Jewish leaders called "36



**Allianz-AJC**  
**Third Generation Initiative**  
 IN AFFILIATION WITH GERMANY CLOSE UP

**Berlin and Munich**

**June 19-27, 2010**

AJC and Allianz SE, Germany's largest insurance company and a charter member of the German Foundation Initiative, are joining together in a 5-year groundbreaking cooperation to bring young American Jewish professionals in cooperation with Germany Close Up to Germany for high level discussions with government representatives, business leaders, scholars, and leaders of the German Jewish community and intensive interaction with peers working at Allianz.

Join us for this unique 8-day experience which will focus on the German past and present and challenges and opportunities in the German-Jewish relationship today and in the future. Participants will be encouraged to become active participants in the ongoing German-Jewish relationship.

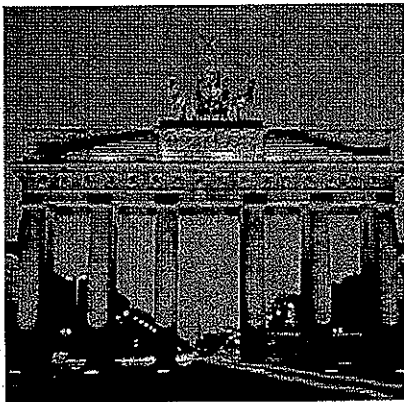
**Cost:** \$400 (includes international travel, hotel, and most meals on the ground in Germany)

**Eligibility:** Must live in NY or DC metro areas and must be between 22 and 35

**Application:** available at [www.ajc.org/access](http://www.ajc.org/access)

**Deadline:** March 1, 2010

For more information and application: [global@ajc.org](mailto:global@ajc.org)



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- Interact with Germany's Jewish community
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**Returning Home**

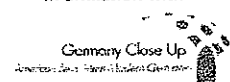
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September 13, 2008

## **Allianz Drops Bid for Naming Rights**

By **RICHARD SANDOMIR**

The Giants and the Jets said Friday that they had ended talks with Allianz, a German-based insurance company with connections to the Third Reich, about selling the naming rights to the \$1.6 billion stadium they are building in the Meadowlands.

The decision came after two days of largely negative reaction to the possibility of a deal with Allianz, which insured facilities at Auschwitz and other concentration camps, and which deprived many Jewish customers of the proceeds from their insurance policies.

The New York Times first reported about the talks between Allianz and the teams on Sept. 1 and provided details of the company's history Wednesday. Mark Lamping, the president of the teams' joint venture, New Meadowlands Stadium, informed Allianz on Friday morning that the discussions were over.

Lamping said in an interview: "We paid very close attention to what people were saying this week. Whether those opinions were expressed directly to us, or through the media, we paid attention and was one of many factors that went into our decision."

But he would not say why the teams entered into negotiations with Allianz knowing of its Nazi-era dealings and the potential that people in the New York market, which includes many Jews and Holocaust survivors, might be offended.

"We gained a real understanding of the depth of the issues in the community," he said.

Lamping and Sabia Schwarzer, an Allianz spokeswoman, stressed that there had never been a final deal for Allianz to pay \$25 million a year for the naming rights.

In fact, Schwarzer said, Allianz's board decided Tuesday that it was "too early to decide on such a big financial commitment, that it was too large and it wanted more time to consider it."

She said she had been told that the board's tentative judgment, after more than a month of talks, was conveyed Wednesday to the Tisch family. She did not say which of the Tisches, who own half of the Giants, received the call. Lamping said he had not been told of Allianz's decision.

Schwarzer played down the impact of the criticism of the potential deal, saying the criticism had not yet begun when the Allianz board expressed its need to spend more time evaluating the financial commitment.

She said that the company and the teams expected some of the anti-Allianz reaction, if not the volume, which included a cartoon in The Daily News that depicted a football stadium with a swastika on it.

"The families had done a thorough due diligence," she said, referring to the teams' owners. "We knew it was a concern for them, knowing what Allianz had done in the past. The families said, 'You're a German company, so let's talk about World War II.' It's not like we didn't have a clue. But it's regrettable that it happened this way."

Schwarzer's version of events differs from that of an executive working for the teams who was briefed on conversations between an Allianz board member and the teams' owners. That executive, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the conversations, said that on Wednesday the board member, Joachim Faber, called Steve Tisch, the chairman of the Giants; John Mara, the Giants' president and co-owner; and Woody Johnson, the Jets' owner, to convey his optimism that a deal would be completed.

So if Allianz's enthusiasm — if not a signed deal — was known to the teams, was the public reaction to its connections to the Nazis the final blow to the discussions?

“We didn't isolate it that way,” Lamping said. “We looked at the collection of all the factors, including assessing where we were in the negotiations.”

There is no deadline for signing a naming-rights deal for the stadium, which is scheduled to open in 2010.

The reaction to Allianz's talks with the teams reflects the continuing debate about whether the German government and German companies have given victims of the Holocaust and their families adequate apologies and restitution.

“Allianz has gone a long way to atone, and one can forgive, but one cannot forget,” said Abraham H. Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League. He said the teams' decision to end the talks with Allianz “indicates they are listening to their neighborhood, to their families, to the families of World War II survivors.”