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Holocaust-Era Assets: A Guide for Filing Claims and a List of Compensation Programs

Updated August 15, 2000

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Holocaust-Era Assets: A Guide for Filing Claims and a List of Compensation Programs

Summary

This report provides the addresses, fax, and telephone numbers (including e-mail and Internet sites when available) of the major private and governmental organizations that are currently assisting with claims, compensation, and restitution of Holocaust-era assets (artworks, bank accounts, insurance claims, property, etc.). Included is information on the recently established German compensation fund for forced and slave laborers. These sources should be contacted directly for copies of claims forms and additional information.

Related reports on this topic include the following:

CRS Report 98-699, *Holocaust Survivor and Heir Lawsuits to Recover Swiss Bank Deposits*;

CRS Report RL30381, *Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims: Background and Issues*;

CRS Report RL30262, *The Holocaust—Recovery of Assets from World War II: A Chronology (May 1995 to Present)*.

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Holocaust-Era Assets: A Guide for Filing Claims and a List of Compensation Programs

This report is a guide for Holocaust survivors, their heirs, and other claimants in the United States who are interested in obtaining the necessary forms for filing claims for assets lost or stolen during the Second World War. Directly below is a table listing the various organizations and their compensation and/or restitution programs. An alphabetical listing follows this table. Listed are the various private and governmental organizations assisting with Holocaust-era claims for stolen or looted assets such as works of art; dormant bank accounts in Swiss and other European banks; unpaid insurance claims by European insurance companies; property restitution in the United Kingdom and in Eastern Europe; and compensation for forced/slave labor in Nazi-run industries. In addition, governments such as Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and other nations have established national funds or restitution programs that are listed below.

Table 1. Compensation and Restitution

General— Hardship or National Funds	Art Works	Bank Accounts	Insurance	Labor— Forced and Slave	Property and Real Estate
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	Art Loss Register	Austrian Bank Claims	Allianz Insurance Group	Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld, and Toll	American Jewish Committee Research
Austrian National Fund	Commission for Art Recovery	Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld, and Toll	Assicurazioni Generali	German Foundation Initiative (a.k.a. the German Remembrance Fund)	Enemy Property Scheme for the United Kingdom
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, a.k.a. “Claims Conference”	Holocaust Art Restitution Project	Holocaust Claims Processing Office, New York State Banking Department	California Holocaust Insurance Settlement Alliance	Polish American Congress	United Restitution Organization

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General— Hardship or National Funds	Art Works	Bank Accounts	Insurance	Labor— Forced and Slave	Property and Real Estate
Claims Conference Article 2 Fund	The Netherlands	The Netherlands	Florida Department of Insurance	Siemens AG	--
Claims Conference Hardship Fund	Polish American Congress	Pennsylvania Treasury Department’s Holocaust Assets Recovery	Holocaust Claims Processing Office, New York State Banking Department	Volkswagen Fund for Former Forced Laborers	--
France’s Mattéoli Commission	Swiss Bureau on Looted Art	Simon Wiesenthal Center	International Commission on Holocaust Insurance Claims	--	--
German Compensation Fund for Non- Jewish Victims	--	Swiss Bank Accounts— Ernst & Young	The Netherlands	--	--
Holocaust Claims Processing Office, New York State Banking Department	--	Swiss Bank Settlement	Pennsylvania Treasury Department’s Holocaust Assets Recovery	--	--
The Netherlands	--	--	Simon Wiesenthal Center	--	--

Organizations Assisting with Holocaust-Era Claims

For guidance and updates on where and how to seek reparations, contact the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (a.k.a. “Claims Conference”) listed below. The Claims Conference has issued a comprehensive *Restitution Guide* for additional compensation and restitution programs in the United States and worldwide.

Allianz Insurance Group—There is no address listed in the United States but they do provide a 24-hour, multilingual help line for claimants seeking recovery of payments from property, casualty, and life insurance policies from this German company at 1-800-411-0118, or by contacting the International Commission on Holocaust Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) at 1-800-496-1974.

American Jewish Committee Research Department—For information on the restitution of Jewish property in Central and Eastern Europe, and a listing of German companies that used forced and slave laborers.

American Jewish Committee Research Department
165 East 56th Street
New York, NY 10022-2746
Tel: (212) 751-4000
Internet at [<http://www.ajc.org>]

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC)—For restitution for needy Holocaust victims in the United States who resided in the former Eastern Bloc during and after World War II. Compensation was made available from the “International Fund for Needy Victims of Nazi Persecution” created at the London Nazi Gold Conference, December 1997.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
711 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10017-4014
Tel: (212) 687-6200
Fax: (212) 682-7262
E-mail: info@jdcny.org

Art Loss Register—Regarding stolen or missing art contact:

The Art Loss Register
666 Fifth Avenue, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10103
Tel: (212) 262-4831
Fax: (212) 262-4838
E-mail: alrnewyork@aol.com
Internet at: [<http://www.artloss.com>]

Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A. (Italy’s largest insurance company)—For application forms to file insurance claims or to request archival research.

Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A.
Policy Information Center
45 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 200
New York, NY 10111-0100
Tel: 1-800-456-8174

Austrian Bank Claims—For dormant account claims in Austrian banks. The deadline for filing a claim was May 31, 2000. For questions regarding status of claims submitted contact the following:

Austrian Bank Holocaust Litigation
c/o Plaintiffs Class Counsel
P.O. Box 1650
Philadelphia, PA 19105-1650 USA

E-mail: questions@austrianbankclaims.com
Internet at: [<http://www.austrianbankclaims.com>]

Austrian National Fund for the Victims of National Socialism—Created in 1995 by the Austrian government to provide onetime payments of 70,000 Austrian Schillings (about \$6,000) to victims of Nazi persecution. Applications for compensation in the United States are made through the Austrian Embassy.

Mrs. Ingrid Richardson
Consular Attache for Legal and Social Security Affairs
Embassy of Austria
3524 International Court, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008-3035

Tel: (202) 895-6719
Fax: (202) 895-6772
E-mail: austroinfo@austria.org
Internet at: [<http://www.austria.org>]

Belarus—For citizens and current residents, Jewish and non-Jewish, for compensation for forced labor.

Belarusian Republican Foundation for “Mutual Understanding and Reconciliation” Minsk, Belarus

Fax: 375-172-32113

California Holocaust Insurance Settlement Alliance—For California residents filing Holocaust-era claims against European insurance companies.

Holocaust Insurance Claims
ATTN: Leslie Tick, Senior Staff Counsel
45 Fremont Street, 23rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Tel: 1-888-234-4636
or (415) 538-4190
Fax: (415) 904-5896
Internet at: [<http://www.insurance.ca.gov>]

Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll—Washington, D.C., based law firm. For information on the \$1.25 billion lawsuit against Swiss banks on dormant war-era bank accounts and litigation on World War II-era slave laborers.

Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll, P.L.L.C.
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 500, West Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005

Tel: (202) 408-4600
Fax: (202) 408-4699
E-mail at lawinfo@cmht.com
Internet at: [<http://www.cmht.com>]

Commission for Art Recovery of the World Jewish Congress (CAR)—For claims forms contact:

Commission for Art Recovery
767 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4600
New York, NY 10153

Tel: (212) 521-0102
Fax: (212) 319-8681
E-mail: car@rslmgmt.com
Internet at: [<http://www.wjc-artrecovery.org>]

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc. (a.k.a. “Claims Conference”). Its Web site has a comprehensive Restitution Guide.

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
15 East 26th Street, Suite 906
New York, NY 10010

Tel: (212) 696-4944
Fax: (212) 679-2126
E-mail: claimscon@aol.com
Internet at: [<http://www.claimscon.org/RestitutionGuide.html>]

Claims Conference Article 2 Fund—This fund was created in 1993 to compensate Jewish victims in the former East Germany after the reunification of Germany. This decision was formalized in Article 2 of the “Agreement on the Enactment and Interpretation of the Unification Treaty” of September 18, 1990, that unified Germany. Jewish victims of Nazi persecution are eligible if they:

- 1) were 6 months or longer in a concentration camp or 18 months or longer in a ghetto or 18 months or longer in hiding; and
- 2) received no more than DM 10,000 in previous compensation; and
- 3) currently live under difficult financial circumstances.

If eligible, compensation is a lifetime pension in the amount of DM 500 per month.

Claims Conference Article 2 Fund
15 East 26th Street, Room 906
New York, NY 10010

Tel: (212) 696-4944
Fax: (212) 679-2126
E-mail: info@claimscon.org

Claims Conference Hardship Fund—Applications for compensation under the Hardship Fund are still being accepted. Compensation is available to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who have received no previous compensation and currently live under difficult financial conditions. Compensation under the Hardship Fund consists of a one-time payment of DM 5000.

Claims Conference Hardship Fund
15 East 26th Street, Room 906
New York, NY 10010

Tel: (212) 696-4944
Fax: (212) 679-2126
E-mail: info@claimscon.org

Czech Republic—For citizens and current residents, Jewish and non-Jewish, for compensation for forced labor.

Czech-German Future Fund
Prague, Czech Republic

Fax: 420-2-83850-503

Denmark—A fund created by the Danish government for former citizens of Denmark who suffer from a physical disability as a result of persecution during the Nazi occupation, or as a result of incarceration in concentration camps.

Royal Danish Consulate General
One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
885 Second Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 223-4545
Fax: (212) 754-1904
E-mail: information@denmark.org
Internet at: [<http://www.denmark.org>]

Enemy Property Payment Scheme (United Kingdom)—During World War II, the British government confiscated property in the United Kingdom belonging to residents of countries that were at war with Britain and her allies. Unfortunately, some of the property confiscated belonged to victims of the Holocaust and was not returned to the rightful owners after the war. For information contact:

Enemy Property Claims-FRM2	Tel: 44-171-215-3485
118 #10 Victoria St.	Fax: 44-171-215-3487
10 Victoria Street	E-mail address: property.enemy@frmd.dti.gov.uk
London SW1H 0ET	Internet at: [http://www.enemyproperty.gov.uk]
United Kingdom	

Florida Department of Insurance—For claims by Florida residents against European insurance companies. For information on filing a claim contact:

Florida Department of Insurance	Tel: (850) 488-6129
Holocaust Victims Project	Fax: (850) 413-4136
ATTN: Karen Asher Cohen, General Deputy Counsel	
200 East Gaines Street	
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4205	

Forced and Slave Labor—After nearly 2 years of intense negotiations, a compensation fund was officially signed on July 17, 2000, in Berlin by representatives of Germany, the United States, Israel, and several East European nations establishing the German Foundation, “Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future.” For background information on the German Remembrance Fund, consult its Internet site at [<http://www.stiftungsinitiative.de/eindex.html>]. One-time payments to surviving laborers are expected later this year. Please note: The heirs of both forced and slave labor victims who died after February 15, 1999, are also eligible to file a claim. Claimants who qualify as forced laborers will receive \$2,500 each, and those who qualify as slave laborers will receive \$7,500 each.

For application and distribution information for surviving Jewish laborers in the United States and worldwide, contact the following:

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany	Tel: (212) 696-4944
15 East 26 th Street, Room 906	Fax: (212) 679-2126
New York, NY 10010	E-mail: info@claimscon.org

For application and distribution information for non-Jewish victims in the United States and worldwide (*except* Poland, Russia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which are listed separately by country) contact:

International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Tel : (202) 862-1826
Slave and Forced Labor Compensation Project	Fax : (202) 862-1879

1752 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

E-mail: compensation@iom.int

Internet at: [<http://www.compensation-for-forced-labour.org>]

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Project for Payments to Former Nazi Slave and Forced Workers

17 Route des Morillons, C.P. 71

Tel: 011-41-22-7179235

CH-1211 Geneva 19

Fax: 011-41-22-7986150

Switzerland

E-mail: compensation@iom.int

For information on separate funds that offer compensation to former laborers in factories owned by Siemens and Volkswagen, contact them at:

Siemens AG

Tel: 49-89-636-32353

Humanitärer Hilfsfonds

Fax: 49-89-636-33582

(Humanitarian Relief Fund for Former Forced Laborers)

Postfach 10 12 12

E-mail: humanitaerer.hilfsfonds@siemens.de

Munich 80088, Germany

Volkswagen Fund for Former Forced Laborers

KPMG Deutsche

Fax: 49-69-9587-3333

Treuhand-Gesellschaft AG

Postfach 550350

60402 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

France's Mattéoli Commission—Created in 1995 by the French government to investigate the confiscation of Jewish assets in France. Inquiries regarding claims of individual assets by former Jewish citizens of France should contact:

Mission d'Étude sur la Spoliation des Juifs de France

Tel: 33-1-45-05-1441

1 rue de la Faisanderie

Fax: 33-1-45-05-1430

75016 Paris, France

German Compensation to Non-Jewish Victims of Nazi Persecution—A separate government program for victims of Nazi persecution who were not Jewish at the time of their persecution and therefore not eligible for any of the funds administered by the Claims Conference. For eligibility requirements and additional information contact:

Bezirkregierung Köln

Tel: 49-221-147-2315

Widergutmachung- Dezernat 37.7

Fax: 49-221-147 3331

Zeughausstr. 2-10

50667 Köln, Germany

Holocaust Art Restitution Project (HARP)—For stolen or missing art contact:

Holocaust Art Restitution Project (HARP)

Tel: (202) 857-9260

B'nai B'rith National Jewish Museum

Internet at: [<http://lostart.org>]

1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036-3278

Holocaust Claims Processing Office, New York State Banking Department — For filing claims for dormant bank accounts, insurance, and information on additional claims contact them at:

New York State Banking Department
Holocaust Claims Processing Office
2 Rector Street
New York, NY 10006

Tel: 1-800-695-3318 or (212) 618-6983
Fax: (212) 618-6908
E-mail: claimsques@banking.state.ny.us
Internet at: [<http://claims.state.ny.us>]

International Commission on Holocaust Insurance Claims (ICHEIC)—For World War II-era insurance claims, contact the address and telephone number listed below. Please note: Residents of California, Florida, New York, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania should contact their state insurance commissioners directly for updates.

TNT International Mail
LHR / LCY / 690547 / 001
Int. Antwoordnummer
C.C.R.I Numero 5120
3000 VB Rotterdam
Pays - Bas
Nederland

Tel: 1-800-957-3203
Internet at: [<http://www.ICHEIC.org>]

The Netherlands—The Jewish community in the Netherlands has established a claims registration office for assets including Dutch bank accounts, insurance, and looted art.

Centraal Meldpunt Joodese Oorlogsclaims
Postbus 12969
1100 AZ Amsterdam, Netherlands

Tel: 31-20-416-7596
Fax: 31-20-416-5915
E-mail: meldout@cjo.nl

Pennsylvania Treasury Department's Holocaust Assets Recovery—“A Search for Justice” Web site assists anyone from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with reason to believe that assets deposited in Swiss banks between January 1, 1933, and May 9, 1945, belonging to them or a relative to which they are an heir are urged to contact this office. Persons with claims on insurance policies issued by a European insurance company should also contact this office. No address was provided.

Tel: 1-800-379-3999 or (717) 705-2959
Internet at: [<http://www.treasury.state.pa.us/DefaultASearch.html>]

Poland—For citizens and current residents, Jewish and non-Jewish, for compensation for forced labor.

Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation
Warsaw, Poland

Fax: 48-22-629-5278

Polish American Congress (PAC)—For information on lost art works in Poland, and claims forms for compensation for slave/forced labor in German industries. Access to the electronic document *Wartime Losses, Polish Painting, Oil Paintings, Pastels, and Watercolors, Lost between 1939-1945* by the PAC and the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., is available via the Internet at:
[<http://www.polamcon.org/lostart>]. For further information, contact:

Attn: Boguslaw M. Majewski
Embassy of Poland
2640 16th Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20009

Telephone: (202) 234 3800
Fax: (202) 328-6271
Email: embpol@telcocom.com

Attn: Joseph Bulat, Legal Counsel
Forced Labor Compensations
Polish American Congress/PNA
6100 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60646

Telephone: (773) 763-9944
Fax: (773) 286-0842

Russia—For citizens and current residents, Jewish and non-Jewish, for compensation for forced labor.

Russian-German Foundation for “Understanding and Reconciliation”
Moscow, Russia

Fax: 7-95-203-0450

Simon Wiesenthal Center—For information on dormant bank accounts in Britain, France, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as Holocaust-era insurance policies, contact them at the address below or visit their Web site “Holocaust Assets” for information on how to obtain copies of the various claims forms. Information on insurance claims made in California against European insurers is also located at this Web site.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center
9760 West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90035

Tel: 1-800-900-9036

Internet at: [<http://www.wiesenthal.com/swiss/index.html>]

Swiss Bank Settlement—The toll-free number for information on the \$1.25 billion Swiss Bank Settlement is available in English and Hebrew.

Tel: 1-888-635-5483

Internet at: [<http://www.swissbankclaims.com>]

Swiss Bureau on Looted Art

Contact Bureau on Looted Art
ATTN: Dr. Andrea F.G. Raschèr
Hallwylstr. 15
CH-3003 Berne, Switzerland

Tel: 41-31-322-03-25
Fax: 41-31-322-92-73
E-mail: andrea.rascher@bak.admin.ch

Swiss Embassy—For information on additional compensation programs not listed.

Embassy of Switzerland
2900 Cathedral Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Tel: (202) 745-7900
Fax: (202) 387-2564
Internet at: [<http://www.swissemb.org>]

Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust/Shoah—This fund was created in 1997 by the Swiss Federal Council to assist needy victims in the United States, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union. New applications are no longer being accepted. On February 26, 1999, checks of \$502 each were mailed to accepted applicants. The notification letters to those applicants who did not meet the eligibility criteria were also mailed on that date. Final judgment on disputed claims was made in August 1999.

Ukraine—For citizens and current residents, Jewish and non-Jewish, for compensation for forced labor.

Ukrainian National Foundation for “Understanding and Reconciliation”

Kiev, Ukraine

Fax: 38-44-224-6555

United Restitution Organization—Provides legal assistance for individuals in claims against Germany, including information on property restitution in Eastern Europe (excluding the former East Germany) for a nominal fee.

United Restitution Organization
570 7th Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10018

Tel: (212) 921-3860
Fax: (212) 575-1918

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum—Provides information on the various compensation plans by country and by type of asset at their Internet site.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Tel: (202) 488-0400
Internet at: [<http://www.ushmm.org/assets/index.html>]