

# **Worldwide Investigation and Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals**

**(April 1, 2015– March 31, 2016)**

**An Annual Status Report**

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**Snider Social Action Institute**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. During the period under review, the country in which the most significant practical progress and achievements in prosecuting Nazi war criminals were recorded was Germany. This is clearly the result of the dramatic change instituted several years ago vis-à-vis suspected Holocaust perpetrators who served in death camps or Einsatzgruppen, who can now be successfully convicted of accessory to murder based on service alone. Previously, prosecutors had to be able to prove that a suspect had committed a specific crime against a specific victim and that the crime had been motivated by racial hatred to be able to bring a case to court. Besides Germany, there were ongoing investigations against Holocaust perpetrators as of March 31, 2016 in several additional countries such as Italy, Denmark, the United States, Poland and apparently Canada, and the number of ongoing investigations has almost doubled during the past year.

2. During the period from April 1, 2015 until March 31, 2016, one conviction was obtained, and two indictments were filed in Germany against individuals who had served in the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

3. From January 1, 2001 until March 31, 2016, 103 Nazi perpetrators have been convicted in court with the majority of those successes achieved in Italy (46) and the United States (39). Those countries also filed the majority of the 101 indictments submitted against Nazi criminals during the same period.

4. While significant progress was achieved primarily in Germany, other countries have failed to attain any results whatsoever during the period under review. These countries, which have received a failing grade (F), have been divided into two different categories: F-1 for those countries which in principle are unable to prosecute Nazi war criminals - Norway and Sweden (statutes of limitations) and F-2 for those countries which are able, at least in theory, to take legal action against Holocaust perpetrators and had practical opportunities to do so, but have failed to achieve any positive results during the period under review. The reasons for the failing grade awarded to each country are explained in the report.

## **INTRODUCTION**

As time passes since the crimes of the Holocaust were committed, it would appear that the chances of successfully bringing Nazi war criminals to justice are rapidly diminishing, but in fact that is not the case everywhere. Despite the passage of more than seven decades since the end of World War II, the efforts to hold Holocaust perpetrators accountable in Germany have been renewed with a significant measure of success and there is potential for additional achievements in the immediate future.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center views the facilitation of the investigation and prosecution of Nazi war criminals as an important part of its international agenda. Over the past more than three decades, the Center has carried out extensive research in numerous countries to identify Nazi war criminals, document their crimes, trace their postwar escape and ascertain their current whereabouts in order to assist in bringing them to justice. It has also energetically lobbied various governments which have been reluctant to prosecute Holocaust perpetrators, and has sought to convince them of the importance of bringing such criminals to trial. The Center has also exposed the rehabilitations granted to Nazi war criminals in several East European countries and has played a role in the cancellation of dozens of these pardons.

The Center's experience has clearly shown that the existence of political will to bring Nazi war criminals to justice is an absolute prerequisite for the successful prosecution of Holocaust perpetrators. In that respect, the results achieved in this field are often just as much a function of the existent political climate, as of the strength of the evidence available against the suspects in question.

Starting in 2002, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has published an annual report to document the investigation and prosecution of Nazi war criminals worldwide as a public service designed to focus attention on the issue, chronicle its development, and encourage all the governments involved to maximize their efforts to bring as many unprosecuted Holocaust perpetrators as possible to justice. The date chosen for publicizing the primary findings of the report is Yom Ha-Shoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day) as designated by the State of Israel, which this past year was observed on May 5, 2016. In that respect, the Center has always believed that the prosecution of the perpetrators of the Holocaust is one of the most fitting means of commemorating those annihilated by the Nazis. Famed Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal often

noted his sense of personal obligation toward the victims of the Holocaust to do his utmost to maximize the number of Nazi war criminals forced to pay for their crimes. Needless to say, such trials also play an important role in educating the public about the Holocaust, preserving its memory and helping to combat Holocaust denial and distortion, contemporary anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia.

\* \* \*

The figures and statistics which appear in this report were primarily provided by the special agencies dealing with this issue in each country, not all of which were willing to provide the pertinent data. We have tried to the best of our ability to point to various problems and lacunae in the information supplied. The Center welcomes any pertinent information, comments and/or suggestions relating to the contents of the report, which can be mailed or faxed (972-2-563-1276) to our Jerusalem office or sent by email to [swcjerus@netvision.net.il](mailto:swcjerus@netvision.net.il). This report in its entirety will be posted on our website [www.operationlastchance.org](http://www.operationlastchance.org)

Dr. Efraim Zuroff

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## **THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: APRIL 1, 2015 – MARCH 31, 2016**

In attempting to record and analyze the worldwide efforts to investigate and prosecute Nazi war criminals during a specific time period, there are four major criteria which have to be taken into account:

1. the number of “convictions” (including denaturalizations, deportations and extraditions) obtained;
2. the number of indictments filed;
3. the number of investigations initiated;
4. the number of ongoing investigations.

The most dramatic developments during the period under review were the direct result of the new prosecution policy implemented by the German judicial authorities in the wake of the conviction in Munich of Sobibor SS guard Ivan Demjanjuk as an accessory to murder in May 2011. Based on that decision, the German Zentrale Stelle decided to investigate all the hitherto unprosecuted persons who had served in any of the six Nazi death camps (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Belzec, Chelmno, Sobibor and Majdanek) or in Einstazgruppe (mobile killing units) A, B, C, and D, which operated in the territories of the Soviet Union.

The results achieved during the period under review were quite significant, and included the conviction of Auschwitz operative Oskar Groening in July 2015, the beginning of the trial of Auschwitz guard Reinhold Hanning in February 2016, and the filing of two additional indictments, as well as the launching of more than a dozen new investigations of individuals who served in the Auschwitz or Majdanek death camps.

In other respects, the past year was very similar to its predecessor. As usual, the critical importance of political will in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice was increasingly evident. Once again, the results clearly indicate that the chances of successful prosecutions in countries reluctant to bring Holocaust perpetrators to justice are minimal or nonexistent. This is particularly evident in post-Communist Eastern Europe, where despite the increased worldwide interest and awareness regarding the Holocaust, the dismemberment of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe, all of which have helped create numerous new



opportunities for the prosecution of Holocaust perpetrators in the countries in which the crimes of the Shoa were committed, little progress has been made. (These developments have also facilitated prosecution in the overseas countries which granted a haven to East European Nazi collaborators.) Unfortunately, relatively few countries have made an effort to exploit the far greater access to Eastern European archives and witnesses and the renewed interest in the crimes of the Shoa, to launch a serious effort to maximize the prosecution of Holocaust perpetrators. In fact, even those post-Communist countries which have initiated programs to bring Nazi war criminals to justice, have rarely been able to achieve significant successes.

Thus during the period under review, not a single conviction was obtained in Eastern Europe. And while the lack of results achieved to some extent reflects the objective difficulties involved in the criminal prosecution of crimes committed several decades previously, there is no doubt that the absence of political will to pursue such cases remains a major obstacle to greater success, particularly in the Baltics and in countries like Romania, Ukraine, and Belarus.

In fact, during the past eighteen years, only five Eastern European post-Communist countries took any legal measures whatsoever against local Nazi war criminals, and most of them were ultimately unsuccessful, in many cases due to a lack of political will. Thus, for example, at the request of the Lithuanian government, its Genocide and Resistance Research Center prepared a list of 2,055 Lithuanian Holocaust perpetrators which was submitted to the authorities in 2012, but during the period under review, the names on the list had still not been investigated by prosecutors.

This lack of action characterizes the total failure to date of the Lithuanian legal authorities. Thus none of the three *Saugumas* (Lithuanian Security Police) operatives put on trial, including the two top commanders of the Vilnius district (Aleksandras Lileikis and Kazys Gimžauskas), were ever punished, despite two convictions (one defendant died in the middle of his trial), since the proceedings were only concluded after the suspects were medically unfit to be punished. A Lithuanian request for the extradition of murder squad officer Antanas Gecevičius (Gecas) from Scotland failed due to his demise in the course of the extradition proceedings. Similarly, a Latvian request for the extradition of murder squad officer Konrad Kalejs from Australia was not carried out for the same reason.

Elsewhere in Europe, with the exception of Germany, Italy remains the only country in which the crimes of the Holocaust were committed, which is still actively pursuing Nazi war criminals

with the requisite political will, which explains why it has achieved the most convictions on criminal charges against German and Austrian perpetrators during the past decade.

By contrast, Austria, which in early 2011 established a working group (Forschungstelle Nachkriegsjustiz), to identify alleged Nazi war criminals and to carry out a comprehensive investigation of 526 public court files which relate to Nazi war crimes, again failed to achieve any positive results. Thus the interim report, which was scheduled to be completed by mid-2011 has still not appeared, let alone the final report scheduled for 2012. Such a comprehensive investigation effort was particularly welcome given Austria's consistent failure during the past three decades to bring Holocaust perpetrators to justice. Despite a large number of potential suspects, Austria has not punished a single Nazi war criminal for crimes committed against Jews during the Holocaust in more than thirty years.

Although statutes of limitations on cases of murder exist in many countries, until recently there were only two countries in the Western world which proscribed the prosecution of the crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The countries in question were Norway and Sweden, which therefore refused in principle to investigate, let alone prosecute, Nazi war criminals. On March 7, 2008, Norway finally cancelled the statute of limitations on genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity and in February 2010, Sweden did so as well. Unfortunately those changes were not made retroactive and thus neither country can prosecute Nazi war criminals.

This issue became of practical relevance in Norway during the previous period under review in the wake of an October 2013 interview with Olav Tuff, a Norwegian Waffen-SS veteran who served in the Viking Division on the Eastern front. Tuff related that his unit had committed serious war crimes against the civilian population in Ukraine, but under the existing law, it is impossible to prosecute such crimes in Norway (or in Sweden). During the previous period under review, the Wiesenthal Center initiated a project to identify additional Norwegian perpetrators still alive in order to attempt to convince the Norwegian government to consider changing the law, but those efforts have not hitherto yielded significant results.

Elsewhere in Scandinavia, an important investigation regarding crimes committed in a *Judenlager* in Bobruisk, Belarus by Danish Waffen-SS volunteers was initiated in Denmark following the submission of an official complaint to the police by the author of this report. The complaint was based on the research by Danish historians Dennis Larsen and Therkel Straede in their book *En Skole I Vold* (A School for Violence) which chronicled the murder and deaths of

practically all the 1,500 Jews in the camp while the Danish SS were responsible for discipline and security. Larsen and Straede found one of the guards alive and living in Copenhagen, and additional research commissioned by the Wiesenthal Center revealed a second guard alive and living in Sweden. The investigation had not yet been completed during the period under review.

As far as the countries of refuge are concerned, the only country still actively seeking to hold Nazi war criminals accountable is the United States, which in recent years has faced very serious obstacles in deporting Holocaust perpetrators who had settled in America. Canada (in 1987), Australia (in 1989) and Great Britain (in 1991) all passed special laws to enable criminal prosecution of Nazi war criminals in local courts, but the results achieved in recent years have been minimal. Canada, which in 1994 switched to the "American model" of denaturalization and deportation, initially took successful legal action (denaturalization) against 8 persons (and 2 others voluntarily left the country), but to date not a single person who was stripped of his Canadian citizenship has been successfully deported from the country, a stark contrast to the impressive success achieved by the United States under relatively similar conditions.

As far as Australia and Great Britain are concerned, both countries have closed down their specialized prosecution agencies and it is therefore extremely unlikely that they will be able to obtain any convictions while they continue to insist on prosecuting these suspects on criminal charges. This is particularly true in Australia, where all witnesses in such cases must appear in person, a factor which would make a successful prosecution next to impossible, given the country's geographic distance from the scene of the crimes committed. Another problem encountered in Australia was the 2012 decision of the High Court to refuse to allow the extradition to Hungary of Karoly (Charles) Zentai to face an allegation of murder during the Holocaust. Unless any other cases will be successfully prosecuted in Australia, the refusal to extradite Zentai will have marked the end of the Australian effort to bring Holocaust perpetrators to justice, which can be categorized as a total failure in practical terms, since the Australian judiciary failed to take successful legal action against a single Nazi war criminal living in the country.

In July 2002, the Wiesenthal Center and the Targum Shlishi Foundation of Miami, established by Aryeh Rubin, launched "Operation: Last Chance," a project designed to assist in facilitating the prosecution of Nazi war criminals by offering financial rewards for information which would help bring about their conviction and punishment. The project was originally initiated in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and a year later was expanded to Poland, Romania and Austria. In 2004, it was launched in Croatia and Hungary and in 2005 in Germany. In 2007 it was started in

Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay, and during the previous period under review, it was initiated in Norway.

In the wake of the Demjanjuk conviction by a German court in May 2011 and its potential implications for the increased prosecution of Nazi war criminal in Germany, the Wiesenthal Center and Targum Shlishi launched “Operation: Last Chance II” in Berlin on December 14, 2011. This new project sought to focus on those who served in death camps and in the Einsatzgruppen and who, in the wake of the Demjanjuk precedent, could now be successfully prosecuted in Germany, even if there is no evidence that they committed a specific crime against a specific victim. As a result of this new legal situation, the hitherto biggest obstacle to the prosecution of Nazi war criminals in Germany has been eliminated, making it much easier to successfully bring these Holocaust perpetrators to justice in Germany, than it had been during the previous six decades.

The reward being offered for information on such cases was increased from \$25,000 (US) to 25,000 euros and the conditions for its receipt were made more favorable to the informants. Until now, the rewards in “Operation: Last Chance” were granted only if the suspects brought to our attention were convicted and punished. (Partial rewards of \$5,000 were awarded in the cases of Milivoj Ašner (2004) and Lazslo Csatory (2012) due to exceptional circumstances.) In O:LC II cases, however, an initial reward of 5,000 euros will be awarded if a suspect is indicted, another 5,000 euros will be given if a conviction is obtained, and the informant will receive an additional 100 euros for every day the criminal is incarcerated for the first 150 days of his or her imprisonment.

Prior to the launch of “Operation: Last Chance II,” the Wiesenthal Center had received the names of 605 suspects, 103 of which were submitted to prosecutors, either in the country in which the crime was committed or in the suspect’s country of origin or of current residence. From December 14, 2011 until April 1, 2013, the names of 47 additional suspects were sent to our office, three of which were submitted to prosecutors.

The flow of information regarding potential suspects was greatly increased starting on July 23, 2013, with the launch of a poster campaign in Berlin, Hamburg, and Cologne under the slogan of "Spät aber nicht zu spät" (Late but not too late), which generated an unusually large number of potential leads. Thus during the period from the launch of the poster campaign until a second round of posters went up in seven additional German cities (Frankfurt am Main, Munich, Stuttgart, Nuremberg, Leipzig, Dresden, and Magdeburg) in late November 2013, the Center

received the names of 111 suspects, among them the names of a male guard from Dachau who had admitted that he had committed murder in the camp, and a female guard who served at Auschwitz. The names of these two individuals, and two others were submitted to German prosecutors during that period. From December 2013 until March 31, 2014, several dozen additional names of suspects were recorded but none were deemed worthy for submission to the German judicial authorities.

During the previous period under review, the Center received the names of 24 suspects, most of them Germans or Lithuanians currently living in the United States. Among the names were also those of four Norwegian suspects received after Operation Last Chance was launched in Oslo on December 3, 2014. Two of the suspects were local volunteers who had served with the Waffen-SS in the Ukraine, where there is evidence that Norwegians participated in Holocaust crimes. The other two suspects were alleged to have served in Norwegian concentration camps.

During the period under review, several dozen additional names were received by the Center, but none materialized into official government investigations.

In summation, despite numerous obstacles and difficulties, some progress was made during the period under review in the efforts to bring the perpetrators of the Holocaust to the bar of justice. As time goes by, however, the political dimension of these efforts becomes increasingly problematic, as can clearly be seen by the analysis of the records of the individual countries.

**CONVICTIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS OBTAINED**  
**DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW**

April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016

Germany – 1

On July 15, 2015, Oskar Groening was convicted in Lüneberg of accessory to murder in 300,000 cases, for his service at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp and sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

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Also of note:

On February 11, 2016, the trial of Auschwitz-Birkenau guard Reinhold Hanning began in Detmold. He was charged with 170,000 counts of accessory to murder during his service at the death camp from January 1943 until June 1944.

On February 29, 2016, the trial of Auschwitz-Birkenau medic Hubert Zafke was scheduled to begin in Neubrandenburg, where he was charged with accessory to murder in 3,681 cases during his service in the death camp from August 15 to September 14, 1944. The trial was suspended for medical reasons.

**CONVICTIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS:**  
**COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001-2016**

	1.I.2001 – 31.III.2002	1.IV.2002 – 31.III.2003	1.IV.2003 – 31.III.2004	1.IV.2004 – 31.III.2005	1.IV.2005 – 31.III.2006	1.IV.2006 – 31.III.2007	1.IV.2007 – 31.III.2008	1.IV.2008 – 31.III.2009	1.IV.2009 – 31.III.2010	1.IV.2010 – 31.III.2011	1.IV.2011 – 31.III.2012	1.IV.2012 – 31.III.2013	1.IV.2013 – 31.III.2014	1.IV.2014 – 31.III.2015	1.IV.2015 – 31.III.2016	Total
United States	6	5	7	5	5	6	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	39
Italy	0	0	0	0	10	15	1	6	3	0	9	1	1	0	0	46
Canada	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Germany	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	7
Lithuania	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Poland	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
France	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>103</b>

**NEW CASES FILED DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW**

April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

Germany - 2

1. On July 20, 2015, a youth court in Hanau charged Ernst Tremmel with accessory to murder in 1,276 cases during his service in the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp from November 1942 until June 1944.

2. On September 8, 2015, the district court in Kiel charged Helma Kissner Maas with accessory to murder in 266,390 cases during her service as a radio operator at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp from April to July 1944.



**NEW CASES FILED: COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001 – 2016**

	1.I.2001 – 31.III.2002	1.IV.2002 – 31.III.2003	1.IV.2003 – 31.III.2004	1.IV.2004 – 31.III.2005	1.IV.2005 – 31.III.2006	1.IV.2006 – 31.III.2007	1.IV.2007 – 31.III.2008	1.IV.2008 – 31.III.2009	1.IV.2009 – 31.III.2010	1.IV.2010 – 31.III.2011	1.IV.2011 – 31.III.2012	1.IV.2012 – 31.III.2013	1.IV.2013 – 31.III.2014	1.IV.2014 – 31.III.2015	1.IV.2015 – 31.III.2016	Total
United States	4	10	5	3	2	6	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Italy	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	2	16	2	5	1	0	0	0	33
Germany	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	2	3	2	19
Canada	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Hungary	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Denmark	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lithuania	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Poland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>101</b>

**NEW INVESTIGATIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS**  
**INITIATED DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW**

April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016

Germany <sup>1</sup>	42
Italy <sup>2</sup>	26
Denmark <sup>3</sup>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

<sup>1</sup> In Germany, new investigations were opened against 42 individual suspects in 41 cases.

<sup>2</sup> In Italy 3 new investigations were opened regarding atrocities in:

- a. Oradour sur Glane (France) – against 10 suspects
- b. Kos (Greece) – against 9 suspects
- c. Leros (Greece) – against 7 suspects

<sup>3</sup> The investigations initiated in Denmark relate to suspected war crimes committed by Danish SS volunteers in Bobruisk, Belarus.

**NEW INVESTIGATIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS:**  
**COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001 – 2016**

	1.I.2001 – 31.III.2002	1.IV.2002 – 31.III.2003	1.IV.2003 – 31.III.2004	1.IV.2004 – 31.III.2005	1.IV.2005 – 31.III.2006	1.IV.2006 – 31.III.2007	1.IV.2007 – 31.III.2008	1.IV.2008 – 31.III.2009	1.IV.2009 – 31.III.2010	1.IV.2010 – 31.III.2011	1.IV.2011 – 31.III.2012	1.IV.2012 – 31.III.2013	1.IV.2013 – 31.III.2014	1.IV.2014 – 31.III.2015	1.IV.2015 – 31.III.2016	Total
Poland	48	8	172	306	141	2	142	230	290	409	0	0	X	X	0	1,748
Germany	9	?	9	27	38	22	31	43	130	161	45	30	115	68	42	770
Austria	10	3	60	272	1	0	2	16	24	6	9	13	7	1	0	424
United States	46	16	40	34	27	30	22	5	5	5	6	10	2	0	?	248
Italy	0	56	18	6	2	2	3	21	4	2	1	6	6	0	26	153
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Australia	0	9	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Belgium									1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Canada	?	?	?	?	103	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	?	103
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Croatia	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Denmark	0	0	1	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	13
Estonia	2	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Great Britain	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Hungary	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5
Latvia	0	4	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Lithuania	100	24	18	2	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	150
Romania	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3,696</b>

## ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS AS OF APRIL 1, 2016

Germany <sup>1</sup>	1,163
Poland <sup>2</sup>	324
Italy <sup>3</sup>	8
Lithuania <sup>4</sup>	6
Austria <sup>5</sup>	2
Canada <sup>6</sup>	?
USA <sup>6</sup>	?
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,503</b>

<sup>1</sup> We received confirmation that as of January 1, 2016, at least 43 ongoing investigations were being conducted in Germany against at least 1,163 suspects. The largest number of cases are being investigated by the Zentrale Stelle (13), and the states with the most cases are Baden-Wurttemberg (10) and Hessen (8), while Hessen has the largest number of suspects (1,128). Please note that these are partial figures since three provinces did not provide any data: Mecklenberg-Vorpommern, Nordrhein-Westfalen, and Thuringen.

<sup>2</sup> The investigations are regarding specific cases in which war crimes were committed, and not at this point against specific persons.

<sup>3</sup> All of these investigations are being conducted by the Rome Military Court. The number of suspects in these investigations has not been revealed.

<sup>4</sup> All six cases in Lithuania are currently suspended.

<sup>5</sup> Among the pending cases is one against Alois Brunner (who is certainly deceased) and an additional case against unknown defendants accused of participating in the Nazis' euthanasia program in Tyrol.

<sup>6</sup> The relevant agencies in both Canada and the United States replied that they are forbidden to provide such statistics.

**ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS:**  
**COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001 – 2016**

	April 1, 2002	April 1, 2003	April 1, 2004	April 1, 2005	April 1, 2006	April 1, 2007	April 1, 2008	April 1, 2009	April 1, 2010	April 1, 2011	April 1, 2012	April 1, 2013	April 1, 2014	April 1, 2015	April 1, 2016
United States <sup>1</sup>	175	275	285	246	236	221	216	150	87	76	74	?	?	?	?
Lithuania	110	108	25	21	26	24	17	13	9	?	6	6	6	6	<b>6</b>
Canada	78	67	194	190	255	255	?	180	180	157	19	?	?	?	?
Poland	48	13	350	450	365	333	305	270	316	471	458	500	0	X	<b>324</b>
Germany	27	13	35	46	28	20	30	27	177	582	528	471	680	725	<b>1,163</b>
Great Britain	6	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	X	<b>X</b>
Croatia	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	<b>0</b>
Austria	3	4	27	199	131	83	4	5	28	5	22	5	10	5	<b>2</b>
Latvia <sup>2</sup>	2	5	5	58	53	55	3	1	0	?	0	0	0	X	<b>X</b>
Netherlands	1	0	0	6	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	X	<b>X</b>
Estonia	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	X	<b>0</b>
Costa Rica	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	<b>X</b>
Denmark	0	1	2	11	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Italy	0	0	12	13	5	17	22	52	43	23	0	19	18	18	<b>8</b>
Romania	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	3	0	<b>0</b>
Australia	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>X</b>
Hungary	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	<b>0</b>
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Spain	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	<b>0</b>
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
France	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	<b>X</b>
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	<b>0</b>
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	<b>0</b>
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	X	<b>X</b>
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	X	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>1,328</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>1,503</b>

1. The figure for April 1, 2002 includes only formal investigations, while the figures for subsequent years include formal investigations and preliminary inquiries.
2. Both cases for January 1, 2001 – March 31, 2002 are of persons already deceased. Two of the five cases for April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2003 are of persons deceased.

## **INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION REPORT CARD**

As part of this year's annual status report, we have given grades ranging from A (highest) to F which reflect the Wiesenthal Center's evaluation of the efforts and results achieved by various countries during the period under review.

The grades granted are categorized as follows:

### **Category A: Highly Successful Investigation and Prosecution Program**

Those countries which have adopted a proactive stance on the issue, have taken all reasonable measures to identify the potential suspected Nazi war criminals in the country in order to maximize investigation and prosecution and/or have achieved notable results during the period under review.

### **Category B: Ongoing Investigation and Prosecution Program Which Has Achieved Practical Success**

Those countries which have taken the necessary measures to enable the proper investigation and prosecution of Nazi war criminals and have registered at least one conviction and/or filed one indictment during the period under review and/or actively assisted investigations in other countries.

### **Category C: Minimal Success That Could Have Been Greater, Additional Steps Urgently Required**

Those countries which have failed to obtain any convictions or indictments during the period under review but have either advanced ongoing cases currently in litigation or have opened new investigations, which have serious potential for prosecution.

### **Category D: Insufficient and/or Unsuccessful Efforts**

Those countries which have ostensibly made at least a minimal effort to investigate Nazi war criminals but which failed to achieve any practical results during the period under review. In many cases these countries have stopped or reduced their efforts to deal with this issue long before they could have, and could achieve important results if they were to change their policy.

**Category E: No known suspects**

Those countries in which there are no known suspects and no practical steps have been taken to uncover new cases.

**Category F-1: Failure in principle**

Those countries which refuse in principle to investigate, let alone prosecute, suspected Nazi war criminals because of legal (statute of limitation) or ideological restrictions.

**Category F-2: Failure in practice**

Those countries in which there are no legal obstacles to the investigation and prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals, but whose efforts (or lack thereof) have resulted in complete failure during the period under review, primarily due to the absence of political will to proceed and/or a lack of the requisite resources and/or expertise.

**Category X: Failure to submit pertinent data**

Those countries which did not respond to the questionnaire, but clearly did not take any action whatsoever to investigate suspected Nazi war criminals during the period under review.

A: Germany, United States

B: Italy

C: Denmark, Russia

D: Austria, Canada, Croatia, Hungary, Poland

E: Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain

F-1: Norway, Sweden

F-2: Lithuania, Ukraine

X: Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Great Britain, Latvia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Uruguay



## Category A: Highly Successful Proactive Prosecution Program

1. Germany – The decentralization of the German legal system makes it very difficult to give a grade which accurately reflects the legal situation throughout the Federal Republic. Thus there are states which have been quite active in investigating cases of Nazi war criminals, whereas others have investigated as few as a single case or none at all. And while the significant differences between the states are obviously affected by the number of suspects living in, and the cases assigned to each area, the figures are also related to the performance of local prosecutors and their determination, or lack thereof, to bring Nazi war criminals to justice.

It is fair to say that the period under review was one of the busiest in years for German efforts to bring Nazi war criminals to justice. The primary catalysts for the increased activity were the rapidly expiring time in which such cases can be prosecuted due to the advanced age of the defendants and health concerns, as well as the landmark 2011 conviction of armed SS Sobibor death camp guard Ivan Demjanjuk. That decision was the first case in more than four decades in which a Holocaust perpetrator was convicted, even though no evidence of a specific crime against a specific victim was presented to the court.

This decision had extremely significant implications, since it meant that any person who served in a Nazi death camp or in any of four of the Einsatzgruppen which operated in the areas of the Soviet Union (mobile killing squads A, B, C, and D) could be convicted in Germany of accessory to murder, even if prosecutors had no evidence that the suspect had committed a specific crime. Until now, such cases generally never reached the courts, even though the suspects were active participants in mass murder over extended periods of time. During the period under review, the Zentrale Stelle (Central Office for the Clarification of Nazi war crimes), currently headed by its new director Jens Rommel, continued to pursue the cases of death camp guards with impressive practical results.

First and foremost, Oskar Groening was convicted in Lüneberg on July 15, 2015 for his service at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, and the trial of Auschwitz-Birkenau guard Reinhold Hanning commenced in Detmold on February 11, 2016. A third trial, that of Auschwitz-Birkenau medic Hubert Zafke, which was scheduled to begin in Neubrandenburg on February 29, 2016, was suspended for medical reasons. Thus since the change in German

prosecution policy, Germany has become the undisputed world leader in criminal prosecutions of Holocaust perpetrators.

2. United States – The legal situation in the United States vis-à-vis the prosecution of Nazi war criminals and collaborators is different than that of all other Western countries, with the exception of Canada. Such individuals cannot be prosecuted in the United States for their crimes since they were committed outside the United States and their victims were not American citizens. Faced by this legal dilemma, the US authorities opted for prosecution on civil charges of immigration and naturalization violations committed by concealing their wartime collaboration with the forces of Nazi Germany, when they applied to come to the United States and subsequently to obtain American citizenship.

While this decision made the successful prosecution of these persons more likely to some degree, the legal challenges faced by American prosecutors are still formidable since the burden of proof in these cases is substantially identical to those faced in criminal prosecutions. Thus the results achieved by the Office of Special Investigations (established in 1979) and several years ago renamed the Human Rights and Special Prosecution Section (HRSP) are particularly noteworthy, having to date won cases against 107 Holocaust perpetrators.

During the period under review, the American authorities continued to seek the deportation to Europe of Trawniki concentration camp guard Jakob Palij, but the three countries to which he was ordered deported refused to admit him. In addition, the HRSP provided significant investigative assistance to law enforcement authorities in two European countries regarding 13 persons suspected of participation in Nazi crimes.

## **Category B: Ongoing Prosecution Programs Which Have Achieved Practical Success**

Italy – One of the most positive developments in recent years has been the renewed efforts by Italian military prosecutors to bring to trial German and Austrian perpetrators of crimes against civilians in Italy during World War II. Thus during the years 2005-2014, a total of forty-six Nazi war criminals have been convicted by military prosecutors, by far the highest number achieved anywhere, since the publication of this report was initiated in 2002 to cover the period from January 1, 2001 until March 31, 2002.

It should be noted, however, that unfortunately all of the cases of Nazi war criminals prosecuted in Italy during the past ten years have been conducted in absentia, with not a single suspect present during the proceedings. Efforts by the Italian judicial authorities to obtain the extradition of the suspects, all of whom with two exceptions were German citizens residing in Germany, have hitherto been rejected by the Federal Republic and Austria, which refuse in principle to extradite their citizens. In the wake of this refusal, Italy has requested in several cases that those convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment serve their sentences in Germany. On August 11, 2009, Josef Scheungraber, one of the officers successfully prosecuted in Italy, was convicted in Germany and sentenced to life imprisonment.

During the period under review, the Italian military court in Rome initiated three new major investigations against a total of 27 suspects accused of participation in violent crimes against private citizens or Italian prisoners of war in Oradur sur Glane (France – 10 suspects), Kos (Greece – 9 suspects), and Leros (Greece – 7 suspects).

Unfortunately, to date, there has been no effort to investigate Holocaust crimes in Italy or to examine the role of Italians in the deportation of Italian Jews to Auschwitz.

The establishment of a specialized agency to investigate and prosecute all World War II cases could probably considerably facilitate the expedition and the expansion of the research effort to uncover additional suspects.

**Category C: Minimal Success Which Could Have been Greater; Additional Steps Urgently Required**

Denmark – On July 21, 2015, the author of this report submitted an official complaint to the Danish police against Helmut Rasbol (aka Rasmussen), a Danish SS volunteer living in Copenhagen, who had served in a camp established by the Wehrmacht near Bobruisk, Belarus. Almost all the Jewish inmates of the camp (deportees from the Warsaw Ghetto) were executed or died of the horrific conditions in the camp during the period from October 1942 until May 1943 when the Danish SS volunteers were responsible for the camp's security. Also during the period under review, researchers working for the Wiesenthal Center were able to identify Swedish resident Aksel Andersen as another Danish SS volunteer who served at the camp in Bobruisk.

The investigation was still being conducted by the Danish authorities at the end of March 2016.

Russia – During the period under review, Russia submitted a request for the extradition from Canada of Ukrainian Nazi collaborator Vladimir Katriuk, whom it claimed had participated in the massacre of civilians of different nationalities in the village of Khatyn, Belarus on March 23, 1943. (The Canadian government rejected Russia's extradition request, and Katriuk died in Canada at the age of 93 on May 22, 2015.)

### **Category D: Insufficient and/or Unsuccessful Efforts**

1. Austria – During the period under review, neither of the two new investigations initiated by the Austrian authorities yielded any practical results, since all the suspects were deceased, leaving only two pending inquiries, one against Alois Brunner who is no longer alive and another against unknown perpetrators involved in the Nazis' euthanasia program.

In that respect, mention must be made of the decades-long failure of the Austrian authorities to successfully hold Holocaust perpetrators accountable for their crimes. The fact that for more than thirty years, not a single Nazi war criminal has been punished in an Austrian court, clearly reflects the lack of political will in Vienna to bring those guilty of Holocaust crimes to the bar of justice.

2. Canada – Canada's recent record in dealing with Nazi war criminals has been quite disappointing, having failed to deport a single person who was denaturalized for concealing their Nazi past. Thus during the past 22 years, since the switch was made from prosecution on criminal charges to the application of civil remedies, the Canadian authorities obtained ten denaturalizations against defendants residing in Canada, who in theory should have then been deported. To date, however, not a single one of the eight persons who appealed against the decision (two of the ten denaturalized voluntarily left the country) has been deported, and seven of the eight have since died in Canada. (In addition, six defendants died during the course of the proceedings against them, and three were acquitted.) These disappointing results contrast sharply with the successes consistently registered year after year by the American authorities who also apply civil remedies against Nazi war criminals.

Given the fact that the Holocaust perpetrators who immigrated to both countries very much fit the same geographic and biographical profile, the large discrepancy between the impressive results achieved in the United States and the minimal progress made in Canada should be cause for serious concern and analysis in Ottawa.

3. Croatia – Among the unprosecuted Auschwitz guards discovered alive by the German Zentrale Stelle was Jakob Denzinger who was living in Osijek, Croatia. Denzinger served as a guard at five concentration camps, Auschwitz, Plaszow, Mauthausen, Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald. Upon being informed of the fact that Denzinger was alive and living in Croatia, the Croatian judicial authorities began to investigate the case in 2014, but no discernable progress had been achieved by the time he died during the period under review.

4. Hungary – During the period under review, no progress was made on the last remaining Hungarian case regarding Holocaust crimes, that of Karoly (Charles) Zentai, whose extradition to Hungary was blocked by an Australian court.
  
5. Poland - The record of the Institute of National Memory, the Polish agency entrusted with the prosecution of the crimes committed under the Nazi occupation and Communist rule, is somewhat enigmatic. On the one hand, over the past decade it has opened far more new investigations than any other equivalent agency and as of April 1, 2016 it had 324 ongoing investigations being currently conducted. On the other hand, the only practical results achieved during the past 15 years are relatively disappointing - one conviction (of Chelmno death camp operative Henryk Mania) and one indictment (of Nazi agent Piotr Wieczorek). In that context, it should be noted that an unspecified number of the investigations being carried out by the Institute are against persons who are no longer alive.

**Category E: No Known Suspects**

During the period under review, there were no suspects known to the Wiesenthal Center or to the local authorities, who were either residing in the following countries or had committed Nazi war crimes there during World War II, nor were any practical steps taken in these countries to uncover such potential suspects:

1. Australia
2. Bosnia-Herzegovina
3. Brazil
4. Colombia
5. Czech Republic
6. Estonia
7. Finland
8. France
9. Greece
10. Romania
11. Serbia
12. Slovakia
13. Slovenia
14. Spain

## Category F-1: Failure in Principle

1. Norway – For years, Norway refused in principle to investigate, let alone prosecute, Nazi war criminals due to an existing statute of limitations, which contrary to the situation elsewhere in the Western world with the exception of Sweden, applied not only to murder, but also to genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. On March 7, 2008, however, the Norwegian parliament cancelled the existing statute of limitations on the crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and terrorism. Unfortunately, this development did not change the situation regarding Holocaust crimes, since the amendment to the penal code does not allow for the prosecution of those cases which had already been under statute of limitations when the law was changed. Thus, in principle, Norway still cannot bring Nazi war criminals to justice.

New revelations in recent years regarding war crimes committed by Norwegians, both in Norway as well as in Ukraine, have again pointed to the importance of finding a legal remedy to enable the prosecution of such individuals.

2. Sweden – For years, the Swedish government refused in principle to investigate, let alone prosecute, Nazi war criminals due to a statute of limitations on murder, which was instituted in 1926, and which contrary to the situation elsewhere in the Western world with the exception of Norway, applied also to genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. In February 2010, the Swedish parliament cancelled the statute of limitations in cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, but that step was not made retroactive and therefore does not allow for the prosecution of Holocaust perpetrators. Thus Sweden, like Norway, remains one of the only countries in the civilized world which in principle cannot prosecute Nazi war criminals.



## **Category F-2: Failure in Practice**

1. Lithuania – The Lithuanian government continues to do everything possible to avoid prosecution and punishment of local Holocaust perpetrators. Thus, in 2012, the authorities received a list of 2,055 individuals who had actively participated in the murder of Jews, which was prepared by its own Genocide and Research Center, at the government's request. To this date, none of the names on the list have been investigated by prosecutors, insuring that no legal action will be taken against local Nazi war criminals.
2. Ukraine – Since it obtained independence from the Soviet Union, Ukraine has, to the best of our knowledge, never conducted a single investigation of a local Nazi war criminal, let alone prosecuted a Holocaust perpetrator. It has also hitherto refused to admit Ukrainian Nazi war criminals who were ordered deported from the United States for concealing their wartime activities during the immigration and/or naturalization process.

**INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION REPORT CARD:**

**COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001-2016**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	2000/1 -	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Argentina	C	X	D	D	X	X	X	D	X	E	X	D	E	E	E	X
Australia	D	D	D	D	C	C	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	C	F-2	F-2	E	E	E
Austria	D	D	D	C	D	F	F-2	C	F-2	D	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	D	D
Belarus		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Belgium		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	D	X	X	X	E	X	X
Bolivia		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bosnia-Herzegovina		X	X	X	D	D	E	X	X	X	E	X	E	E	E	E
Brazil		X	X	X	X	X	X	D	X	X	X	E	X	E	X	E
Canada	B	B	C	B	C	C	F-2	B	D	F-2	F-2	F-2	B	D	D	D
Chile		X	X	X	X	D	X	D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colombia		F	F	F	D	D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E
Costa Rica	C	D	C	X	X	D	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X
Croatia	C	D	D	D	D	B	F-2	F-2	E	E	E	E	E	C	D	D
Czech Republic		D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E	E
Denmark		D	D	D	B	D	C	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	C
Estonia	D	D	D	D	D	F	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	E	E
Finland		D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
France	B	C	D	D	X	D	D	X	X	X	X	D	X	X	E	E
Germany	B	B	B	B	C	C	F-2	B	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A
Great Britain	C	D	D	D	D	D	F-2	X	X	D	X	X	X	D	X	X
Greece		X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E	E	X	E	E	E	E
Hungary		X	D	D	B	C	C	F-2	F-2	F-2	B	B/F-2	C	D	C	D
Italy	B	C	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	B

Latvia	C	D	C	C	C	C	F-2	F-2	E	X	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	X	<b>X</b>
Lithuania	C	C	C	C	C	B/F	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	<b>F-2</b>
Luxemburg		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>X</b>
Netherlands		D	X	D	C	D	X	X	D	D	C	D	X	X	X	<b>X</b>
New Zealand	D	D		D	D	D	X	E	E	X	E	X	E	E	X	<b>X</b>
Norway		D	F	F	F	F	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	<b>F-1</b>
Paraguay		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>X</b>
Poland		B	C	C	C	B	F-2	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	<b>D</b>
Romania		X	D	F	D	F	D	X	X	X	E	E	E	D	E	<b>E</b>
Russia		X	X	X	X	X	E	X	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	<b>C</b>
Scotland	D	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Serbia		X	X	X	X	X	C	C	B	B	B	B	X	E	X	<b>E</b>
Slovakia		X	D	D	D	D	E	X	X	X	C	E	C	C	X	<b>E</b>
Slovenia				D	D	D	X	X	X	E	E	X	X	E	E	<b>E</b>
Spain			D	D	X	D	X	X	B	X	B	B	B	F-2	E	<b>E</b>
Sweden	F	F	F	F	F	F	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	<b>F-1</b>
Switzerland								D					-	-	-	-
Ukraine		X	X	X	X	F	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	<b>F-2</b>
United States	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	<b>A</b>
Uruguay		X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<b>X</b>

**LIST OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS SLATED FOR POSSIBLE  
PROSECUTION IN 2017**

1. Helma Kissner – Germany (Poland) – served as a radio operator in the Auschwitz death camp from April to July 1944 – charged with accessory to murder in 260,000 cases
  
2. Helmut Oberlander – Canada (Ukraine) – served in Einsatzkommando 10A (part of Einsatzgruppe D), which murdered an estimated 23,000 mostly Jewish civilians
  
3. Alfreds B. – served in Einsatzgruppe A which murdered hundreds of thousands of Jews and other enemies of the Reich in the Baltic countries following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union
  
4. Anton K. – served in Einsatzgruppe A
  
5. Rudolf L. – served in Einsatzgruppe A
  
6. Andreas L. – served in Einsatzgruppe A
  
7. Siegfried R. – served in Einsatzgruppe A
  
8. Kurt G. – served in Einsatzgruppe C which murdered more than 100,000 Jews and other enemies of the Reich in Ukraine following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union
  
9. Karl or Wilhelm H. – served in Einsatzgruppe C
  
10. Herbert W. – served in Einsatzgruppe C

## **Simon Wiesenthal Center**

### **Snider Social Action Institute**

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is an international Jewish human rights organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust by fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational outreach and social action. The Center confronts important contemporary issues including racism, anti-Semitism, terrorism and genocide and is accredited as an NGO both at the United Nations and UNESCO. With a membership of over 400,000 families, the Center is headquartered in Los Angeles and maintains offices in New York, Toronto, Chicago, Jerusalem, Paris, and Buenos Aires.

Established in 1977, the Center closely interacts on an ongoing basis with a variety of public and private agencies, meeting with elected officials of the U.S and foreign governments, diplomats and heads of state. Other issues that the Center deals with include: the prosecution of Nazi war criminals; Holocaust and tolerance education; combating Holocaust denial and distortion; Middle East Affairs; and extremist groups, neo-Nazism, and hate on the Internet.

The Center is headed by Rabbi Marvin Hier, its Dean and Founder. Rabbi Abraham Cooper is its Associate Dean and Rabbi Meyer May its Executive Director.

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## **Simon Wiesenthal Center – Israel Office**

Since its establishment in Jerusalem in 1986, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel Office has made the efforts to help bring Nazi war criminals to justice the primary focus of its activities. Founded by Holocaust historian Dr. Efraim Zuroff, who also coordinates the Center's Nazi war crimes research worldwide, the office has played an important role in tracking down and exposing escaped Nazi war criminals and in helping to facilitate their prosecution. During the past 30 years, the office has carried out extensive research which has helped identify more than three thousand suspected Nazi war criminals, most of whom escaped to Western democracies after World War II. It also played an important role in helping to convince Canada (in 1987), Australia (in 1989), and Great Britain (in 1991), all of which had admitted numerous Nazi collaborators after World War II, to pass special legislation to enable the prosecution of Nazi war criminals residing in those countries.

Following the dismemberment of the Soviet Union and the fall of Communism, the Israel Office has been particularly active in Eastern Europe, and especially in the Baltics and the Balkans, in helping to identify Holocaust perpetrators and convince often-reluctant governments to bring local Nazi war criminals to justice. It has also exposed the illegal rehabilitations granted in Lithuania and Latvia to dozens of individuals convicted by Soviet courts, who had actively participated in the mass murder of Jews during the Holocaust.

During the past decade, these efforts have intensified and have been expanded to include the fight for historical truth in many of the countries in which the Holocaust took place, as well as the struggle against contemporary anti-Semitism. These three objectives are the goals which in 2002 prompted the Israel Office to launch "Operation: Last Chance," together with the Targum Shlishi Foundation of Miami, Florida, established and headed by Aryeh Rubin, a project which offers financial rewards for information which will facilitate the conviction and punishment of Nazi war criminals. Utilizing special ads created for the project, "Operation: Last Chance" has not only helped identify numerous Holocaust perpetrators, but has also focused public attention on the important role played by local collaborators in the mass murder of Jews in virtually every country in Eastern Europe.

In December 2011, in the wake of the conviction in Munich of Sobibor death camp guard Ivan Demjanjuk, the Israel Office and Targum Shlishi launched "Operation: Last Chance II" at the Bundestag in Berlin. The new project focuses on death camp operatives and members of the

Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing squads), whose prosecution in Germany has become much easier in the aftermath of the Demjanjuk decision.

The Israel Office has also played a major role during the past several years in the fight against Holocaust distortion, a phenomenon which has become particularly dangerous in post-Communist Eastern Europe, where there is governmental support for efforts to hide or minimize the very important role played in Holocaust crimes by local Nazi collaborators and for the promotion of the canard of equivalency between Nazi and Communist crimes.

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