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Samuel J. Dubbin, P.A.
Dubbin & Kravetz, LLP
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Re: Litigation on Behalf of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Hungary

Dear Sam Dubbin:

I am a psychiatrist and the daughter of two survivors of Auschwitz, as well as other slave labor and concentration camps. The area of Czechoslovakia in which my parents and their families lived was given to Hungary at the time of the Munich Agreement. My father, William Vilko, was in and out of a "forced labor regiment" in Kiev for two years prior to being incarcerated in a ghetto, followed by a train ride to Auschwitz in late May of 1944. My mother, Olga Vilko, was also transported to Auschwitz during that time period. Their property was taken away by Hungarian Nazis, who continued to live in their homes after their liberation at the end of the war.

My mother, Olga Vilko, is 96 years old and requires 24-hour homecare. She has many physical and mental problems directly related to the abuse, starvation, and losses she experienced as a result of Hungarian Nazi persecution. My mother has been unable to travel for many years and certainly could not make the trip to testify in Hungarian court. Most of the survivors are no longer alive. The climate in Hungary for Jews remains problematic. It would be extremely traumatic for me, as the child of Hungarian survivors to appear in court in Hungary, where I'm sure we would not receive a fair trial.

Most, if not all, survivors of ghettos, slave labor, cattle cars, concentration camps and/or death marches have never recovered. There is a great deal of evidence in the psychiatric and medical literature about the long-term effects of such severe trauma to the brain and the rest of the body. These effects have been passed down to the second generation. In my professional and personal opinion, I recommend that this matter be litigated in the United States. Both the Hungarian government and the Hungarian national railroad should pay a price for their participation in the deportation, murder, and theft of my family's property. Both of my parents were transported on the Hungarian national railroad. Both lost their entire families, including my father's first wife and son. I hope that these injustices will not go uncompensated. If people are not held liable for their heinous crimes, these crimes will be repeated.

Sincerely,

Naomi Vilko, MD