

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

In 1979, at the urging of Congress and at the insistence of Chairman Peter Rodino and Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, the Department of Justice established the Office of Special Investigations to investigate and prosecute alleged Nazi war criminals.¹ According to the formative report on the subject, OSI's work in identifying, prosecuting, and slating these war criminals for removal from the United States "stand[s] as a permanent and irrefutable response to those who would deny the Holocaust and its horrors."²

We write to draw your attention to nine particular cases brought by OSI. Specifically, among those identified by OSI as Nazis hiding in the United States after World War II, nine men were prosecuted, convicted, and ordered deported—but never actually removed from the United States. It seems important to repeat their names:

- Osyp Firishcak³
- Bronislaw Hajda⁴
- Johann Leprich⁵
- Michael Negele⁶
- Jack Reimer⁷

¹ See Dept. of Justice Appropriation Authorization Act, Pub. L. No. 95-624, 92 Stat. 3461 (1978).

² Feigin at 557. Feigin, Judy, *The Office of Special Investigations: Striving for Accountability in the Aftermath of the Holocaust*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Criminal Div., Dec. 2006, at 557.

³ Press Release, *Justice Department Moves to Deport Former Nazi Policeman Who Participated in Wartime Persecution of Jews*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Mar. 16, 2007.

⁴ Press Release, *Appellate Court Unanimously Affirms Denaturalization of Participant in Nazi Massacre*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Jan. 27, 1998.

⁵ Press Release, *Court Upholds Deportation of Detroit-Area Nazi Collaborator Found Hiding Under Staircase*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Mar. 12, 2004.

⁶ Press Release, *Former Nazi Concentration Camp Guard Ordered Deported*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, July 8, 2002.

⁷ Press Release, *Government Moves to Depart New York City Area Man for Involvement in Nazi Mass Murder of Jews*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, May 2, 2005.

- Theodore Szebinskyj⁸
- Anton Tittjung⁹
- Mykola Wasylyk¹⁰
- Vladas Zajanckauskas¹¹

Some of these men were stationed at Nazi concentration camps. Others participated in the horrific liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto. The Department of Justice established beyond a reasonable doubt that each of them contributed to the atrocities of the Holocaust. A federal court stripped each of them of their citizenship and ordered them deported. But none of them were ever actually deported, and all nine of them died comfortably in the United States. Why?

We ask that you direct the State Department Office of the Historian, along with any other relevant offices or bureaus as needed, to conduct a review of these cases and how they may have been handled by the Department over time, and to provide us with a briefing on these cases at the earliest possible opportunity. We recognize that other countries may simply have been unwilling to take custody of these criminals upon deportation from the U.S., but we welcome a clear picture of the diplomatic engagement around these cases that nevertheless failed to secure their deportation. It is important that the State Department provide the public with a complete accounting of that profound injustice.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



Gregory Meeks
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs



Hakeem Jeffries
Chairman
Democratic Caucus

⁸ Press Release, *Deportation Order Upheld in Case of Former Nazi Concentration Camp Guard*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Aug. 30, 2004.

⁹ Press Release, *Federal Appeals Court Upholds Deportation of Former Nazi Concentration Camp Guard*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Dec. 3, 1999.

¹⁰ Press Release, *Federal Immigration Judge Orders Deportation of Catskills Man Who Served as Nazi Camp Guard*, Oct. 25, 2002.

¹¹ Press Release, *Massachusetts Man Who Helped Carry Out WWII Nazi Mass Murder of Jews in Poland is Ordered Deported*, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Aug. 16, 2007.