

Worldwide Investigation and Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals

(April 1, 2017– March 31, 2018)

An Annual Status Report

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Snider Social Action Institute

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. As more and more time passes since the end of World War II, it would only be natural to expect that the prosecution of Nazi war criminals would come to an end. That logical conclusion, however, has still not been the case everywhere, as two surprising developments have rejuvenated some of the efforts to hold Holocaust perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

The first change relates to the extension of life expectancy in the Western world. The advances of modern medicine have enabled men and women not only to live longer, but also to remain reasonably healthy (and therefore capable of facing prosecution) for many more years, than was the case previously. This is especially true in countries like Germany and Austria, which have the largest numbers of individuals who while serving in the forces of the Third Reich, committed crimes during World War II, and are among the countries which provide a relatively high-level of health services for their citizens.

The second development has been a very dramatic change in German prosecution policy vis-à-vis Nazi war criminals, which was instituted approximately a decade ago, initially in the case of Sobibor SS guard Ukrainian Ivan Demjanjuk. Previously, in order to convict a Holocaust perpetrator, prosecutors had to prove that a suspect had committed a specific crime against a specific victim and had been motivated by racial hatred. The new prosecution policy adopted in Germany significantly lowered the bar in terms of the required evidence. Thus today any person who served in a death camp (by definition a concentration camp with apparatus for industrialized mass murder – gas chambers or gas vans) or in the Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units) can be convicted of accessory to murder based on service alone, the punishment for which is 5-15 years in prison.

2. This situation is clearly reflected in the results achieved during the period from April 1, 2017 until March 31, 2018. On the one hand, only one "conviction" was obtained (the denaturalization in Canada of a man who served in Einsatzgruppe D), but three new indictments have been filed in Germany and one extradition request in Poland. This brings the number of convictions during the period covered by our annual reports (January 2001-March 2018) to 105, with the largest number of successful cases recorded in Italy (46), the United States (39), Germany (8), and Canada (8). During the

same period, 105 indictments were filed against Nazi war criminals, with the most cases submitted by the United States (35), Italy (33) and Germany (22).

3. While significant progress was achieved primarily in Germany, other countries for the most part have failed to attain any results whatsoever during the period under review. Those 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

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 April 24, 2017. 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 emphasized 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 all 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 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. This report in its entirety will be posted on our website www.operationlastchance.org

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THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW: APRIL 1, 2017 – MARCH 31, 2018

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 important positive developments during the period under review were the direct result of the abovementioned 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. Following that decision, the German Zentrale Stelle decided to investigate all the hitherto unprosecuted persons who had served in any of the six Nazi concentration camps officially categorized as death camps (Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Belzec, Chelmno, Sobibor and Majdanek) or in the Einstazgruppe (mobile killing units) A, B, C, and D, which operated in the territories of the Soviet Union.

The impact of the change in German prosecution policy became even more significant with the expansion by the Zentrale Stelle of the search for Holocaust perpetrators to several additional concentration camps which were not officially classified as death camps, such as Stutthof, Mauthausen, Ravensbrueck and Buchenwald. These investigations yielded indictments which were among those submitted during the period under review.

On a practical level, the positive results achieved during the past year were one denaturalization recorded in Canada, three indictments filed in Germany, and one request submitted in Poland for the extradition of a suspected war criminal residing in the United States. These statistics compare favorably with those of the previous period reviewed (April 1, 2016-March 31, 2017) during which there was one conviction recorded, and one new indictment filed. And while the number of ongoing investigations has drastically fallen, it is clear that the number of cases which are

being investigated and can potentially (health permitting) result in a trial in Germany has grown significantly.

As far as the rest of the world, 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, the only achievement obtained in Eastern Europe was an arrest warrant and extradition request filed in Poland on May 17, 2017 against Michael Karkoc, the commander of a unit of Ukrainian Nazi collaborators, who is currently residing in the United States and whose unit actively participated in the murder of Polish villagers. 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 Ukraine, Belarus, and Romania.

In fact, during the past twenty 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.

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.

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 in 2014 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 late 2011, 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.

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, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Canada – 1

On June 20, 2017, the Governor in Council revoked the citizenship of Helmut Oberlander for concealing his service in Einsatzgruppe D when applying for Canadian citizenship.

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CONVICTIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS:
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001-2018

	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	1.IV.2016 – 31.III.2017	1.IV.2017 – 31.III.2018	Total
United States	6	5	7	5	5	6	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
Italy	0	0	0	0	10	15	1	6	3	0	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	46
Canada	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	8
Germany	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	8
Lithuania	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	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	0	0	1
France	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	14	6	7	5	16	21	7	6	5	2	10	2	1	0	1	1	1	105

NEW CASES FILED DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018

Germany – 3

During the period under review three men were charged in Germany, two for service in the Stutthof concentration camp in Poland, and one for service in the Majdanek death camp. Both of the men who served in Stutthof were charged in Munster, while the Majdanek guard was charged in Frankfurt.

None of the names of the suspects were released, although when the trial of one of the guards in Stutthof began, after the period under review, his name became known – Johannes Rehbogen.

NEW CASES FILED: COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001 – 2018

	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	1.IV.2016 – 31.III.2017	1.IV.2017 – 31.III.2018	Total
United States	4	10	5	3	2	6	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Italy	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	2	16	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	33
Germany	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	2	3	2	0	3	22
Canada	1	0	3	0	0	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	0	0	2
Denmark	0	0	0	1	0	0	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	0	0	1
Poland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total	6	11	10	6	5	6	8	5	25	4	6	2	2	3	2	1	3	105

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

April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018

Poland	173
Germany ¹	67
France	1
USA ²	?
Canada ²	?
Total	241+

¹ In Germany, 53 new investigations were opened against 67 individual suspects.

² The American and Canadian authorities replied that they are forbidden to provide exact statistics on the number of new investigations.

NEW INVESTIGATIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS:
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 2001 – 2018

	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	1.IV.2016 – 31.III.2017	1.IV.2017 – 31.III.2018	Total
Poland	48	8	172	306	141	2	142	230	290	409	0	0	X	X	0	1	173	1,923
Germany	9	?	9	27	38	22	31	43	130	161	45	30	115	68	42	53	67	890
Austria	10	3	60	272	1	0	2	16	24	6	9	13	7	1	0	2	0	426
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	0	0	153
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Australia	0	9	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Belgium									1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	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	0	0	1
Croatia	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Denmark	0	0	1	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	13
Estonia	2	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Great Britain	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Hungary	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Latvia	0	4	16	0	0	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	0	0	150
Romania	0	0	0	4	0	0	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	0	0	3
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	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	0	0	1
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	221	138	335	663	322	63	205	315	456	583	64	61	131	69	70	56	241	3,994

ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS AS OF APRIL 1, 2018

Poland	145
Germany ¹	59
France	1
Canada ²	?
USA ²	?
Total	205+

¹ We received confirmation that as of January 1, 2018, at least 38 ongoing investigations were being conducted in Germany against at least 59 suspects. The states with the most suspects are Hessen (21) and North Rhine Westphalia (20). Please note that these are partial figures since Mecklenberg-Vorpommern and Saxony did not provide any data.

² 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 – 2018

	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	April 1, 2017	April 1, 2018
United States ¹	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	6	0	0
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	324	153	145
Germany	27	13	35	46	28	20	30	27	177	582	528	471	680	725	1,163	1,538	59
Great Britain	6	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	X	X	X	0
Croatia	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Austria	3	4	27	199	131	83	4	5	28	5	22	5	10	5	2	2	X
Latvia ²	2	5	5	58	53	55	3	1	0	?	0	0	0	X	X	X	X
Netherlands	1	0	0	6	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	X
Estonia	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	0
Costa Rica	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	0
Denmark	0	1	2	11	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Italy	0	0	12	13	5	17	22	52	43	23	0	19	18	18	8	6	0
Romania	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	3	0	0	0	0
Australia	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	X	0
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	X
Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	X	0
France	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	X	X	X
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	X	X
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	X	X
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	X
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	X	0	0	0
Total	455	492	940	1,252	1,120	1,019	608	706	852	1,318	1,138	1,005	722	755	1,505	1,699	205

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: Canada, Finland, Italy, Poland

C: France

D:

E: Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia

F-1: Norway, Sweden

F-2: Austria, Lithuania, Ukraine

X: Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Hungary, Latvia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Spain

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 for accessory to murder. That decision was the first case 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, 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), headed by its director Jens Rommel, continued to pursue the cases of death camp guards with impressive practical results.

During the period under review, no convictions were obtained, but three indictments were filed by German prosecutors, two against individuals who served as guards in the Stutthof concentration camp, and one against a man who served in the Majdanek death camp. The former indictments reflect the expansion by the Zentrale Stelle of the number of the camps in which service alone is a basis for prosecution for accessory to murder. According to media reports during this period, prosecutors expected to submit indictments against 17 individuals

who served in Mauthausen, Buchenwald and Ravensbruck, as well as Stutthof, only two of which have materialized. It can be safely assumed that potentially viable cases were terminated before reaching the courts due to the death of the suspects or their being classified as unfit to stand trial.

What is clear is that it would be particularly helpful if such investigations and court proceedings could be given special priority, so that the number of suspects who could elude prosecution on the grounds of death or poor health would be reduced to a minimum.

During this period, the Wiesenthal Center was able, with the help of the German television station ARD (Channel 1), to find alive two individuals who served in Einsatzgruppe C, which carried out the massacre of 33,771 victims at Babi Yar outside Kiev on September 29-30, 1941. A third such person was found alive by the German authorities. All three names were on a list of 80 persons (76 men and 4 women) who served in Einsatzgruppen A, B, C, or D who were born in 1920 or later. The list was compiled by the author of this report and was submitted to German Justice Minister Heiko Maas and Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere on September 1, 2014. In January 2016, our office was informed that eight of the suspects might be alive and with the help of ARD, two were located living in Germany. Whether or not they, as well as a third suspect from that list who was also found alive in Germany, will be prosecuted will depend on the manner in which these cases will be handled by local prosecutors.

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 wartime collaboration with the forces of Nazi Germany, when applying 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 111 Holocaust perpetrators.

During the period under review, the American authorities investigated potential cases in the United States (they are prohibited from revealing the number of suspects), many of which were preliminary inquiries. They also provided investigative assistance to law enforcement authorities in Europe regarding multiple persons suspected of possible involvement in Nazi crimes. Also of importance were the continued efforts by the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section to attempt to secure the deportation of Trawniki guard Jakiw Palij, who was ordered deported to Ukraine, Poland or Germany in 2004, but remained in the United States because all three of those countries refused to admit him.

In August 2018, following the period under review, as a result of joint efforts by the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section of the Justice Department, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the State Department, Palij was finally deported to Germany after that country agreed to admit him. It should be noted that nine individual Nazi criminals who were ordered deported from the United States died in America because no country consented to let them enter. Six of the nine died in the five years before Palij's deportation to Germany.

Category B: Ongoing Prosecution Programs Which Have Achieved Practical Success

1) Canada – During the period under review, the Canadian Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section registered an important victory. For more than two decades, the Canadian authorities have tried to denaturalize and deport Helmut Oberlander, who served with Einsatzcommando 10d of Einsatzgruppe D. On June 20, 2017, the Governor in Council revoked Oberlander's citizenship for the fourth time! In the past, each time that Oberlander's citizenship was revoked, he was able to have that step cancelled. It is hoped that he can now finally be deported from Canada.

Canada, it should be noted, is one of only two countries, the other one being the United States, which prosecutes Holocaust perpetrators on civil, rather than criminal charges. Although Canada passed a law in 1987 enabling the criminal prosecution of Nazi war criminals, the government switched to civil proceedings in 1994 after a Canadian court in Toronto acquitted Imre Finta, a captain of the Hungarian gendarmerie in Szeged, who played an active role in the deportation of 8,617 Jews to Auschwitz, on the basis of his claim that he had no choice but to carry out the orders of his superiors (the "superior orders defense").

After adopting the legal remedies of denaturalization and deportation, the Canadians cancelled the citizenship of ten Eastern European immigrants who served with forces of the Third Reich. Two left Canada voluntarily, but the eight others decided to contest their deportation; to date, not a single one 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.

2) Finland – During the period under review, the Finnish authorities initiated a comprehensive investigation of the possible participation of Finnish SS-volunteers on the Eastern front in Nazi war crimes in Ukraine. The investigation was prompted by an

appeal on January 4, 2018 by the author of this report to Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, based on new research by historian Dr. Andre Swanström, Chairman of the Finnish Society of Church History, which clearly indicated that at least some of the Finns serving in Ukraine had been actively involved in Holocaust crimes.

The Finnish authorities responded promptly in a positive manner. On January 24, Hiski Hankkala, the Chief of the Cabinet of President Niinistö informed the author of this report that "the Finnish Government will, in response to the recent concerns, fund a further independent survey of the operations of the Finnish Volunteers Battalion of the Waffen-SS and particularly examine its operations in Ukraine... I too firmly believe that historians and independent research have an important role to play in uncovering all aspects of our history. At the same time, it goes without saying that should any criminal activities be uncovered they will be followed by due process."

After the period under review, the research group created by the government, headed by Prof. Jussi Nuorteva, Director-General of the Finnish National Archives, began its work, with the conclusion expected to be publicized in February 2019.

3) 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 recent 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, but this has been the only case resolved in this manner so far.

During the period under review, the Military Court of Appeals in Rome continued its efforts to enforce sentences rendered in Italian courts against the following Nazi war criminals residing in Germany:

1) Wilhelm Karl Stark (born November 16, 1920) – sentenced to life imprisonment by the Military Court of Verona on July 6, 2011 for the murder of Italian civilians.

2) Alfred Luhmann (born February 13, 1925) – served in the Hermann Goering armored division of the Wehrmacht – sentenced to life imprisonment by the Military Court of Verona on July 6, 2011 for the murder of Italian civilians.

3) Helmut Odenwald (born December 15, 1919) – served in the Hermann Goering armored division of the Wehrmacht, sentenced to life imprisonment by the Military Court of Verona on July 6, 2011 for the murder of Italian civilians.

In all three cases, European arrest warrants have been issued.

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.

4) 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 had opened far more new investigations than any other equivalent agency, and as of April 1, 2018 it had 145 ongoing investigations being currently conducted, by far the largest number in the world. On the other hand, until the period under review, the practical results achieved during the past 17 years were relatively disappointing – only one conviction (of Chelmno death camp operative Henryk Mania) and two indictments (of Nazi agent Piotr Wiczorek and Ukrainian Nazi collaborator Michael Karkoc) had been obtained.

During the period under review, the Poles initiated steps to extradite Karkoc to Poland to stand trial for his role in the murder of Polish civilians in the area of Lublin.

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

France – During the period under review, the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Section of the Paris Prosecutor's Office opened a preliminary investigation regarding suspected crimes committed against inmates of the Camp des Alliers near the city of Angoulême in the occupied zone of France during World War II.

Category D: Insufficient and/or Unsuccessful Efforts

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. Colombia
4. Costa Rica
5. Croatia
6. Czech Republic
7. Denmark
8. Estonia
9. Great Britain
10. Greece
11. Hungary
12. Romania

13. Russia
14. Serbia
15. Slovakia
16. Slovenia

Category X: Did Not Reply

1. Argentina
2. Austria
3. Belarus
4. Belgium
5. Bolivia
6. Brazil
7. Chile
8. Finland
9. Latvia
10. Luxemburg
11. Netherlands
12. New Zealand
13. Norway
14. Paraguay
15. Spain
16. Uruguay

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. Austria – Austria's failure to bring Nazi war criminals to justice is particularly upsetting, given the large number of Austrians who participated in Holocaust crimes. Not a single Nazi war criminal has been convicted and punished in Austria in almost four decades, and whatever initiatives were created to improve the handling of these cases were a total failure. Thus, for example, in early 2011 Austria established a working group (Forschungstelle Nachkriegjustiz), to identify alleged Nazi war criminals and to carry out a comprehensive investigation of 526 public court files which relate to Nazi war crimes. The interim report, which was scheduled to be completed by mid-2011, has still not appeared, let alone the final report scheduled for 2012, and no real progress has been achieved since. During the period under review, the Wiesenthal Center attempted to persuade the current government to adopt the change in German prosecution policy vis-à-vis Holocaust perpetrators, but the proposal was rejected.
2. 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.
3. 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 2001-2018

	2000/1 - 2001	2001/2 2002	2002/3 2003	2003/4 2004	2004/5 2005	2005/6 2006	2006/7 2007	2007/8 2008	2008/9 2009	2009/10 2010	2010/11 2011	2011/12 2012	2012/13 2013	2013/14 2014	2014/15 2015	2015/16 2016	2016/17 2017	2017/18 2018
Argentina	C	X	D	D	X	X	X	D	X	E	X	D	E	E	E	X	X	X
Australia	D	D	D	D	C	C	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	C	F-2	F-2	E	E	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	D	F-2
Belarus		X	X	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	E	X
Bolivia		X	X	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	E	E
Brazil		X	X	X	X	X	X	D	X	X	X	E	X	E	X	E	X	X
Canada	B	B	C	B	C	C	F-2	B	D	F-2	F-2	F-2	B	D	D	D	C	B
Chile		X	X	X	X	D	X	D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colombia		F	F	F	D	D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E	E
Costa Rica	C	D	C	X	X	D	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	E	X	X	X	E
Croatia	C	D	D	D	D	B	F-2	F-2	E	E	E	E	E	C	D	D	E	E
Czech Republic		D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E	E	E	E
Denmark		D	D	D	B	D	C	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	C	D	E
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	E	E
Finland		D	D	D	D	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	X
France	B	C	D	D	X	D	D	X	X	X	X	D	X	X	E	E	E	C
Germany	B	B	B	B	C	C	F-2	B	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Great Britain	C	D	D	D	D	D	F-2	X	X	D	X	X	X	D	X	X	E	E
Greece		X	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	E	E	X	E	E	E	E	X	E
Hungary		X	D	D	B	C	C	F-2	F-2	F-2	B	B/F-2	C	D	C	D	X	E
Italy	B	C	C	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	B	B	B

Latvia	C	D	C	C	C	C	F-2	F-2	E	X	F-2	F-2	F-2	F-2	X	X	X	X
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	F-2	F-2	F-2
Luxemburg		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Netherlands		D	X	D	C	D	X	X	D	D	C	D	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Zealand	D	D		D	D	D	X	E	E	X	E	X	E	E	X	X	E	E
Norway		D	F	F	F	F	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1	F-1
Paraguay		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Poland		B	C	C	C	B	F-2	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	D	B	B
Romania		X	D	F	D	F	D	X	X	X	E	E	E	D	E	E	E	E
Russia		X	X	X	X	X	E	X	E	E	X	X	X	X	X	C	E	E
Scotland	D	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Serbia		X	X	X	X	X	C	C	B	B	B	B	X	E	X	E	X	E
Slovakia		X	D	D	D	D	E	X	X	X	C	E	C	C	X	E	E	E
Slovenia				D	D	D	X	X	X	E	E	X	X	E	E	E	E	E
Spain			D	D	X	D	X	X	B	X	B	B	B	F-2	E	E	E	X
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	F-1	F-1	F-1
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	F-2	F-2	F-2
United States	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A	A
Uruguay		X	X	X	X	X	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

LIST OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS SLATED FOR POSSIBLE PROSECUTION IN 2019

As of April 1, 2018 there were seven individuals who had been identified as serving with the forces of the Third Reich in units which actively persecuted and murdered innocent civilians and who might be prosecuted during the coming year.

1. Helmut Oberlander: Canada (Ukraine) – served in Einsatzkommando 10A (part of Einsatzgruppe D) which murdered an estimated 23,000, mostly Jewish civilians; denaturalized for fourth time; facing deportation.

2. Kurt Gosdek: Germany (Ukraine) – served in Einsatzgruppe C which murdered tens of thousands of Jews in Ukraine; identified alive by Simon Wiesenthal Center and German television station ARD.

3. Herbert Wahler: Germany (Ukraine) – served in Einsatzgruppe C which murdered tens of thousands of Jews in Ukraine; identified alive by Simon Wiesenthal Center and German television station ARD.

4. Wilhelm Karl Friedrich Hoffmeister: Germany (Ukraine) – served in Einsatzgruppe C which murdered tens of thousands of Jews in Ukraine; first identified alive by Simon Wiesenthal Center.

5. Michael Karkoc: United States (Poland) – served as commander of the 2nd battalion of the Ukrainian Self-Defense Legion (Selbstschutz Legion 31) which is accused of murdering several dozen Polish civilians in Chlaniow, Krasnystaw county in July 1944. Poland has requested his extradition after the period under review.

6. Algimantas Dailide: Germany (Lithuania) – served in Lithuanian Security Police in Vilnius, sentenced by a Lithuanian court to five years in prison for persecution of Jews and Poles, but judges refused to implement the sentence.

7. Jakiw (Jakob) Palij: United States (Poland) – served in the Trawniki SS training camp – denaturalized and ordered deported from the United States, but no country has agreed to accept him.

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, Miami, 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 32 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 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.

Several years ago, the Israel Office assumed responsibility for the Wiesenthal Center's activities in Eastern Europe and has focused on combatting the growing phenomenon of Holocaust distortion in the post-Communist countries in the region. Thus, for example, the Israel Office has monitored and protested against neo-Nazi and extreme right marches in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and drawn attention in numerous op-eds published widely to the efforts by governments to minimize the role played in the Holocaust by local Nazi collaborators and promote the canard of equivalency between Nazi and Communist crimes.

In addition, the author of this report has, together with popular Lithuanian author Ruta Vanagaite, written a book entitled *Musiskiai (Our People)* which deals with Lithuanian complicity in Holocaust crimes and which exposed the distorted narrative of the Holocaust adopted and disseminated by the Lithuanian government. The book has been published in Lithuanian (2016), Polish (2017), Hebrew (2018), Russian (2018), and Swedish (2019).

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