ARYEH RUBIN

Yom Hashoah, 5764
April 19, 2004

Greetings:

As part of Operation Last Chance, we ran the attached ad in December in the right wing and largest circulating newspaper in Austria, Kronen Zeitung. The other Austrian periodicals picked it up as a news story and we received additional wide coverage. The ad (the headline translates to "The Murderers Are Among Us") made significant waves in Austria and Germany. Calls came in from all over the country providing us with some leads. But most disturbing was the overt anti-Semitism that people were actually proud of; they gave their full names. The person handling these phone calls was totally exhausted. A website in German, Kriegsverbrecher gesucht!, focusing on Operation Last Chance has been launched in Austria.

Also attached is an article that appeared in the April 12th issue of Newsweek on Operation Last Chance. While I personally thought the article was too sympathetic in tone to the accused, it did give the project worldwide coverage.

On another item, Bogdan Koziy, a Ukrainian national who had been living in Costa Rica for more than 20 years and who we had been pursuing since 1996 (see description of our efforts at here.), was supposed to have been extradited to Poland. A witness was found, and the court in Katowice ruled just three months ago to move forward with the extradition. (Lysiec, the scene of the crime during World War II, was then part of Poland, though it is now part of the Ukraine.) Shortly after the decision was made public, Koziy entered a Costa Rican hospital. Armed guards were posted outside his room to await his recovery for extradition. After several days he died in the hospital.

Once again, we were put into the surreal position of hoping for the recovery and well being of a cold blooded murderer, so that he could stand trial and awaken Poland to the crimes against the Jewish people and their participation in it. Bogdan Koziy shot four-year-old Monica Singer in the public square of Lysiec in 1941 when he was 18; he lived until the ripe old age of 81. At least, he died on the run.

I pray that by the next Yom Hashoah that we commemorate, that we need not look over our shoulders and wonder if it could happen again. May the memories of the victims and the indignity of their suffering spur us individually and collectively to alter the course of history so that it does not.

Sincerely,
Aryeh Rubin