



HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' FOUNDATION – USA

Re-Energized Protest Against Allianz Insurance Company during PGA Golf Tournament Sunday (2/12/17) in Boca Raton, Florida Draws Record Number of Protesters – February 12, 2017

Member Organizations (Partial List)

Amer. Assn. of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Greater Boston
Assn. of Holocaust Survivors from Former USSR, Los Angeles
C.A.N.D.L.E.S., Terre Haute, IN
Child Survivors of Arizona
Child Survivors/Hidden Children of the Holocaust
Coalition of Holocaust Survivor Clubs in South Florida
Council of Nazi Holocaust Survivor Organizations of So. California
Habonim Cultural Club, Miami
Holocaust Child Survivors & Friends of Greater Hartford
Holocaust Survivors Club of Boca Raton
Holocaust Survivors of Greater Detroit
Holocaust Survivors of Greater Pittsburgh
Holocaust Survivors of South Florida
Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada
Houston Council of Jewish Holocaust Survivors
The Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Friends of Greater Washington
Jewish Survivors of Latvia, Inc. New York
National Assn. of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors, Inc.
New American Jewish Social Club, Miami
New Cracow Friendship Society, New York
Survivors of Atlantic City, NJ
Survivors of the Holocaust Asset Recovery Project, Seattle
Survivors of the Holocaust of New Mexico
Tikvah Acharay Hashoah, San Francisco

Contacts: Sam Dubbin, Counsel to Holocaust Survivors Foundation, USA -- 305- 815-8060; **Jan Schwartz**, Volunteer Coordinator, cell: 954-415-2542

Boca Raton, FL: For seven years, South Florida Holocaust survivors have protested at the annual Allianz PGA Golf Championship here, calling for giant German insurance company Allianz, A.G. to pay more than \$2.5 billion owed survivors for paid-up insurance policies before WW II. After large crowds and extensive international media coverage in the early years, attendance dwindled as many South Florida survivors became too weak to participate and were discouraged by Allianz's refusal to meet them face-to-face.

That all changed Sunday, when over 150 people carried signs demanding Allianz make good on its debts to survivors and also that the PGA and Boca Raton not renew Allianz's sponsorship. This unprecedented success is due to several factors.

First, an informal group of local volunteers recruited residents to provide a voice for survivors, who they realized could no longer stand up for themselves. "This is about injustice and it struck a chord with people," said volunteer coordinator Janet Myles Schwartz, Boca Raton. "With evidence showing half the survivors worldwide live in poverty and lack adequate medical care, this is just not right. If the Allianz contract is renewed, we'll be able to double our numbers again next year. There is fresh enthusiasm to contact elected officials, start petitions, and finally get this whole disgraceful situation resolved."

Second, the group was energized by the filing of legislation by Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, John Garamendi, and Brad Sherman, and Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio, to guarantee survivors' and families' rights to go to court to recover these unpaid policies – HR 762 and S.258. Congressional leaders feel momentum following unanimous 2016 resolutions calling on Germany to provide comprehensively for all survivors' needs, to finally fulfill Chancellor Adenauer's promise from the 1950s. Notably, Rep Ros-Lehtinen was recently appointed by House Speaker Paul Ryan to the board of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

According to David Schaefer, President of the Holocaust Survivors Foundation USA (HSF): "Allianz and other insurers continue to shame themselves, and must be required to honor all policies they sold to our families. We hope and pray that President Trump will hear us, and join with the broad, bi-partisan members of Congress to restore our rights, and ensure that all survivors and our families receive justice and dignity in our last years."

"JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR SURVIVORS"



HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' FOUNDATION – USA

Survivors' Protest Allianz
February 12, 2017
Page 2

Member Organizations (Partial List)

Amer. Assn. of Jewish Holocaust
Survivors of Greater Boston

Assn. of Holocaust Survivors from
Former USSR, Los Angeles

C.A.N.D.L.E.S., Terre Haute, IN
Child Survivors of Arizona

Child Survivors/Hidden Children of
the Holocaust

Coalition of Holocaust Survivor
Clubs in South Florida

Council of Nazi Holocaust Survivor
Organizations of So. California

Habonim Cultural Club, Miami

Holocaust Child Survivors &
Friends of Greater Hartford

Holocaust Survivors Club of
Boca Raton

Holocaust Survivors of
Greater Detroit

Holocaust Survivors of
Greater Pittsburgh

Holocaust Survivors of
South Florida

Holocaust Survivors Group of
Southern Nevada

Houston Council of
Jewish Holocaust Survivors

The Jewish Holocaust Survivors &
Friends of Greater Washington

Jewish Survivors of Latvia, Inc.
New York

National Assn. of Jewish Child
Holocaust Survivors, Inc.

New American Jewish Social Club,
Miami

New Cracow Friendship Society,
New York

Survivors of Atlantic City, NJ

Survivors of the Holocaust Asset
Recovery Project, Seattle

Survivors of the Holocaust of
New Mexico

Tikvah Acharay Hashoah,
San Francisco

Finally, was the inspiring example set by Auschwitz survivor Jack Rubin, an outspoken protest leader who testified several times before Congress, calling on Germany, Allianz, Generali, and other Holocaust profiteers to pay all documented claims and disgorge the remainder to provide for survivors' care.

Tragically, Mr. Rubin passed away last summer. However, his granddaughter Cara, a freshman at Florida Atlantic University, was one of dozens of young people at the rally: "My grandfather was an amazing man who left us a legacy of standing up for what's right. Joining the protest was a way for me to keep his fighting spirit alive."

Buchenwald and Birkenau survivor Moric Jusovic, who worked alongside Jack Rubin for many years, summed it up: "Most of us survivors are worn out and no longer have the stamina to stand in protest. So on behalf of all of us, I thank all those who were willing to stand up for us on Sunday, especially the younger ones. Thank you for letting us pass this torch to you."

For more information, see www.hsf-usa.org and huff.ly/VVInCv.

The Holocaust Survivors Foundation USA Executive Committee:

Israel Arbeiter, Boston MA
Dena Axelrod, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Renee Firestone, Los Angeles, CA
Ella Frumkin, Los Angeles, CA
Nesse Godin, Washington D.C.
Jay Ipson, Richmond, VA
Louise Lawrence-Israels, Washington D.C.
Herbert Karliner, Miami Beach, FL
Annette Lantos, Washington, D.C.
David Mermelstein, Miami FL
Alex Moskovic, Hobe Sound, FL
Leo Rechter, Queens, NY
Shirley Rubin, Boynton Beach, FL
David Schaecter, Miami, FL
Anita Schuster, Las Vegas NV
Agnes Vertes, Weston, CT
Esther Widman, Brooklyn NY

"JUSTICE AND DIGNITY FOR SURVIVORS"