

IN THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ROSALIE SIMON, *et al.*,  
Individually, for themselves and for all  
others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:10-cv-01770-BAH

\* \* \* \* \*

**DECLARATION OF MENACHEM (TIVADAR) BECK**

MENACHEM (TIVADAR) BECK, under penalties of perjury and in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declares as follows:

1. I am over eighteen years old and I am competent to make this Declaration.
2. I am a citizen of the State of Israel as well as a citizen of the Republic of Hungary and reside at 15 Kaddish Luz Street, Apartment 11, Ramat Sharett, Jerusalem 96920 in Israel.
3. I have notified the attorneys for the Plaintiffs in the above-captioned action that I am prepared to join this lawsuit either as a named plaintiff or as a member of the plaintiff class in the event the Court decides to certify this suit as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
4. I am fluent in the Hebrew and Hungarian languages. I am not able to understand or read English. This Declaration was translated into Hebrew for me by Advocate Marc Zell so that I could understand its contents.

5. I was born in Kecel in the Bács-Kiskun District, Hungary on 21 August 1938. This area is within what is known as Trianon Hungary and remains within the borders of the Republic of Hungary today.

6. I am the son of Márton Beck (b. Kiskunmajsa, Austria-Hungary, 5 October 1900) and Anna Vetö (born Kecel, Austria-Hungary, 1906).

7. I am the brother of László (b. 1929, Kiskunhalas, Hungary).

8. Both my father and mother were Austro-Hungarian citizens and citizens of Hungary after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I.

9. My father was a wine merchant and also dealt with agricultural commodities and made a good living. We were not wealthy by Hungarian standards, but we had a very comfortable existence. Before the deportation and my father's arrest (see Paragraph 10 below) we lived in a lovely rented home at II. Rákoczy Ferenc with servants. Our home was filled with valuable tapestries, crystalware, jewelry, silverware, judaica items, fine furniture, sets of dishes and tableware for dairy and meat as well as for Passover observance. I remember my father had an impressive and valuable gold pocket watch. My mother had a fine collection of jewelry including pearl necklaces, gold bracelets, diamond rings, and the like). My father and mother both owned valuable fur and fur-lined coats. In my estimation our household possessions were worth more than \$5,000 United States Dollars in 1940s value.

10. In the fall of 1941 the Hungarian government arrested my father and incarcerated him in an internment camp quite some distance from Kecel. I believe (but am not sure) that the camp was located in a place called Garany. There was no legal basis for my father's arrest other than the fact that he was a Jew. My father was

imprisoned in the camp for several months and then released. Following his release, our family left Kecel and took up residence in the nearby town of Kalocsa in 1942. In 1943 we moved to Budapest and after a sojourn there for just over a year, we returned to our home in Kecel. Despite our absence, we continue renting the home on Rákoczy Ferenc Street mentioned above.

11. Some time at the end of 1943 or in the beginning of 1944 but in any case before the Germans came to Hungary in March 1944, the Hungarian government took my father away to serve as a slave labor in one of the infamous Hungarian labor brigades. The reason given by the Hungarians for “conscripting” my father was the utterly false accusation that he had made a statement to the effect that when the Russians arrived, they would pave the road leading to the train station in Kecel with the skulls of Christians. As I said this was a lie, as my father told us repeatedly. Similar charges were made against other Jewish men when they were taken away to the labor brigades.

12. On March 19, 1944 the Germans arrived in Hungary. I was in the third grade and I remember being sent home from the Hungarian State Jewish school and never allowed to return.

13. Within a few days the Hungarian authorities through the local gendarmerie forced us from our home into a “Jewish” home owned by my grandmother. For the time our valuables remained in our rental home, except that we were forced by agents of the Hungarian government (gendarmes and customs agents). All my families jewelry (except my mother’s wedding ring), gold cigarette case, his pocket watch and my mother’s gold watch, my mother’ earrings, and other items (like my bicycle and the family radio) were seized by the Hungarian authorities. They were never returned to us and we were never

compensated for these items. These items alone were worth in 1940s dollars over \$2,000 in my estimation.

14. We were then told to wear the yellow Star of David and move into the Jewish Ghetto in Kecel where we remained for a relatively short time.

15. Thanks to efforts of my uncles who lived in the Budapest we were able to flee to Budapest before the deportation to Auschwitz.

16. In Budapest we were forced to live in a Jewish house marked by a large Star of David and thence to the Ghetto.

17. In September 1944 my father escaped from the labor brigade and brought us some food and clothing. He was arrested shortly thereafter, taken back to the labor brigade and we never saw him again.

18. On 10 December 1944 a group of Hungarian Arrow Cross officials and arrested my mother along with other Jewish women her age. She was then deported to the concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen where she was marched on foot in one of the infamous death marches – a journey of more than 800 kilometers. I later learned that my mother died in Bergen Belsen before the end of the war.

19. In late December 1944, the Hungarian Arrow Cross authorities then in control of the Hungarian government captured my brother, Laszlo, and murdered him along with other Jews in cold blood on the streets of Budapest. He had done absolutely nothing other than being a Jew. My brother was legally on the street at the time, having gone out to buy food for me.

20. I survived the war and lived with my mother's younger sister until 1956 when I emigrated to Israel after the collapse of the Hungarian revolt against the communist regime of that year.

21. Some time in the 1980s I learned that the Hungarian government was offering to pay compensation for survivors of the Holocaust in the amount of 30,000 Hfl. (then about U.S.\$ 300!) for a parent who had been killed during the Holocaust and 15,000 Hfl. (then about U.S.\$150.00) for a murdered sibling. I was so outraged at the nominal amounts offered, that I actually wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of Hungary in protest. I received a response in which a Hungarian treasury official admitted that the sums were paltry, but claimed that there was no alternative. When I received this letter, I decided that it was an insult even to request compensation under such circumstances.

22. Several years later after the fall of the communist regime in the 1990s, the compensation ceiling was increased to about U.S.\$2,000 for murdered family members and reopened the application period. Even though these sums were also ridiculously low, I nevertheless filed a claim for my parents' and brother's death. The Hungarians paid the minimal compensation for my mother and brother (a total of \$3000 for the two of them together). However, they denied the claim for my father on the grounds that Jews who had been taken to the slave labor brigades were military conscripts and therefore not entitled to compensation. This claim was utterly outrageous and as a result I decided to engage Hungarian attorney and file a lawsuit.

23. I hired the services of a Hungarian attorney from Budapest and she filed a suit in my name against the Hungarian government in a court of special jurisdiction

known in Hungarian as Központi Igazságügyi Hivatal. The proceeding lasted a considerable time and my claim was denied. I then appealed to a court known as a Fovarosi Iteletabla. The appellate court also denied my claim on the grounds that my father, a slave laborer, was in reality a military conscript not entitled to compensation. For the life me, I never understood how they could make such a claim given the circumstances under which my father was taken away from us by the Hungarian authorities. They claimed further that because I could not prove how my father had died while in the Hungarian slave laborer and I could not prove that he had been killed by the slave labor or deportation, I was not entitled to any compensation. Thus, I could not support my claim that my father was killed by the Hungarian authorities for “political” or racial reasons.

24. Only a few weeks ago, I learned what really happened to my father from records released by the Red Cross taken from the German Nazi archives. In fact my father had been deported to the Dachau death camp by the Hungarian authorities some time in 1944 or 1945 and my was killed in Dachau on 18 February 1945. The Hungarian authorities knew very well the fate of my father at time I filed my claims on account of s his death. They deliberately concealed this information from me, forced me to file the lawsuit and allowed the court to deny my claims when the court knew or should have know full well that my father was deported by the Hungarians and murdered subsequently by the Germans.

25. My experience proves incontrovertibly that it is nearly impossible to expect justice for a Jewish Holocaust claim from the courts and judicial authorities of

Hungary, even after the fall of the communist regime and under current law. My own attorney wrote after my appeal as denied in a letter dated 3 March 2010 that the legal proceedings in Hungary were based on the theory that the Hungarian authorities were not active participants in the Hungarian Jewish Holocaust and the murder of the 600,000 Jewish victims of the Hungarian Holocaust were the sole responsibility of the Germans and not the Hungarians. *Exhibit "A"*.

**I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing Declaration is true and correct.**

Executed on May 4, 2011

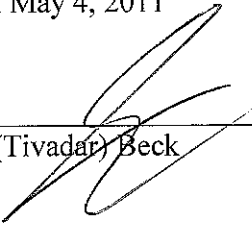
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Menachem (Tivadar) Beck

Exhibit "A"

Urbánné dr. Csató Julianna  
ügyvéd

F: 672 1767

Telefon: +36 1 403-7746  
Mobil tel.: +36 30 954 8693  
Fax: +36 1 403 4979

Iroda: Budapest XVI., Linda tér 8. H-1165  
E-mail: urban.csato@mail.datanet.hu  
honlap: www.csato.datanet.hu

Budapest, 2010. 03. 03.  
Ügyszám: 08060

T.  
Beck Menachem  
Jerusalem, P.O.B. 9437  
Israel 91093

Tisztelt Uram!

Szíves tájékoztatására mellékelten megküldöm a Fővárosi Ítéltábla ítéletét, amely - mint az várható volt- a fellebbezést elutasította, és 10.000.-Ft perköltség megfizetésére kötelezte Önt. Ez az összeg a mai árfolyamon kb 50,- USD-nak felel meg.

Az indokolás az volt, hogy bár feltehető, hogy édesapja a Holocaust áldozatává vált, de ez a feltételezés nem ad alapot a személyi kárpótlás megállapítására.

Sajnálom, hogy nem sikerült eredményt elérni az ügyben, látnia kell, hogy a mai magyarországi bírósági gyakorlat igyekszik azt az álláspontot követni, hogy a magyar hatóságok tevélegesen nem vettek részt a Holocaustban, a hatszázezer magyar zsidó megöléséért kizárólag a németek a felelősök.

Munkadíjam az ügyben 10.000,- Ft.

Kérem, hogy mindösszesen 100 USD-t legyen szíves ennek megfelelően eljuttatni hozzám.

Ezt elküldheti magáncsekken, vagy Western Unionnal, vagy USD pénznemben átutalással az alábbi számlámra:

Name of my bank:	Országos Takarékpénztár és Kereskedelmi Bank Rt.
Address:	H-1161 Budapest XVI., Jókai u. 1/b., Hungary
Swift code:	OTPVHUHB
Account owner's name:	Urbánné dr. Csató Julianna
Account nr.:	11775166-03901010
IBAN code in electronical form:	HU21117751660390101000000000
IBAN code in printed form:	HU21 1177 5166 0390 1010 0000 0000

Kérem, hogy a teljes banki költséget vállalja. Ha Euroban utal, az alábbi számlaszámra kérem az utalást:

Account nr.:	111775166 03901883
IBAN code in electronical form:	HU21117751660390188300000000
IBAN code in printed form:	HU21 1177 5166 0390 1883 0000 0000

Tisztelettel:

URBÁNNÉ DR. CSÁTO JULIANNA  
Ügyvéd  
H-1165 Budapest, Linda tér 8.  
Hungary