

Raoul Wallenberg Honorary Citizen Committee

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H.E. Prof. Dr. Horst Koehler
President

H.E. Angela Merkel
Chancellor

Via

Via

Dr. Michael Jansen
Director-General
Office of President Koehler

Mr. Thomas de Maiziere
Director-General
Office of Chancellery of Chancellor
Merkel

Berlin
Germany

Berlin
Germany

24 October 2005

Dear Dr. Jansen and Mr. de Maiziere,

May I kindly ask your assistance in obtaining a decision of how your government intends to honor Mr. Raoul Wallenberg and assist in the search for Mr. Wallenberg?

In this regard, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to President Koehler for meeting me in Jerusalem together with the nieces of Mr. Wallenberg, as well as to former President Rau, former President Herzog, former Chancellor Kohl, Prof. Dr. Suessmuth, Mr. Muelmenstaedt and Dr. Nunn for their sincere interest in the fate of Mr. Wallenberg.

Please find enclosed some documents regarding these before mentioned requests as well as following is a brief overview of the occurrences your government has been involved in on the Wallenberg case.

During the visit of President Koehler to Israel, two historical moments occurred, which I hope will result in further co-operation in the search for Mr. Wallenberg and that President Koehler finds a way to honor Mr. Wallenberg.

The first was the fact that President Koehler mentioned Raoul Wallenberg by name during his speech in the Israeli Parliament. This has been greatly appreciated and has shown that the President values the humanitarian deeds of Mr. Wallenberg.

During the reception at the King David hotel, President Koehler was introduced to the nieces of Raoul Wallenberg, Mrs. Marie Dupuy and Ms. Louise von Dardel. Mrs. Dupuy asked in this conversation if President Koehler would consider making Raoul Wallenberg an Honorary Citizen of Germany. As this talk was proceeding, President Katzav entered the discussion and both Presidents were in agreement that it would be a nice gesture to explore granting Mr. Wallenberg honorary German citizenship. This, to me, was the second historical moment, when the two Presidents found common ground to speak about honoring Mr. Wallenberg in the presence of his nieces.

Following are some other relevant dates:

- Declaration Raoul Wallenberg, Chancellor Kohl, 1 September 1989.
- Letter, “Bundeskanzleramt”, 20 February 1997, stating that “der Herr Bundeskanzler auch in Zukunft bei sich bietender Gelegenheit um die Klärung der offenen Fragen bemühen wird.”
- Letter, “Bundesministerium des Innern,” 28 July 2000, with reference to a possible honorary citizenship for Mr. Wallenberg. The term used was “verstorbenen ausländischen Persönlichkeiten.”
- Letter, Minister-Counselor Dr. Cyrill Nunn, 6 November 2003, stating “Raoul Wallenberg is considered as dead,” and stating that the German government will not provide financial assistance toward obtaining information about his fate.
- Letter, 4 May, 2004; Ministerialrat Mr. Matthias Muelmanstaedt, Office of the President, stating that Mr. Wallenberg is considered as “Verschollene.”
- Letter, Minister-Counselor Dr. Cyrill Nunn 9 September 2004, stating “... to show my attachment to the furthering of Raoul Wallenberg’s memory.”

In order to ascertain the whereabouts of Mr. Wallenberg, I believe that the following statement from the Swedish government report, “Raoul Wallenberg, A failure of Diplomacy,” clearly points to the responsible party in Mr. Wallenberg’s disappearance.

“The responsibility for establishing the *entire* truth about Wallenberg rested until 1991 with the Soviet leadership and rests today with the leadership of Russia. This Commission considers it unlikely that all the relevant information regarding Raoul Wallenberg has really been released from the former Soviet archives. The Swedish-Russian Working Group managed to achieve substantial successes in its search for the truth. Nevertheless, much still remains to be done.” (English summary Stockholm 2003, SOU, 2003:18)

This statement makes it clear that Mr. Wallenberg cannot be considered either dead or even generally “missing,” and that the responsibility for clarifying his status lies squarely with the Russian government. There is, quite simply, no evidence of Raoul Wallenberg’s death, and the culpability of the former Soviet Union in Mr. Wallenberg’s disappearance is well known. Accordingly, I suggest that the previously-noted statements (letters 28 July 2000, 6 November 2003, 4 May 2004, 9 September 2004) by the German government are at odds with the International Bill of Human Rights, except for that of some of your Presidents and Chancellors, who believe that, if the opportunity arises in the future, one has to find clarification for questions still open (Erklaerung Bundesregierung 1-9-1989).

It is well known, that the arbitrary arrest of Mr. Wallenberg was the direct result of his efforts to rescue Jews from the occupying German National socialist regime. As the successor to that regime, the present-day German government has, I believe, a responsibility to aid in the search for Mr. Wallenberg, provide financial assistance for this purpose and, hopefully, to assist in one day uniting Mr. Wallenberg with his family.

Raoul Wallenberg’s parents died in 1979, brokenhearted at never seeing their son or receiving conclusive information about his whereabouts. Mr. Wallenberg’s surviving family members, notably his brother, Professor Guy von Dardel, his sister Nina Lagergren, and his nieces Louise von Dardel and Marie Dupuy, are all deeply committed to continuing the search until conclusive information is obtained. The wife of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who is also Raoul Wallenberg’s niece, asked us during her visit to Israel what progress had been made in the search for her uncle. If for no other reason, the search for Raoul Wallenberg must be undertaken earnestly, to relieve the 60-year-long agony of his long-suffering family.

I, therefore, respectfully ask that the German government actively assist in the search for Mr. Wallenberg by providing financial assistance and logistical support in mediation with President Putin, for which Germany is rightly famous.

May I also respectfully ask you to reconsider my request of honoring Mr. Wallenberg with an Order of the Federal Republic of Germany, as I believe that Mr. Wallenberg is still alive, which is one of your requirements for such an Order, unless proven otherwise by the Russian government.

Keeping in mind that Mr. Wallenberg is now in his mid nineties, I would respectfully ask you to attend to this humanitarian request as soon as you may be able to do so, as time is running out.

May I thank you in advance for taking the time to read these documents. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Max Grünberg

Cc: Prof. Guy von Dardel, brother of Raoul Wallenberg
Mrs. Nina Lagergren, sister of Raoul Wallenberg

Mrs. Nane Annan, niece of Raoul Wallenberg
Mrs. Marie Dupuy, niece of Raoul Wallenberg
Ms. Louise von Dardel, niece of Raoul Wallenberg

