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Vatican Bank Holocaust Litigation
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Holocaust Survivors Request European Central Bank Investigate Vatican Money Laundering of Nazi Gold

Vatican Minted Euros May Contain Concentration Camp Gold

Washington: Former Yugoslavia was a vast killing ground during the Second World War when hundreds of thousands of Orthodox Christians, Jews, and Roma were murdered by the Nazis and their Croatian Allies. It has long been known that some of the loot including a significant amount of gold from concentration camps ended up at the Vatican Bank deposited there by Catholic clergy acting on behalf of war criminals.

Although the Holocaust Survivors sued the Vatican Bank in US federal court, the case was recently dismissed in March 2010 on grounds of Vatican sovereign immunity from lawsuit in the United States. *Alperin v. Vatican Bank*, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Case No. 09-17761, 08-16060.

The Vatican may have breathed a sign of relief after the long running (ten years) lawsuit seemed to finally die. However, Holocaust Survivors have now requested the European Central Bank to open an investigation of Vatican money laundering and possible use of concentration camp gold in the minting of Euro coins by the Vatican.

According to attorney Jonathan Levy who represented the Holocaust Survivors in the US courts, the Vatican in a rare departure from its usual policy agreed to place itself under the jurisdiction of the European Union in order to obtain the right to coin Euros. The agreement between the EU and the Vatican expressly contains provisions regarding prevention of money laundering further it is presumed the beleaguered European Central Bank would frown upon the possibility that concentration camp gold might be used to finance or mint Euro coins.

The Holocaust Survivors are requesting the European Central Bank investigate the allegations and that holders of Vatican Euro coins mail them back to the Vatican and request certification that concentration camp gold was not used in the minting or financing of these coins.

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Vatican Bank plaintiffs include these organizations:

[Jasenovac Research Institute](#)
[Republic of Serbian Krajina in Exile](#)
[The Independent Council of Gypsies in Serbia](#)