



April 13, 2015

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Address_Line_1», «Address_Line_2»
«City», «State» «Zip»
«Country»

Dear «First_Name» «Last_Name»,

Poland recently passed legislation making it less difficult for eligible Holocaust victims who were Polish citizens at the time of the Holocaust, and currently live outside of Poland, to qualify for monthly payments of about PLN 400 (approximately \$130) paid by the Polish government to certain categories of veterans or victims of oppression. The World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO), which is responsible for advocacy regarding compensation and restitution in Poland, has been urging that these payments be made more accessible to Holocaust victims.

Reviewing our files, it is **possible** that you are eligible for such payments from the Polish government. The program is administered by Poland's Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression ("the Polish Office") on behalf of the Polish Government.

Determination of eligibility is the responsibility of the Polish government, not the Claims Conference or WJRO.

The Claims Conference is sending this letter to you as a courtesy to inform you of this opportunity.

Please direct questions to the Polish Office by phone at +(48) 22-661-81-29 or email at info@udskior.gov.pl. The address of the Polish Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression is Wspólna 2/4, 00-926 Warsaw, Poland, and its fax number is +(48) 22-661-90-73.

Enclosed with this letter are a copy of the application form and a description of the application requirements – both taken from the website of the Polish Office.

The website of the Polish Office (<http://udskior.gov.pl/Home.page,71.html>), which is available in Polish and English, has information about filing an application.

Following this letter is a checklist of steps for submitting the application.

The WJRO will post updated information on <http://polishrestitution.com/pensions/>.

Poland's *Legislation on War Veterans and Victims of War and Post-War Oppression* provides for monthly payments for individuals who were interned by the Nazis in ghettos, prisons, concentration camps, extermination camps, or similar places of detention; were forcibly deported to the Soviet Union; served in the Polish military, the Polish units of the Allied militaries, or in the Polish underground during the Second World War; or otherwise are considered a veteran or a victim of oppression under the law.

Previously, recipients were required to have a Polish bank account, which made it difficult for claimants living abroad to receive payments. The new law removes this requirement.

Unfortunately, many survivors may find parts of the application process to be difficult. WJRO continues to ask the Polish Office to simplify the application process and make it easier for survivors.

Please take note of the following important updates provided by the WJRO:

1. Designation of someone to forward communications: The application requires applicants living outside of Poland to appoint a proxy in Poland to forward communications from the Polish government. At the request of the Claims Conference and WJRO, the Auschwitz Jewish Center has generously agreed to serve – free of charge – as a proxy for survivors.

Enclosed with this letter is a form that you **must** fill out and send to the Auschwitz Jewish Center if you wish for it to serve as your proxy.

You **must also** inform the Polish Office of your selection of a proxy in the appropriate space on the first page of the application form. The Claims Conference has pre-filled in the name of the Auschwitz Jewish Center in the enclosed copy of the application form.

If you do not wish for the Auschwitz Jewish Center to serve as your proxy, simply cross out its name in the application form and fill in another name.

2. Endorsement letter: The application requires an endorsement letter from an association of Polish survivors.

Attached is a personalized endorsement letter (for you only), in a form approved by the Polish Office, for you to send in with your application. The letter is in Polish with an English translation on the back.

WJRO recommends that you send in the enclosed letter with your application. If you do not send in the letter, the Polish Office will request a letter for you from a survivor organization in Poland. However, this may delay processing of your application.

3. Requirements to provide documentation of persecution and of prior Polish citizenship: The Polish Office has informed the WJRO that applicants should provide any documentation available to them to prove persecution and Polish citizenship at the time of persecution.

When an applicant is not able to provide sufficient proof, the Polish Office will ask the International Tracing Service to review its archives and forward documentation about the applicant. The Polish Office will also undertake research to find documentation about Polish citizenship.

The applicant should provide as much details as possible about his or her persecution and about his or her background in Poland (such as school attended) in order to facilitate this research.

4. Requirement to provide a receipt stub for other pensions that the applicant receives: The Polish Office has informed the WJRO that this is not required for applicants living outside of Poland.

The Claims Conference recommends that you keep a copy for your records of your application and any other materials that you send to the Polish Office.

If you would like further assistance in filing your application, you may wish to contact any of the organizations listed on the enclosed page, who have agreed to assist with the application process.

Best wishes,

The Claims Conference

Application Checklist

1. Mailing Your Application Packet

- Complete all sections of the application (Marked “A”) **in Polish**.
- Include with your application **certified** copies of as many of the following documents as you have:
 - Any documents that prove persecution before, during and after the War (specifically in the years 1939 to 1956).
 - A description of your persecution, providing as much detail as possible about your background in Poland.
 - Any documents that prove your Polish citizenship at the time of your persecution.
 - A photocopy of a government issued identity document (i.e. passport, driver’s license, or national identity card).
- Remember to sign and date your application
- Remember to enclose the personalized endorsement letter (Marked “A”).
- Remember to make a copy for your records, before sealing the envelope, of the completed application form, all attachments, and your personalized endorsement letter.
- Mail your sealed envelope via a traceable method (i.e. certified mail, Federal Express, DHS, etc.) to: Polish Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression, Wspólna 2/4, 00-926 Warsaw, Poland.

2. Sending the Proxy Form to the Auschwitz Jewish Center:

- Fill out the Proxy Form (Marked “B”) to appoint the Auschwitz Jewish Center as your proxy in Poland to receive communications from the Polish Government and to forward these communications to you.
- Remember to make a copy for your records, before sealing the envelope, of the completed proxy form.
- Forward your completed proxy form to the Auschwitz Jewish Center via one of the following methods:
 - ❖ By mail via a traceable method (i.e. certified mail, Federal Express, DHS, etc.) to:
Plac Księdza Jana Skarbka 5, 32-600 Oświęcim, Poland
 - ❖ By email, requesting a delivery receipt, to: info@ajcf.pl
 - ❖ By fax to: +1 646-437-4281

Please note: These instructions represent our current understanding of the application requirements and procedures. You should contact the Polish Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression with any questions, or to confirm the application requirements. You can reach them by phone at +(48) 22-661-81-29 or by email at info@udskior.gov.pl.

3. Getting Help

- If you need assistance with your application, or have any additional questions about filling in your application, please contact one of the social service agencies listed on the enclosed page (“Organizations to Contact for Assistance”).



Joining hands and hearts to keep Holocaust memory alive, fighting hatred and genocide

We are the Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust persecuted by the Nazis in ghettos, in camps, in hiding, on the run or forced to leave Nazi occupied Europe. Our objectives are to represent the interests of the child survivor community, to support each other, to keep alive the memory of the six million Jews – including the 1.5 million children – murdered during the Holocaust and to pass on our legacy to future generations. We pursue these objectives by telling the stories of our survival, by community interaction, education, holding conferences and by fighting anti-Semitism

European Association of Jewish Survivors
of the Holocaust
Friends and Alumni of OSE-USA, MD
Hidden Child Foundation/ADL, NY KTA
– Kindertransport Association, NY

Aloumim, Israel

Association of Children of the Holocaust in
Poland

Assn. of Child Survivors in Croatia

Assn. of Jewish War Children – Amsterdam

Assn. of Unknown Children, Netherlands

Assn. Of Holocaust Survivors in Sweden

Child Survivors Group of British Columbia

Child Survivor Group of Sydney, Australia

Child Survivors' Assn. of Great Britain-AJR

Child-Survivors-Deutschland e.V.

Child Survivors, Hungary

Child Survivors/Hidden Children of Toronto

Children of The Shoah,

Figli Della Shoah, Italy

Generaciones de la Shoá en Argentina

Hidden Child Assn. of the Netherlands

Hidden Child-Praha

Holocaust Children in Sweden

Jews Rescuing Jews, Israel

Melbourne Child Survivors of the Holocaust

Mengele Twins, Israel

Montreal Child Survivors/Hidden Children

Organizacia Hidden Child,

Ukryvane Diet'a Slovensko

Swiss Assn. of Hidden Children

Terezin Initiative—International

Terezin Association

Ukrainian Assn. of Jews—Former Prisoners

of Ghetto and Nazi Concentration Camps

Union of Former Ghetto and

KZ Prisoners, Lithuania

YESH—Children and Orphans Holocaust

Survivors in Israel

Assn. of Holocaust Survivors from the

Former Soviet Union – Brooklyn, NY

Bay Area Hidden Children, CA

Child Survivor Group of Orange Co. CA

Child Survivors, Chicago

Child Survivors of the Holocaust of Houston

Child Survivors of the Holocaust, LA

Child Survivors of the Holocaust

of N.E. Ohio

Child Survivors of the Holocaust, NM

Child Survivors/Hidden Children

of Palm Beach Co.

Colorado Jewish Child Survivors

of the Holocaust

Greater Boston Child Survivor Group

Greater Seattle Child Survivors

Hidden Child/Child Survivor Group

of St. Louis

Hidden Children—Chicago

Hidden Children of Rockland County, NY

Hidden Children of the Holocaust

of Bergen County, NJ

Hidden Children of Westchester, NY

Hidden Children/Child Survivors of

Michigan

Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut

Hungarian Hidden Children – New York

Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors,

Philadelphia

Oregon Holocaust Survivors,

Refugees and Families

Survivors of the Holocaust—The Last

Generation, Washington/Baltimore

Yaldei Hashoah, San Francisco

REKOMENDACJA

Światowa Federacja Żydowskich Dzieci Ocalałych z Holocaustu oraz ich
Potomków niniejszym zaleca uznanie statusu

Pana/Pani «**First_Name**» «**Last_Name**»

ur. w Polsce, obecny adres zamieszkania:

«**Address_Line_1**», «**Address_Line_2**»

«**City**», «**State**» «**Zip**»

«**Country**»

w postępowaniu przed Urzędem do Spraw Kombatantów i Osób
Represjonowanych jako osoby podlegającej represjom wojennym
w rozumieniu art. 4 Ustawy z dn. 24 stycznia 1991 r. o kombatantach oraz
niektórych osobach będących ofiarami represji wojennych i okresu
powojennego (tekst jednolity: Dz. U. z 2014 r. poz. 1206).

Na podstawie oceny stosownej dokumentacji dokonanej przez
Konferencję Żydowskich Roszczeń Materialnych Wobec Niemiec
potwierdzono status

Pana/Pani «**First_Name**» «**Last_Name**»

jako ofiary prześladowań reżimu narodowosocjalistycznego.

Zgodnie z naszą najlepszą wiedzą zarówno dowody załączone do
wniosku, jak i pochodzące z innych źródeł, dokumentują, tak dalece jak to
możliwe, fakt doznania przez wnioskodawcę opisanej we wniosku
represji.

Stefanie Seltzer
Przewodnicząca

miejsowość, data

podpis

Informal translation

Letter of Endorsement

The World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants herewith recommends that the Office for War Veterans and Victims of War and Victims of Oppression in Poland recognize

Mr./Ms.: «First_Name» «Last_Name»

born in Poland, currently resident at:

*«Address_Line_1», «Address_Line_2»
«City», «State» «Zip»
«Country»*

as a victim of wartime oppression according to Article 4 of the Combatant and Certain Victims of Repressions in Wartime and in the Post-War Period Act of January 24th 1991 (Journal of Laws from 2014, item 1206).

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany has previously determined, based on a review of documentation, that

Mr./Ms. «First_Name» «Last_Name»

is a victim of Nazi persecution. Thus, to the best of our knowledge, the documents attached to his/her application, or otherwise available, prove the persecution described in the application as far as possible.

*Stefanie Seltzer
President*

place/date

signature

Organizations to Contact for Assistance AUSTRALIA

Jewish Care

619 St Kilda Road,
Melbourne, Victoria 3004

Contact: Magali Kaplan

Tel +61 3 8517 5999

Fax +61 3 8517 5955

Email MKaplan@jewishcare.org.au

Jewish Care

3 Saber Street
Woollahra, 2025, NSW

Contact: Cathy Laurence

Tel 02 8305 8026

Fax 02 9302 8001

Email c.laurence@jewishcare.com.au

COA Sydney Inc.

25 Rowe Street
Woollahra NSW 2025

Contact: Julia Golding

Tel 02 9389 0035

Fax 02 9369 3535

Email J.Golding@coasydney.org

.....
miejsowość, data / place, date

**Szef Urzędu do Spraw Kombatantów i
Osób Represjonowanych
Head of the Office for War Veterans
and Victims of Oppression**

Zwracam się z prośbą o przyznanie mi uprawnień kombatanckich określonych w ustawie z dnia 24 stycznia 1991 roku o kombatantach oraz niektórych osobach będących ofiarami represji wojennych i okresu powojennego (Dz. U. z 2012 r. poz. 400, z późn. zm.) z tytułu (należy podać miejsca i okresy działalności kombatanckiej lub represji):

I request to be granted veteran rights as specified in the Act of 24 January 1991 on veterans and certain other persons victims of war and post-war oppression (Journal of Laws of 2012, item 400, as amended) due to (specify the place and period of veteran activity or oppression):

1.
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2.
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3.
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4.
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Dokładny opis działalności lub represji / A detailed description of activity or oppression

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.....
data, podpis / date, signature

Załączniki / Appendices:

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Application Requirements from the Website of the Government of Poland, Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression

Information for persons seeking the right to ex-combatant status or to the status of a person that had been subject to repressions, residing abroad

The **Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression** hereby informs that in order to obtain the monetary benefits envisaged under Polish law for ex-combatants and victims of repressions, claimants must meet the following requirements:

- I. in the past, they must have conducted combatant activities or experienced repressions as specified in the Act;
- II. they must hold or must have held Polish citizenship at the time of their combatant activities or subjection to repressions;
- III. they must produce for the scrutiny of the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression documents (in Polish or translated into Polish), which prove the circumstances required in points I and II above and other documents required by law. On their basis, the Head of the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression shall issue the appropriate administrative decision;
- IV. they must present the decision of the Head of the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression confirming their ex-combatant or victim of repressions status at a Polish pensions office together with specified documents. On their basis, the pensions office shall issue a decision in regard of awarding the due monetary benefits and shall commence making the due payments.

Types of combatant activities and repressions giving entitlement to benefits

Further to the Combatant and Certain Victims of Wartime and Post-war Repressions Act of 24 January 1991:

- *combatant activity is recognised to have been:*

- 1) military service in the Polish Army or Polish military formations at the side of allied armies during war operations conducted on all fronts by the Polish State;
- 2) participation in Polish military formations and organisations during World War I, in national uprisings and in struggles for the recovery or retention of the territories of the Republic of Poland;
- 3) service in Polish underground formations and organisations including activities within the framework of partisan detachments of those organisations in the period 1939-1945;
- 4) military service in allied armies as well as in allied resistance movement organisations in the wartime period of 1939-1945, excluding the Peoples' Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (NKVD) and other special formations which conducted activities against the Polish population;
- 5) service in Polish underground military formations or independence organisations on the territory of the Polish State within its pre- World War II borders up to 1 September 1939 and within its post-war borders in the period from the entry of the armies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) up to the end of 1956 provided they were formations or organisations that set themselves the aim of defending Poland's independence and sovereignty,
- 6) participation in the struggles of Polish Army units and militarised state services with detachments of the Ukrainian Insurrectionary Army (UPA) and Werwolf groups;
- 7) participation in so-called "Destruction Battalions" ("Istriebitielne Bataliony") in former Polish lands in the voivodships (provinces) of Lvov, Stanisławów, Tarnopol and Volhynia in defence of the Polish population against Ukrainian nationalists in the years 1944- 1945.

- *activity of equal status to that of combatant activities is considered to be:*

- 1) active service in the civil authorities of national uprisings and in the underground administration of the Polish State in the wartime period of 1939-1945, as well as in the civil underground independence organisations in the years 1945-1956;
- 2) participation in the period to 31 December 1945 in the struggles to preserve the sovereignty and independence of the Polish State in militarised state services;
- 3) providing organised and professional clandestine education of children and youths in the wartime

period of 1939-1945;

- 4) giving shelter to people of Jewish nationality or other persons, on account of whose nationality or activities conducted in the name of the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Poland in the years 1939-1945, such assistance carried the death penalty;
- 5) Polish sailors on ships sailing under Polish or coalition state flags serving war purposes in the period 1939-1945;
- 6) participation in the years 1914-1945 in the struggles for the preservation of the Polish identity and national freedom of Silesia, Wielkopolski, Lubush Land, Gdańsk (Danzig), Pomerania, Cashubia, Ermland (Warmia) and Masuria, and other lands annexed by the partitioning powers;
- 7) active participation in armed action for the freedom and sovereignty of Poland in Poznań in June 1956 which was the cause of death or loss of health;
- 8) suffering death, bodily injury or loss of health for a period of over seven days in December 1970 on the Coast due to army or militia operations during manifestations of pro-freedom initiatives.

- *a victim of repressions is recognised to be a person that was kept*

1) for political, nationality, religious or racial reasons:

- a) in Nazi prisons, concentration camps and extermination centres,
- b) in other places of confinement, in which the living conditions did not differ from those in concentration camps, and the persons held there, remained at the disposal of the Nazi security authorities,
- c) in other places of confinement in which the stay of children of up to the age of 14 was of an exterminatory character, and those incarcerated there remained at the disposal of the Nazi security authorities;

2) in ghettos for nationality and racial reasons;

3) for political, religious and nationality reasons:

- a) in prisons and reformatory camps, labour camps and reformatory labour colonies subordinated to the Supreme Board of NKVD Reformatory Camps and Colonies, and the MVD USSR as from March 1946,
- b) in forced evictions and deportations to the USSR;

4) in prisons or other places of confinement on Polish territory on the strength of convictions in the years 1944-1956, on the basis of regulations issued by the Polish authorities, by the common, military and special courts or without sentence in the years 1944-1956 – for political or religious activities associated with the struggle for sovereignty and independence.

The Act's regulations are also applicable to persons who, as children, were taken from their parents for the purpose of extermination or to be forcibly subjected to a change their national identity.

Contrary to media information, Red Army soldiers shall not qualify for ex-combatant status if they had never been Polish citizens. Equally, children born in the USSR, even if their parents had been subjected to Soviet repressions, if those children never had Polish citizenship and do not possess such status at present, do not qualify for victim of repressions status. Equally, persons who in the course of World War II were in hiding before the threat of extermination for nationality or any other reasons – which applies to both the German and Soviet occupations – do not qualify for victim of repressions status. Equally, no benefits envisaged for ex-combatants shall be received by persons kept in Nazi forced labour camps. Persons who survived the war in that part of the USSR that was not occupied by the Germans, shall be recognised as victims of repressions only if they produce proof that they remained there due to forced deportations for religious, political or nationality reasons or who were incarcerated in Soviet labour camps and prisons.

It should equally be stressed that as a rule benefits are not due to members of families surviving ex-combatants or victims of repressions – the exceptions being their widows/widowers who, however, to receive benefits of approximately 200 zlotys a month, must have acquired the right to retirement pensions in Poland or another European Union member state.

Activities disqualifying from recognition of ex-combatant or victim of repressions status

Ex-combatant or victim of repressions status shall be denied to persons who fulfil but one of the premises listed below:

- 1) those who in the wartime period of 1939–1945 collaborated with the Nazi occupant;
- 2) those who were forcibly conscripted into service in the German army or voluntarily declared their renunciation of Polish nationality, if subsequently, until the end of the war, they did not participate in the struggle for Poland's independence;
- 3) those who collaborated with the Soviet occupation authorities in the years 1939–1941;
- 4) those who served in the NKVD or other USSR organs of repression acting against the Polish Nation and State from September 1939 to the end of 1956;
- 5) those who in the years 1944–1956 were:
 - a) in the service, or held functions or were employed in the structures of the Security Office, the Security Service and Military Information, as well as in the supervisory cells of their superior units associated with the application of repressions against persons acting for the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Poland,
 - b) employed, served or held functions in organisational units or posts connected with the application of repressions against persons suspected or convicted of activities undertaken in support of the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Poland:
 - in the civil and military prosecutors authorities,
 - in the common and military courts,
 - in the prison service,
 - c) employed, served or fulfilled functions in the public security apparatus outside of the structures of the Security Office, the Security Service or Military Information, if during and in connection with that activity they performed investigative and operational tasks connected directly with fighting organisations and persons acting for the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Poland,
 - d) functionaries of the organs or organisational units of the Polish Workers' Party or the Polish United Workers' Party, in whose remit
 - both local and central – was the supervision of institutions referred to under points a) and b) above, or the tasks referred to in point c);
- 6) those who traduced the dignity of a Polish citizen exploiting the power received from institutions applying repressions to oppress co-prisoners;
- 7) those who traduced the dignity of a Polish citizen by acting as informants of the communist authorities against soldiers of the underground resistance movement, legionnaires, clandestine partisan organisations, and all else subsumed under Articles 2 and 4;
- 8) those who committed murder or other crimes against civilians in the period to 31 December 1956 in connection with activities recognised as combatant activities or of equal status in the understanding of the Act, for which they had been condemned by a final and binding court sentence.

The requirement of Polish citizenship

The entitlements accorded to persons who are Polish citizens or were such in the course of their combatant activities or at the time of being subject to repressions, are specified under Article 21 of the Combatant Act. Further to the above, an application for confirmation of ex-combatant or victim of repressions status submitted to the Office should be appended with a photocopy of a Polish passport or personal identity card (in the case of elderly people identity card forms – copies of pages containing their personal details, document series and numbers, and pages containing their place of fixed abode). In the case of persons who do not possess Polish citizenship currently, but did have it at the time of the repressions they experienced, they should submit photocopies of documents confirming their Polish citizenship in the past. If they were documents issued in a language other than Polish, they should be accompanied by a translation into Polish.

The documents required

In accordance with Art. 22 of the Combatant Act, the Head of the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression issues a ruling on an applicant's combatant or victim of repressions status on the basis of a

documented submission and recommendation of a Polish association of ex-combatants or victims of repressions.

Thus, an interested party should apply to an association bringing together either those who carried on similar combatant activities or bringing together persons who had experienced repressions analogous to those of the applicant, for that association to endorse his/her application. Such endorsements are issued free of charge and there is no need to join any association.

Apart from an association's endorsement, the applicant should submit:

- a legibly filled and signed questionnaire,
- a curriculum vitae with particular emphasis on his/her combatant activities, especially in years 1939-1956,
- 2 current passport type photographs (with the applicant's name, surname and date of birth written on the reverse side),
- a photocopy of his/her personal identity card (in the case of old identity forms – a copy of the pages containing personal details, the series and number of the document, and the pages containing his/her place of fixed abode) or other documents proving their Polish citizenship,
- a retirement or other type of pension (if the applicant is in receipt of such) receipt stub,
- proof confirming combatant activities or the fact of having been subject to repressions (e.g. documents from the period of his/her combatant activities or repressions, documents from various institutions, offices, archives, publications – all of the above must be in the Polish language or translated into Polish, proof in such cases can also be witness testimonies),
- persons acting through the offices of proxies should also append the appropriate powers of representation.

Caution: all copies of documents should be confirmed as true to their originals. Such confirmation may be done by notarial deed, by a Polish central or local government office or by a duly authorized representative of an ex-combatant association.

An application may be submitted personally at the information point of the Office or by post, addressed to the official address of the Office.

Language in which proceedings are conducted

In accordance with Art. 5 of the Polish Language Act of 7 October 1999, entities performing public tasks in Poland – and, hence, the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression as well – perform all official activities in the Polish language. This principle also relates to declarations of will, applications, submissions and all written items addressed to the Office by applicants. That is why proceedings relating to the confirmation of combatant or victim of repressions status are conducted exclusively in the Polish language, and the party involved has the duty to submit documents – either issued by Polish institutions, or – when using documents written in a language other than Polish – to submit them with their translations into Polish.

Necessity of appointing a proxy to receive official communications

In accordance with Art. 40 § 4 and 5 of the Administrative Procures Code Act, an applicant with permanent residence status abroad, if he/she has not appointed a proxy with Polish resident status to conduct his/her affairs, should nominate a proxy in Poland to receive communications unless their delivery is to be made by electronic means (via the Office's electronic inbox for submitting applications with the use of a secure encryption and digital signature or via a trusted electronic platform of public administration services). In the event of failure to nominate a proxy, all communications addressed to the party shall be kept in the case files with effective delivery status.

Deliveries of correspondence by electronic means of communication

Delivery of correspondence by electronic means of communication may occur if the applicant fulfils one of the following conditions:

- 1) if he/she delivers documents with digital signature or via an electronic platform of public administration services (Polish acronym: ePUAP) to the designated electronic inbox of the public administration unit (in this case the electronic inbox of the Office);

2) if he/she applies to the public administration unit (i.e. the Office) for such deliveries and supplies the Office with his/her electronic address;

3) if he/she expresses consent to deliveries of correspondence relating to the proceedings by these means and supplies the public administration unit (i.e. the Office) with his/her electronic address.

The Head of the Office may send a request for consent by way of electronic means of communication to the party's electronic address. If the party resigns from using the facility of correspondence delivery by electronic means of communication, the Office shall deliver it in the form specified for correspondence facilitated by a form other than that of an electronic document.

In order to deliver a letter in the form of an electronic document, the Office shall send a message to the electronic address of the addressee with the following notification:

1) informing that the addressee may take delivery of the letter in the form of an electronic document;

2) giving the electronic address from which the addressee may take delivery of the letter and where the addressee should confirm receipt of delivery of the letter;

3) instruction concerning the method of taking delivery of the letter and in particular the method of identification at the indicated electronic address in the tele-informatic system of the Office and information on the requirement of signing an official confirmation of receipt with the application of:

- a qualified certificate with due observation of the principles envisaged in the Electronic Signature Act of 18 September 2001 (Journal of Laws 130 / 1450 as further amended), or
- the profile of the trusted ePUAP.

In accordance with information accessible at the website www.epuap.gov.pl. "the profile of a trusted ePUAP is a technical-legal tool enabling authentication of signatures made by the user in contacts with the public administration via the ePUAP portal. The trusted profile unequivocally authenticates the signatory on the basis of information contained in the signature. Information contained in the trusted profile is verified reliably in a way confirmed by the organ of the confirmatory entity - that is, by the public institution nominated by the Minister designated to deal with informatics issues - that is authorised to grant and manage the trusted profiles of officials. The function of the point of confirmation is fulfilled among others by a consul, a voivod (provincial governor), the Social Security Office (ZUS).

In order to acquire a trusted profile, one must

- set up an ePUAP account,
- complete and submit an application for confirmation of one's ePUAP trusted profile on the platform,
- apply within 14 days to the chosen point confirming the trusted profile with one's personal identity card or passport.

An applicant who has the possibility of submitting a secure electronic signature verified with the help of a valid qualified certificate may independently activate his/her ePUAP trusted profile if the qualified certificate contains data embracing at least his/her:

1) name;

2) surname;

3) PESEL (personal identity) number.

List of confirmatory points (consulates and embassies, items 801-940):

http://epuap.gov.pl/wps/portal/tut/p/a/1/04_Sj9CPykssy0xPLMnMz0vMAfGjzOINLY1MDI2CDbwslycDDzDQoJCvN3CjAyCjPULsh0VAUE9p_o/

More information on setting up one's ePUAP profile:

http://epuap.gov.pl/wps/wcm/connect/3674f018-e59f-46f3-b798-21744092476c/Instrukcja+u%C5%BCytownika+PZ_7.4.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

In the event of delivery of correspondence by electronic means of communication, delivery is deemed effective if the addressee confirms receipt of delivery in the above-mentioned way.

In the event of not taking delivery of a letter in electronic document form in the above-mentioned way, the Office shall repeat its notification regarding the possibility of taking delivery of this letter 7 days after the first dispatch of this notification.

In the event of failure to take delivery of the letter, delivery shall be deemed to have been effectively made after the passage of fourteen days counting from the despatch of the initial notification.

In the event of recognising a letter in electronic document form to have been effectively delivered, the addressee shall be given access to the text of the letter in electronic document form for a period of at least 3 months from the date the letter in electronic document form is deemed to have been delivered, as well as to information regarding the date of the letter's deemed delivery and about the dates of despatch of the notifications in the tele-informatic system.

Upon the issue by the Head of the Office of a decision confirming ex-combatant or victim of repressions status and the appropriate note of confirmation regarding the associated rights, the party – if it wishes to claim the monetary benefits envisaged in the Combatant Act – should initiate proceedings before the Polish pensions authorities in order to obtain a decision on the award of the specified benefits which will enable their payment.

These benefits are:

- the combatant supplement of 206.77 zlotys per month,
- the flat-rate energy allowance of 165.71 zlotys per month,
- the compensatory supplement of 31.01 zlotys per month.

The condition for awarding these benefits is:

- receipt of retirement or other type of pension, endowment for those in a state of retirement or family allowance in the Polish social security system
- in the event of non-fulfilment of the above condition, there is the possibility of obtaining benefits upon the simultaneous fulfilment of the following conditions:
 - a) the non-possession of the right to any retirement or other type of pension benefits, or any rights to endowment for those in a state of retirement or family allowance,
 - b) the non-achievement of income from work, extra-farming economic activity subject to social insurance, or farming economic activity subject to mandatory farmers' insurance,
 - c) the achievement of 55 years of age by women and 60 by men.

The pensions authorities pay out these benefits on a quarterly basis, in the third month of the quarter.

At the present moment in time, benefits due to ex-combatants and victims of repressions residing abroad are paid out upon their recipients' instructions – to persons residing in Poland that is those whom they authorise to take delivery of their benefits, or into a bank account kept in Poland.

However, the latest amendment of the Combatant law simplifies the method of delivery of these benefits and will soon enable the payment of these benefits directly into the bank accounts of those people abroad or in another form as may be indicated by the retirement or other types of pensions authorities.

The new regulations on the transfer of combatant entitlements shall come into effect in two phases:

- 1) on 18 October 2014 – in regard of ex-combatants residing abroad in European Union member states, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member states, that is Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, and countries with which Poland has signed international agreements in regard of social security which envisage the transfer of retirement or other types of pensions (the United States of America, Canada, Australia, South Korea, Macedonia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Ukraine);
- 2) on 18 April 2015 – in regard of ex-combatants residing abroad in countries with which the Republic of Poland has not signed international agreements in regard of social security envisaging the transfer of retirement or other types of pensions (among others, Israel).

Request for the Auschwitz Jewish Center to Serve as a Proxy

According to the Polish Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression, an applicant for monthly benefits, under the Legislation on War Veterans and Victims of War and Post-War Oppression, who lives outside of Poland is required to nominate a proxy in Poland to receive communications from the Polish government and forward the communications to the applicant.

The Auschwitz Jewish Center has volunteered to serve as a proxy – free of charge – for interested Holocaust survivors applying for these benefits who live outside of Poland.

If you would like to request that the Auschwitz Jewish Center serve as your proxy, you must complete the following **two (2)** steps:

1. Notify the Auschwitz Jewish Center by completing the form on the other side of this page. Mailing information can be found on the other side of this page. If you have questions about this proxy form, you may also contact the Auschwitz Jewish Center at +1 646-437-4276 or info@ajcf.pl.
2. Notify the Polish government by naming the Auschwitz Jewish Center as your proxy in the application form that you submit to the Polish Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression. In the space on the first page of the application to name a “Plenipotentiary for deliveries,” write: Tomasz Kuncewicz, Director, Auschwitz Jewish Center, +48 (33) 844 7002, Plac Księdza Jana Skarbka 5, 32-600 Oświęcim, Poland.

The Polish Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression administers the Polish benefits program. The Auschwitz Jewish Center has **no** role in the administration of this program. The sole role of the Auschwitz Jewish Center as proxy is to receive communications on your behalf from the Polish government and to forward those communications to you.

Please do not send any application material to the Auschwitz Jewish Center. Please do not contact the Auschwitz Jewish Center with questions about the program.

Questions about the program should be directed to the Polish Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression: by phone at +(48) 22-661-81-29, email at info@udskior.gov.pl, mail at Wspólna 2/4, 00-926 Warsaw, Poland, or fax at +(48) 22-661-90-73.

Form to Request that the Auschwitz Jewish Center Serve as a Proxy

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street Address_____
City_____
State/Province_____
Country

Email address: _____ Phone number: _____

Please check one of the following:

Please forward correspondence to me by scanning the correspondence and sending it to the email address listed above. (Please note that this option will ensure the fastest delivery of correspondence.)

I prefer that correspondence be sent only to my mailing address.

I hereby request that the Auschwitz Jewish Center serve as my proxy to receive communications from the Polish government relating to my application for the benefits under the Legislation on War Veterans and Victims of War and Post-War Oppression, and to forward the government communications to me. I acknowledge that the Auschwitz Jewish Center is performing this service on a voluntary basis, free of charge, and that the Auschwitz Jewish Center, its officers, employees, and agents shall not be liable for any damage that may result from any of their actions or inactions in respect to their role as my proxy.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please send this form to The Auschwitz Jewish Center using any of the following methods:

By mail to: Plac Księdza Jana Skarbka 5, 32-600 Oświęcim, Poland

By email to: info@ajcf.pl

By fax to: +1 646-437-4281