

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation  
Case No. CV96-4849

## **Certified Award**

to Claimant [REDACTED 1]

to the Estate of Claimant [REDACTED 2]  
also acting on behalf of Adolf Bloch

to Claimant [REDACTED 3]

and to Claimant [REDACTED 4]

## **in re Account of Adolf Bloch**

Claim Numbers: 209433/MBC; 216093/MBC; 217753/MBC; 220240/MBC

Award Amount: 49,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claims of [REDACTED 1], née [REDACTED] (“Claimant [REDACTED 1]”), [REDACTED 3], née [REDACTED] (“Claimant [REDACTED 3]”), and [REDACTED 4] (“Claimant [REDACTED 4]”) to the account of Adolf Bloch;<sup>1</sup> and the claim of [REDACTED 2] (“Claimant [REDACTED 2]”) (together the “Claimants”) to the account of Hersch Hermann Itzig Bloch.<sup>2</sup> This Award is to the published account of Adolf Bloch (the “Account Owner”) at the Zurich branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All awards are published, but where a claimant has requested confidentiality, as in this case, the names of the claimant, any relatives of the claimant other than the account owner, and the bank have been redacted.

## **Information Provided by the Claimants**

### Claimant [REDACTED 1]

Claimant [REDACTED 1] submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as her husband’s paternal uncle, Adolf Bloch, who was born in approximately 1887 in Poland.

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<sup>1</sup> In a separate decision, the CRT awarded the account of Martin Bloch to Claimant [REDACTED 4]. See *In re Account of Martin Bloch* (approved on 24 December 2004).

<sup>2</sup> The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Hersch Hermann Itzig Bloch in the Account History Database prepared pursuant to the investigation of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or “ICEP Investigation”), which identified accounts probably or possibly belonging to Victims of Nazi Persecution, as defined in the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”).

Claimant [REDACTED 1] indicated that her husband's uncle, who was Jewish, resided in Tarnow, Poland, where he was a wealthy businessman who imported and exported furs. Claimant [REDACTED 1] indicated that her husband's uncle traveled frequently on business, and often went to Switzerland, where he deposited assets for safekeeping. Claimant [REDACTED 1] further indicated that her husband's uncle and his wife were deported in 1939 to the Tarnow ghetto, where they perished in 1942.

Claimant [REDACTED 1] indicated that she was born on 24 December 1924 in Tarnow.

Claimant [REDACTED 2]

Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as his brother, Adolf Bloch, who was born on 24 May 1919 in Vienna, Austria. Claimant [REDACTED 2] indicated that his parents [REDACTED] (who was born on 30 August 1887 in Koley may, Poland) and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED] (who was born on 8 January 1887 in Halicz, Poland) lived in Vienna from 1916 until 1933, when they moved their family to Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Claimant [REDACTED 2] further indicated that his parents, who were Jewish, owned real estate, including apartment buildings, in Frankfurt am Main and Berlin, Germany and that they had money deposited in a Swiss bank in Zurich. Finally, Claimant [REDACTED 2] indicated that on approximately 8 May 1942, his parents were deported to a concentration camp in or near Lodz, Poland, where they perished.

In support of his claim, Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted copies of documents, including: 1) his own birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED 2] was born on 26 February 1915 in Vienna, that he was Jewish, and that his parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED]; 2) a telegram from his parents in Frankfurt am Main to Claimant [REDACTED 2] in South Africa, dated 18 June 1941, sent via the International Red Cross; 3) a report of the Central Tracing Bureau of the United States Army, dated 1 February 1948, issued at Claimant [REDACTED 2]'s request, indicating that [REDACTED], who was Jewish, who was born in Poland, and who was of Austrian nationality, was deported to Lodz on 8 May 1942 at approximately 60 years of age; 4) an inheritance certificate relating to his father's estate, dated in Frankfurt am Main on 5 September 1949, indicating that [REDACTED], who resided in Frankfurt am Main, was declared deceased as of the end of the Second World War in Europe and that his heirs were his surviving children: [REDACTED 2] and Adolf Bloch, who resided in South Africa, and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who resided in England; 5) a power of attorney form, signed and dated in 1955, whereby Adolf Bloch (who resided in South Africa) granted power of attorney to his brother Josef Bloch (who also resided in South Africa) regarding all matters involving the restitution of their father's assets; 6) a report of the International Red Cross, issued to Claimant [REDACTED 2] in 1957, indicating that his parents [REDACTED] (who was born on 30 August 1887 in Delatyn, Poland) and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED] (who was born on 18 January 1887 in Halicz), who were Jewish and who resided in Frankfurt am Main, were deported on an unknown date and that they had property contained on a list of assets located in Germany; 7) correspondence between Claimant [REDACTED 2] and several Swiss banks, dated 1962, regarding his attempts to recover his family's accounts, which indicate that he was charged a search fee of 3.50 United States Dollars ("US \$") by a

Swiss bank in order to conduct a search in 1962; and 8) his sister's death certificate, indicating that [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], died on 7 December 1984 in England.

Claimant [REDACTED 2] previously submitted an Initial Questionnaire ("IQ") in 1999, asserting his entitlement to a Swiss bank account owned by his father, Herman Hersch Itzik Bloch.<sup>3</sup>

Claimant [REDACTED 2] indicated that he was born on 26 February 1915 in Vienna. Claimant [REDACTED 2] is representing his brother, Adolf Bloch, who was born on 24 May 1919, also in Vienna.

### Claimant [REDACTED 3]

Claimant [REDACTED 3] submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as her great-grandmother's second husband, Adolf Bloch, who was born on 2 June 1868 in Zdiby, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) and was married to [REDACTED] (formerly [REDACTED]), née [REDACTED] in Prague, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic). Claimant [REDACTED 3] indicated that her great-grandmother and step-great-grandfather, who were Jewish, lived in Prague, where her step-great-grandfather was a traveling salesman. Claimant [REDACTED 3] further indicated that her step-great-grandfather died in Prague on 18 June 1939 and that her great-grandmother inherited his accounts. According to Claimant [REDACTED 3], her great-grandmother and her daughter, (Claimant [REDACTED 3]'s maternal grandmother) [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], perished in concentration camps on 21 October 1942 and 29 August 1944, respectively. Finally, Claimant [REDACTED 3] indicated that her mother, [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], was also imprisoned in a concentration camp, that she was liberated at the end of the War, and that she died in Sedlcany, the Czech Republic in 1999.

In support of her claim, Claimant [REDACTED 3] submitted copies of documents, including: 1) her great-grandmother's birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED] was born on 21 March 1864 in Lukavec, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) and that she was Jewish; 2) her maternal grandparents' marriage certificate, indicating that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (who was born on 8 January 1900 to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], and who was Jewish) were married on 14 April 1928 in Prague and that Adolf Bloch, who was a traveling salesman, acted as a witness; 3) her mother's birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED] was born on 9 May 1929 in Prague, that her mother was [REDACTED], née [REDACTED] (who was born on 8 January 1900 in Prague to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], and was Jewish) and that Adolf Bloch, who was a traveling salesman, acted as a witness; 4) her step-great-grandfather's death certificate, indicating that Adolf Bloch was born on 2 June 1868 in Zdiby and that he died in Prague on 18 June 1939; 5) her grandmother's residency certificate, issued in 1940, indicating that [REDACTED], who was born on 8 January 1900, resided in Kutna Hora, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic); 6) victim reports issued by the Austrian Red Cross in 1946 and the Jewish community of Prague in 1948 and 2001, as well as excerpts from a Theresienstadt memory book published in 1995, indicating i) that [REDACTED], who was born on 21 March

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<sup>3</sup> As noted above, the CRT did not locate an account belonging to Hersch Hermann Itzig (Itzik) Bloch in the Account History Database.

1864 and lived in Prague, was deported to Theresienstadt on 16 July 1942 and transported to Treblinka on 22 October 1942, and ii) that [REDACTED], who was born on 8 January 1900 and lived in Prague, was deported on 8 December 1943 and perished in Theresienstadt on 29 August 1944; 7) an official document, issued to Claimant [REDACTED 3]'s mother [REDACTED] by the Czechoslovakian Ministry of Defense, indicating that her mother [REDACTED] perished in the Second World War; 8) her own birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED 3] was born on 15 September 1952 in Prague and that her mother was [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who was born on 9 May 1929 in Prague to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED]; and 9) her mother's death certificate, indicating that [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who was born on 9 May 1929 in Prague to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], died on 28 February 1999 in Sedlcany.

Claimant [REDACTED 3] previously submitted IQs asserting her entitlement to Swiss bank accounts owned by her mother Sona Barvova, née Padoukova, and her maternal grandmother Hermina Padoukova, née Ledererova.<sup>4</sup>

#### Claimant [REDACTED 4]

Claimant [REDACTED 4] submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as his father Adolf (Addi) Jusepf Bloch, who was born on 24 August 1899 and was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who was born on 24 July 1924. Claimant [REDACTED 4] indicated that his parents, who were Jewish, resided in Berlin, Germany and that he was their only child. According to Claimant [REDACTED 4], his father was deported to Auschwitz, where he perished. Finally, Claimant [REDACTED 4] indicated that his mother died in 1978 in Canada.

In support of his claim, Claimant [REDACTED 4] submitted a copy of his own birth certificate, indicating that [REDACTED 4] was born on 26 February 1943 in Berlin and that his parents, who were Jewish, were Adolf Josef Bloch and [REDACTED].

Claimant [REDACTED 4] indicated that he was born on 26 February 1943 in Berlin.

### **Information Available in the Bank's Records**

The Bank's records consist of lists of dormant accounts. According to these records, the Account Owner was Adolf Bloch. These records do not indicate the Account Owner's domicile. The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held an account the type of which is not indicated, which was suspended by the Bank and was closed to bank fees on 30 June 1964. The Bank's records do not indicate the value of the account.

### **The CRT's Analysis**

#### Joinder of Claims

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<sup>4</sup> The CRT did not locate an account belonging to either of these individuals in the Account History Database.

According to Article 37(1) of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”), claims to the same or related accounts may be joined in one proceeding at the CRT’s discretion. In this case, the CRT determines it appropriate to join the four claims of the Claimants in one proceeding.

#### Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimants’ relatives’ names each match the published name of the Account Owner. The CRT notes that the Bank’s records do not contain any specific information about the Account Owner other than his name.

In support of his claim, Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted documents, including an inheritance certificate related to his father’s estate and his brother’s power of attorney form; Claimant [REDACTED 3] submitted documents, including her step-grandfather’s death certificate, as well as her grandparents’ marriage certificate and mother’s birth certificate; and Claimant [REDACTED 4] submitted documents, including his own birth certificate, each providing independent verification that the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name recorded in the Bank’s records as the name of the Account Owner.

Additionally, the CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes a person named Adolf Bloch, and indicates that his date of birth was 24 August 1899, that he resided in Berlin, and that he was deported to Auschwitz in 1944, and subsequently perished, which matches the information about the Account Owner provided by Claimant [REDACTED 4]. The database is a compilation of names from various sources, including the Yad Vashem Memorial of Israel.

The CRT notes that the name Adolf Bloch appears only once on the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP”) to be probably or possibly those of victims of Nazi persecution (the “ICEP List”).

The CRT notes that Claimant [REDACTED 2] filed an IQ with the Court in 1999, asserting his entitlement to a Swiss bank account owned by the Account Owner’s father, and that Claimant [REDACTED 3] filed an IQ in 1999, asserting her entitlement to Swiss bank accounts owned by the Account Owner’s spouse and stepchild, prior to the publication in February 2001 of the ICEP List. This indicates that these Claimants had reason to believe that their relatives owned Swiss bank accounts prior to the publication of the ICEP List. This supports the credibility of the information provided by Claimant [REDACTED 2] and Claimant [REDACTED 3].

The CRT notes that the Claimants’ relatives are different persons. However, given that the Claimants have identified all published information about the Account Owner that is available in the Bank’s records; that there is no additional information in the Bank’s records which would provide a basis for the CRT to make any further determinations as to the identity of the Account Owner; and that there were no other claims to this account, the CRT finds that the Claimants have each plausibly identified the Account Owner.

### Status of the Account Owner as a Victim of Nazi Persecution

Claimant [REDACTED 1] has made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. Claimant [REDACTED 1] stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, that he resided in Poland, and that he was deported to the Tarnow ghetto, where he perished in 1942. The CRT notes that persons corresponding to Claimant [REDACTED 1]'s parents and siblings (the Account Owner's relatives by marriage) who resided in Tarnow, were included in the CRT's database of victims. The CRT further notes that several of the entries regarding these individuals consist of testimony submitted by Claimant [REDACTED 1] in 1985.

Claimant [REDACTED 2] has also made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. Claimant [REDACTED 2] stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, that he resided in Nazi Germany after 1933, and that he fled to South Africa. Claimant [REDACTED 2] further stated that the Account Owner's parents remained in Germany and that they perished in a concentration camp. The CRT notes that persons named [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], corresponding to the Account Owners parents, were included in the CRT's database of victims.

Claimant [REDACTED 3] has also made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. Claimant [REDACTED 3] stated that the Account Owner was Jewish and that he lived in Prague after the Nazi occupation of Rump Czechoslovakia on 15 March 1939. Claimant [REDACTED 3] further stated that the Account Owner's heirs, including his wife (who took over his accounts upon his death in June 1939) and stepdaughter, who were Jewish, perished in concentration camps during the Holocaust. The CRT notes that persons named [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], corresponding to the Account Owner's widow and stepdaughter, were included in the CRT's database of victims.

Finally, Claimant [REDACTED 4] has also made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. Claimant [REDACTED 4] stated that the Account Owner was Jewish and that he perished in a concentration camp. As notes above, a person named Adolf Bloch was included in the CRT's database of victims.

### The Claimants' Relationships to the Account Owner

Claimant [REDACTED 1] has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific biographical information, demonstrating that the Account Owner was Claimant [REDACTED 1]'s husband's uncle. The CRT further notes that Claimant [REDACTED 1] submitted personal identification providing independent verification that her relatives bore the same family name as the Account Owner. Finally, the CRT notes that the foregoing information is of the type that family members would possess and indicates that the Account Owner was well known to Claimant [REDACTED 1] as a family member, and all of this information supports the plausibility that Claimant [REDACTED 1] is related to the Account Owner, as she has asserted in her Claim Form. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

As stated, Claimant [REDACTED 2] has plausibly demonstrated that his brother, represented party Adolf Bloch, was the Account Owner.

Claimant [REDACTED 3] has also plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific biographical information, demonstrating that the Account Owner was Claimant [REDACTED 3]'s great-grandmother's husband. The CRT further notes that Claimant [REDACTED 3] submitted a copy of Adolf Bloch's death certificate. The CRT notes that it is plausible that this document is a document which most likely only a family member would possess. The CRT further notes that Claimant [REDACTED 3] submitted copies of her maternal grandparents' marriage certificate and mother's birth certificate, both of which indicate that the Account Owner acted as a witness. The CRT notes that it is likely that a family member would serve in these roles. Finally, the CRT notes that the foregoing information is of the type that family members would possess and indicates that the Account Owner was well known to Claimant [REDACTED 3] as a family member, and all of this information supports the plausibility that Claimant [REDACTED 3] is related to the Account Owner, as she has asserted in her Claim Form. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs

Claimant [REDACTED 4] has plausibly demonstrated that he is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific biographical information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner was Claimant [REDACTED 4]'s father. These documents include Claimant [REDACTED 4]'s birth certificate. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

#### The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the account was closed to fees.

#### Basis for the Award

The CRT has determined that an Award may be made in favor of Claimant [REDACTED 1], Claimant [REDACTED 3], Claimant [REDACTED 4], and represented party Adolf Bloch. First, the claims are admissible in accordance with the criteria contained in Article 18 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process. Second, the Claimant [REDACTED 2] has plausibly demonstrated that his brother, represented party Adolf Bloch, was the Account Owner; Claimant [REDACTED 1] has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was her husband's uncle, Claimant [REDACTED 3] has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was her step-great-grandfather, and Claimant [REDACTED 4] has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was his father, and those relationships justify an Award. Third, the CRT has determined that neither the Account Owner nor his heirs received the proceeds of the claimed account.

Further, the CRT notes that represented party Adolf Bloch, as the Account Owner himself, has a better entitlement to the account than Claimant [REDACTED 2], the Account Owner's relative.

### Amount of the Award

In this case, the Account Owner held one account of unknown type. Pursuant to Article 29 of the Rules, when the value of an account is unknown, as is the case here, the average value of the same or a similar type of account in 1945 is used to calculate the current value of the account being awarded. Based on the investigation of this bank to identify accounts of Victims of Nazi Persecution pursuant to instructions of ICEP (the "ICEP Investigation"), in 1945 the average value of an account of unknown type was 3,950.00 Swiss Francs ("SF"). The current value of this amount is calculated by multiplying it by a factor of 12.5, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, to produce a total award amount of SF 49,375.00.

### Division of the Award

According to Article 26 of the Rules, in cases where the identity of the account owner cannot be precisely determined due to the limited information contained in the bank documents, and where several unrelated claimants have established a plausible relationship to a person with the same name as the account owner, the award will provide for a pro rata share of the full amount in the account to each claimant or group of claimants who would be otherwise entitled under these Rules. In this case, Claimant [REDACTED 2] has plausibly demonstrated that represented party Adolf Bloch was the Account Owner, and each of the remaining Claimants has established a plausible relationship to a person with the same name as the Account Owner. Accordingly, represented party Adolf Bloch and Claimant [REDACTED 1], Claimant [REDACTED 3], and Claimant [REDACTED 4] are each entitled to one-quarter of the Award amount.

### **Scope of the Award**

The Claimants should be aware that, pursuant to Article 20 of the Rules, the CRT will carry out further research on their claims to determine whether there are additional Swiss bank accounts to which they might be entitled, including research of the Total Accounts Database (consisting of records of 4.1 million Swiss bank accounts which existed between 1933 and 1945).

### **Certification of the Award**

The CRT certifies this Award for approval by the Court and payment by the Special Masters.

Claims Resolution Tribunal  
12 October 2007