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**Advocates on behalf of Jews in Russia,  
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July 28, 2010

His Excellency Andrus Ansip  
 Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia  
 The Stenbock House  
 Rahukohtu 3  
 15161 Tallinn  
 ESTONIA

Dear Prime Minister Ansip:


It has come to our attention that on July 31, 2010, the veterans of an Estonian division of the Waffen-SS will be holding a commemorative event in Vaivara. We are aware that Estonian members of the Waffen-SS fought and died in actions against Soviet troops during the Second World War. As you know, however, the Waffen-SS was condemned as a criminal organization by the post-war Nuremberg Trials for its intimate connection with the Nazi party, and its participation in atrocities throughout Estonia, the Baltics, and all of Europe.


The report of the Estonian International Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against Humanity, published in 2006, gives a detailed account of the formation of Estonian volunteer units within the Waffen-SS, beginning in 1942. Many of the members of these units previously belonged to security police units that were directly involved in the murder of Estonian Jews and partisans.

Although some Estonians may have been conscripted into these units, they were nonetheless affiliated with the armed wing of the Nazi party, an organization established by Heinrich Himmler, the man responsible for conceiving and implementing the Final Solution, the Nazi plan to murder the Jews of Europe.

Any official involvement by Estonia in the commemorative activities of such an organization would be unworthy of its status as a free and democratic country, a member of the European Union and NATO, and a trusted friend of its own developing Jewish community. We therefore urge you to condemn the atrocities of the Waffen-SS, and to refrain from affording the honor of your government's regard to those who perpetrated these crimes.

Sincerely,

  
 Richard B. Stone  
 Chairman

  
 Alexander Smukler  
 President

  
 Mark B. Levin  
 Executive Director