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Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
18th District, New York

June 14, 2007

The Honorable Laszlo Solyom
President of the Republic of Hungary
Sandor Palace
1014 Budapest
Szent Gyorgy ter 1.
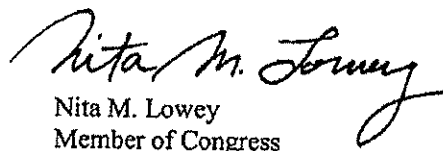
Dear President Solyom,

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Martha Nierenberg, an 83-year-old survivor of the Holocaust who was born in Hungary and has been a U.S. citizen for many years. She is a grandchild of Baron Mor Herzog who amassed a large collection of fine art, including 2,500 old master and 19th Century paintings.

The paintings in the Herzog Collection were stolen from the family during World War II as a result of Hungary's anti-Jewish laws that confiscated property owned by Jews, and the depredations of the Nazis. Stripping Jews of their property was part and parcel of the Nazis' genocidal plan to strip Jews of everything, including their lives.

Mrs. Nierenberg has been trying since 1996 to recover a dozen of her grandfather's paintings that hang in two state-owned museums in Budapest and are identified as belonging to the Herzog Collection. With the exception of one painting, "Christ in White Robe," by Munkacsy, Hungary has refused to return the painting to her or any other member of the family.

On behalf of Mrs. Nierenberg, I urge you to return the paintings to the Herzog family. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress