



PRIME MINISTER

**Members of Congress**  
**United States Senators**

Washington DC

*Budapest, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

Dear Members of Congress,

Dear Senators,

Esteemed Friends of Hungary,

We Hungarians are always moved by and grateful for signals received from across the globe that show attention, compassion and sincere friendship. We are proud to have friends around the World, in America as well, who pay attention to the developments of Hungarian life.

I consider it a gift of fate that as a result of the 2014 parliamentary elections, by the will and mandate of the voters, I have the opportunity to continue the policy of unifying the nation which I started during my first term as Prime Minister, in 1998. Following the guidance of your great president: of the people, by the people, for the people. We Hungarians turned our steps towards a future based on mutual understanding, the culture of respect and the unconditional respect of human dignity.

In Hungary, the decisions to give moral and spiritual restitution to the members of the Jewish community, who had lived with us throughout history and had become an integral part of the Hungarian nation, have been taken. We established the Holocaust Museum, we introduced Holocaust Remembrance Day and we declared zero tolerance against anti-Semitism. As you surely know, we are commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust this year. I can assure you that my government is counting on the opinion and the participation of the Hungarian

Jewish community regarding every important moment of the Holocaust memorial year. We consider the Holocaust as an equally dark period in world and Hungarian history.

The monument that you referred to, which we are erecting on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hungary's German occupation, and the loss of state sovereignty, is not a Holocaust memorial. Moving Holocaust monuments and memorial sites already exist in Hungary.

The composition erected now is a freedom fighting people's memorial of the pain of having its liberty crushed. This monument, paying tribute to the memory of the victims, reminds us all that the loss of our national sovereignty led to tragic consequences, claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands, and brought immense suffering upon further millions, the entire nation.

For Americans, for a nation that celebrates its independence so proudly, the devotion of Hungarians to freedom might seem natural, and the pain caused by the loss of our sovereignty and freedom might be comprehensible. From March 19, 1944 until 1991, occupying troops were continuously stationed on the soil of our country.

The erectors of the monument are thus driven by the pain of losing our freedom, the aspiration to remind generations to come of the importance of freedom, and of the tragic consequences its loss has on the life of a nation. The inscription speaks clearly: "The German occupation of Hungary, March 19, 1944, in memory of the victims."

In the spirit of respect towards you and the American people, let me please hereby thank you for your interest and your good wishes.



ORBÁN Viktor

To:

**Eliot L. Engel**

Member of Congress

**Henry Waxman**

Member of Congress

**Eric Cantor**

Member of Congress

**Charles E. Schumer**

United States Senator

**Richard Blumenthal**  
United States Senator

**Carl Levin**  
United States Senator

**Brian Schatz**  
United States Senator

**Benjamin Cardin**  
United States Senator

**Al Franken**  
United States Senator

**Dianne Feinstein**  
United States Senator

**Ron Wyden**  
United States Senator

**Barbara Boxer**  
United States Senator

**Steve Israel**  
Member of Congress

**Adam Schiff**  
Member of Congress

**Brad Schneider**  
Member of Congress

**Sander Levin**  
Member of Congress

**Ted Deutch**  
Member of Congress

**Jerrold Nadler**  
Member of Congress

**John Yarmuth**  
Member of Congress

**Jan Schakowsky**  
Member of Congress

**Brad Sherman**  
Member of Congress

**Debbie Wasserman Schultz**  
Member of Congress

**Nita Lowey**  
Member of Congress

**David Cicilline**  
Member of Congress

**Jared Polis**  
Member of Congress

**Susan Davis**  
Member of Congress

**Lois Frankel**  
Member of Congress

**Alan Grayson**  
Member of Congress

**Alan Lowenthal**  
Member of Congress

**Steve Cohen**  
Member of Congress