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July 24, 2009

H.E. Horst Köhler
Federal President
Federal Republic of Germany
Bundespräsidialamt
Spreeweg 1
10557 Berlin

Dear Mr. President:

We write to convey your deep concern about your conferral of the Federal Cross of Merit on Felicia Langer and to respectfully urge you to reconsider the award.

Ms. Langer is known for her virulent criticism of Israel which often crosses the line into demonization of Israel. While the spokesman for the state of Baden-Wurttemberg explained that the award is for her "humanitarian service," the association is inevitable between your action and what Ms. Langer is most recognized for.

Less known than her libelous accusations of apartheid against Israel are Ms. Langer's comparisons of Israel with the Nazi regime. As Ms. Langer's husband is a Holocaust survivor, her use of such analogies is difficult to comprehend. What is clear to us, though, is that making such comparisons should disqualify Ms. Langer from consideration of one of Germany's highest awards.

In her 2001 book *Quo vadis Israel? The new Intifada of the Palestinians*, she writes about an ill Palestinian woman who was not allowed through an Israeli checkpoint and clearly alludes to Nazi soldiers: "The soldiers were only following the orders of their superior. This reminds me very much of events in our history. Even if we say that it is better not to make comparisons, this can no longer help Ella."

Ms. Langer made Nazi-Israel comparisons as well by terming Israeli military detention centers "concentration camps." In testimony to the United Nations she wrote of the "Ansar Concentration Camp" that Israel established during its 1982 war with Lebanon. She has also written about a military facility in Israel as "the concentration camp of Sarafand."

H.E. Horst Köhler
July 23, 2009
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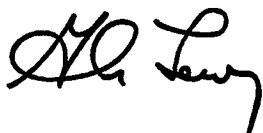
While less of a direct comparison, Ms. Langer makes clear that Israel must be opposed, because of the Nazi genocide. In her 1999 book, *Miecius Report. Youth between the Ghetto and Theresienstadt*, she wrote:

Over the years, Mieciu and I have internalized the legacy of those who were murdered, and this legacy, as we see it, is this: never to be silent in the face of any crime or injustice, but to fight relentlessly against each and every form of racism and anti-Semitism, and to defend the dignity and rights of all human beings, whoever they may be. This will be the obligation of the German people for all times, but it is not an exclusively German obligation. In honor of the memory of all those victims and in the spirit of their final legacy, which is humanity, I denounce the decades-long oppression of the Palestinians by Israel, and the wrong that was done to them and that still persists to this day.

Such declarations insult the memory of those murdered by the Nazi regime and deserve condemnations rather than awards.

In light of these facts, which we do not believe represent a comprehensive list of Ms. Langer's Nazi-Israel comparisons, we hope you will agree that the award of the Federal Cross of Merit should be rescinded.

Sincerely,



Glen S. Lewy
National Chairman



Abraham H. Foxman
National Director

Cc: H.E. Klaus Scharioth, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the
United States

GSL/AHF/as