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Dear Mr. Baron,

I am writing to you on the behalf of *Gegen Vergessen – fuer Demokratie* (Initiative Against the Oblivion Of the Shoah – For Democracy). We are a nation-wide network of historians, teachers, journalists and politicians, engaged in civil society activities in Germany and abroad. We ask for your help to foster the documentation of the concentration camp Hailfingen, whose story was nearly forgotten till a short time ago.

In November 1944, 600 Jewish prisoners were deported from the concentration camp Stutthof to the ‘Aussenlager’ (outpost) Hailfingen, near the city of Stuttgart in southern Germany. The “Aussenkommando” Hailfingen was organizationally a part of the concentration camp Natzweiler (France).

The conditions were hard. The men had to work outside in the cold winter to reconstruct an airfield for the German “Luftwaffe”. In only three months, nearly 200 Jews died. In February 1945, the camp was disbanded. The survivors were brought to other camps (Dautmergen, Vaihingen, Dachau, Bergen-Belsen). In April 1945, the weakened men had to go on death marches. At the time of the liberation by American , British and French soldiers, another 200 Jews had left their lives.

We know the names of 117 men who survived the camp Hailfingen. We are in contact with two survivors: Peter Zuckerman, who lives in the USA and with Mordechai Ciechanower who lives in Israel. Mr. Ciechanower has now visited us three times (the last time in October 2007). Our organization arranged a dialogue with high school students to talk about the Shoah and helped Mr. Ciechanower to publish his autobiography in German with the title “*Der Dachdecker von Auschwitz Birkenau*” (The roofer of Auschwitz-Birkenau).

This spring, we published a book ‘*Von Auschwitz ins Gaeu – The concentration camp outpost Hailfingen–Tailfingen*’. Additionally, the local government has made available to us a building to establish a permanent exhibition. The museum will be inaugurated at the Holocaust Memorial Day (27<sup>th</sup> January 2009). Furthermore, a memorial is in preparation with the inscription of all names of the victims on the former area of the concentration camp.

We are still looking for testimonies. In the video archive of the USC Shoah Foundation I found the names of eleven persons who had been in Hailfingen. Of course, we know that the men had a long life of suffering (mostly beginning in 1939) and they spent only a short time in Hailfingen. Nevertheless, the time in this “small” camp was terrible for them. Their testimonies– even if they say just a few sentences about Hailfingen- are tremendously valuable for us.

Dear Mr. Baron, we got your video-interview by the Shoah foundation.

We are very interested to get more information from you about your time in Hailfingen.

We know that it is very difficult to remember all the details after such a long time. On the other side the wounds will never heal!

We will thank you for all information, also about the weeks after Hailfingen until your liberation.

Very important for our exhibition are photos or other documents. Of course we know that most of the personal documents (albums with photos of the family etc.) were destroyed by the nazis. Also photos, made after the liberation – are very worthful fur us. Please send us not the originals but copies

If you want we could send you as a small gift our book about the concentration camp Hailfingen.

Finally, I would like to thank you in advance for supporting our project!

Yours sincerely,