

# Los Angeles Times

## Deportation of Karl Linnas

[April 01, 1987](#)

Your editorial (March 18) "Whose Justice?" opposes the deportation of the Nazi war criminal Karl Linnas to the Soviet Union. However, the editorial fails to state what Karl Linnas did to merit deportation or what the evidence against him was. I served as trial attorney in the Justice Department Office of Special Investigation (OSI), and was one of the prosecutors in the Linnas case.

The case against Linnas has been heard by five U.S. courts. Each of those courts found the evidence against Linnas to be "overwhelming." That evidence consisted of the following:

1--Linnas wrote several documents in 1941 that he signed "Karl Linnas, Chief of the Tartu Concentration Camps." These documents were examined by an FBI forensic document expert, who testified that there was no evidence that these documents were not authentic. At his trial, Linnas took the Fifth Amendment and refused to testify regarding these documents, claiming that his answer would incriminate him.

2--In interviews with the New York Times and Newsday in 1961, Linnas admitted being in charge of the guard duty detail at the Nazi concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia.

3--A friend of Linnas who lives on Long Island testified at the trial. This individual testified that Linnas told him that he had served as a guard at the concentration camp.

4--Witnesses who currently live in Tartu, Estonia, testified by videotape at Linnas' trial that he was chief of the concentration camp. They testified that Linnas supervised the transportation of innocent Jewish women and children from his camp to a nearby anti-tank ditch. At the ditch, the women and children were tied by their hands and brought in their underwear to the edge of the ditch and forced to kneel. The guards then opened fire and murdered them. There was eyewitness testimony that Linnas, on at least one occasion, announced the victims' death sentence at the side of the ditch and gave the order to fire.

Witnesses testified that on at least one occasion, Linnas personally approached the edge of the ditch and fired into it. Another eyewitness recounted having seen Linnas help direct Jews out of a school and onto a school bus. That witness recalled that Linnas helped a small child with a doll onto the bus, and that the doll was later placed in a storage area for the personal effects of those who had been killed.

At his trial in a U.S. District Court, Linnas did not deny his guilt--he took the Fifth Amendment, claiming that his answers would incriminate him.

Five U.S. courts, including two panels of the U.S. Court of Appeals, have found that Linnas served as chief of a Nazi concentration camp and participated in murders and other atrocities against men, women, and children. Thirteen U.S. judges have unanimously found against Linnas. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear his case on three occasions. Certainly, if there was any question as to his guilt, the Supreme Court would have heard the case. Linnas has received much more consideration in the U.S. courts than most criminals receive.

The law is clear that Linnas must be deported to the Soviet Union. That is where his crimes took place. Misplaced sympathy for this man, who showed no sympathy for his innocent victims, or antipathy for the Soviet Union, should not stand in the way of justice.

JEFFREY N. MAUSNER

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April 1, 1987

Mr. Jeffrey N. Mausner  
Attorney at Law  
Suite 1150  
1925 Century Park East  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90067

Dear Mr. Mausner:

Your reply to the senseless editorial of the Los Angeles Times of March 18, 1987, is brilliant and courageous.

I am absolutely astonished that any American or other newspaper of the stature of the Times could even print one word of sympathy for these vicious killers. Unfortunately, there are too damn many of these murderers enjoying the good life of this country and others. When caught and exposed, they all deny their crimes or plead that they hate the Russians and cannot get fair justice there.

Some time ago, I wrote the Attorney General of the United States demanding that Linnas be deported. I had hoped that many others did the same.

In closing, every decent person, Jew or non-Jew, owes you a debt of gratitude for setting the record straight on Linnas.

Very truly yours,



MAX MARON

# Setting the Record Straight

## News from National

- ADL has called to public attention a letter sent by the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, to Yassir Arafat of the PLO. The relevant portion of the message reads as follows:

"... I am pleased to have a new opportunity to express our solidarity and firm support for the noble struggle of the Palestinian people, who fight for their legitimate and inalienable rights over the territories occupied by Israel.

"On this memorable occasion, I take the opportunity to thank the Palestinian people's solidarity and to express our firm conviction that our peoples will defeat the unfair, illegal, and immoral aggression imposed on us because of our invincible determination to be free."

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For details contact:

Joshua Kheel  
Anti-Defamation League  
6505 Wilshire Blvd., #814  
Los Angeles, CA 90048



Telephone: (213) 655-8205  
(818) 907-7753

Regional Board member Jeffrey Mausner, helped get the facts out after a mid-February article in the Los Angeles *Times* misled the readers of that paper. In a piece entitled "Accused War Criminal Bound for a Soviet Fate," a *Times* reporter asserted that "all the evidence against (Karl) Linnas came from the Soviet government." This assertion was made in the context of an article which raised questions with regard to the possible deportation of Linnas to the Soviet Union for trial as a war criminal.

Mausner, who served as one of the prosecutors of the Linnas case while with the Office of Special Investigations of the United States Department of Justice, wrote to set the record straight. Not only had Linnas admitted being a guard at the Nazi concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, but a friend of Linnas testified that Linnas had spoken to him about his experiences in Tartu. As Mausner makes clear, five United States courts have found Linnas was the chief of the concentration camp at Tartu and personally responsible for the mass murder there. Those American courts "stated that the evidence against him was overwhelming."

In light of the Demjanjuk case in Israel and the tension focused on the Linnas case in the United States, Mausner's rebuttal is especially important.

## Justice Needs Help



The Office of Special Investigations of the United States Department of Justice has requested ADL's assistance in seeking to bring to justice those who aided the Nazis during World War II.

Anyone who was present during 1941 - 1944 in the Lithuanian localities of Marijampole, Rokiskis (Roszki or Rokischken), Sksaudvle, Svencioneliai and Miezioneliai is requested to please contact the ADL office.

Additionally, the Office of Special Investigations would like to interview any survivor from the area of Vilna, Poland who is able to recall the activities of the Lithuanian Security Police. OSI would also like to interview former inmates of the wartime Nazi police prison in the town of Braetz, which is located near the City of Schwiebus in Poland.

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067

April 20, 1987

Ranny Cooper  
c/o Senator Edward Kennedy  
315 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Ms. Cooper:

It was a pleasure meeting you and Senator Kennedy at the luncheon at Scratch restaurant in Santa Monica on April 13.

Enclosed please find the information I discussed with you and the Senator concerning Karl Linnas. As you can see from the enclosed decisions of the United States Courts, Mr. Linnas has been found to have been the Chief of the Nazi concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, and to have participated in hundreds of murders of innocent men, women and children. The evidence against Linnas is summarized in my letter to the editor of the Los Angeles Times, which is enclosed.

Linnas has been ordered deported to the Soviet Union. Today, the Supreme Court rejected his motion for a rehearing. The only thing holding up Linnas' deportation to the U.S.S.R. is Attorney General Meese. The law is clear that Linnas must be deported to the U.S.S.R. Nevertheless, Patrick Buchanan, some Eastern European groups, and neo-Nazi groups have launched a campaign to convince the Attorney General not to deport him. So far, it appears that they have been successful.

If ever there was a person who does not deserve to be given refuge by this country, it is Karl Linnas. It is strange that Attorney General Meese, who prides himself on being in a law and order administration, would not carry out the law in this case.

Senators Danforth and Chiles are circulating a letter urging Attorney General Meese to carry out Linnas' deportation to the Soviet Union. I urge Senator Kennedy to sign this letter.

Sincerely,

*Jeffrey N. Mausner*  
Jeffrey N. Mausner

APR 2 1987



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JAMES KINSELLA  
Editor, Editorial Pages

April 1, 1987

Jeffrey N. Mausner  
Berman & Blanchard  
1925 Century Park East  
Suite 1150  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Dear Mr. Mausner:

I understand your predicament -- we receive similar complaints from readers regarding our own letters page.

You haven't mentioned whether you attempted to get this letter published in the Times. I suggest you try that first -- and contact the editor of the editorial pages there as well.

Let me know if you still run into problems.

Sincerely,



James Kinsella

April 10, 1987

James Kinsella  
Editor, Editorial Pages  
Los Angeles Herald  
1111 South Broadway  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Dear Mr. Kinsella:

I wrote a Letter to the Editor of the Herald recently involving the deportation of Nazi war criminal Karl Linnas, and the biased reporting on Linnas' case by the Los Angeles Times. You wrote back to me on April 1, asking if I had attempted to get my letter published by the Times. The Times did not publish that letter, but did publish a later letter I wrote concerning Linnas (which was not as critical of the Times' reporting), a copy of which is attached.

Also enclosed is a proposed op-ed piece involving the deportation of Linnas and the use of evidence from the Soviet Union in trials of Nazi war criminals in the United States. The Times is not going to publish this proposed op-ed piece, and I am now submitting it for your consideration. I have not submitted it to any other newspapers.

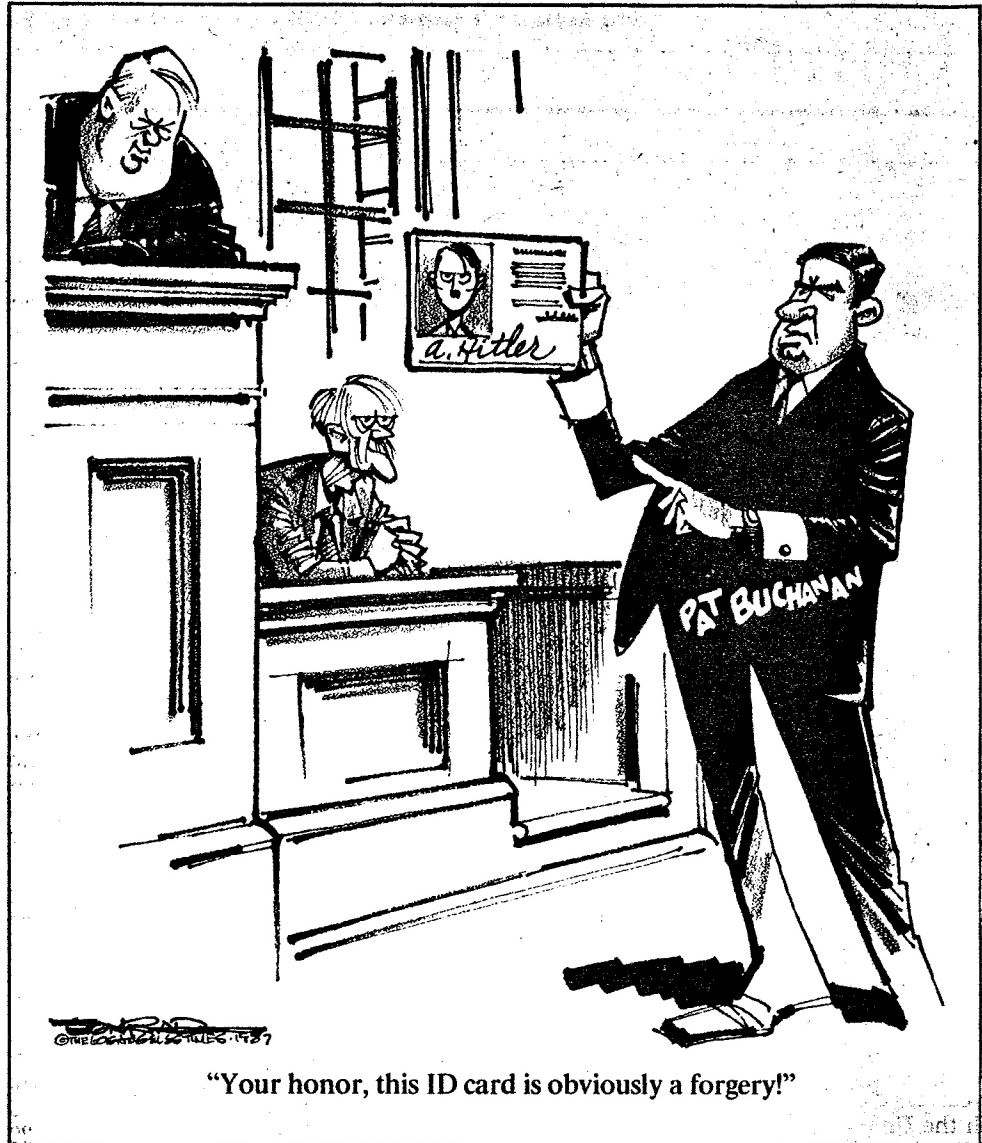
I served as a Trial Attorney in the Office of Special Investigations, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice from July 1979 to January 1986, and was one of the prosecutors in the Linnas case, as well as in other cases involving Nazi war criminals. I am currently a partner in the law firm of Berman & Blanchard in Century City.

I would appreciate if you could let me know whether you are interested in using this piece, since I want to submit it elsewhere if you are not interested.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey N. Mausner

4/22/87



"Your honor, this ID card is obviously a forgery!"



From the desk of  
Dr. Margolis

4/1/87

Seberg —

A very much to the point and on  
the issue response. We are  
all appreciative.

Seberg, Director  
SWC.