



MEDIA RELEASE
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Federal Court decision on 2 July 2010 concerning Charles Zentai

The President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Robert Goot, said today:

“The Federal Court’s latest finding that Charles Zentai is not capable of being extradited to Hungary is a sad one for the family of Peter Balazs and those who wish Zentai to face his accusers.

“The violent death of the young boy Peter Balazs in Hungary in 1944 was completely unrelated to any military operations which were then under way. The alleged conduct therefore constituted not only a war crime but also murder. Most civilized countries, including Australia, do not place a legal time limit on bringing murder charges.”

“Hungary is a democratic country with an independent judiciary. The Hungarian government’s request to Australia for the extradition of Zentai should be granted to allow the Hungarian investigation into the death of Peter Balazs to be completed and, if Zentai is charged, his guilt or innocence to be determined. Justice demands no less.”

“Although the Australian Jewish community is not involved in the proceedings, it has the highest proportion of Holocaust survivors of any community outside of Israel and many people in our community are following the case with interest.

“We believe it is appropriate given the complex issues dealt with in the judgment for the Federal Government to give most serious consideration to whether grounds

exist for an appeal. The integrity and quality of Australia's system of justice is not in question."

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