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818 Bromley Street
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Dr. Norman Lamm
Yeshiva University
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033-3201

File

Re: Article in *Tradition* entitled, "Holocaust Compensation from the Viewpoint of Jewish Law and Morality"

Dear Dr. Lamm:

I have read your recent article, "Holocaust Compensation from the Viewpoint of Jewish Law and Morality." The article, while forceful, left me puzzled, and I respectfully seek your explanation or clarification of a point.

Your article is principally built on the mitzvah in Lev. 19:16, "You shall not stand by idly while the blood of your brother is being spilled." From this, and also Rambam and the Talmud, you extract the point that "[n]ations as well as individuals are enjoined to defend the defenseless" You apply other *halakhic* principles, such as *tzorkhei rabbim*.

My question is this: Which, if any, of the laws or principles relied upon in your article apply to non-Jews? I find it hard to believe that all of them do. I don't recall anything in the seven mitzvahs of the *bnei Noach* that encompasses not standing by the blood of one's brother or *tzorkhei rabbim*.

If it is the whole point of the Jewish people that we are *kadosh*, separate and apart from other nations, and if that *kedushah* is founded on our being bound by many more mitzvot than the nations of the world, then I take it that it is contrary to the very idea of the Jewish people to impose on other nations laws that apply only to *klal Yisrael*.

I look forward to your answer.

Respectfully,


Arthur G. Sapper