



human rights *first*

THE NEW NAME OF

LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

April 19, 2004

The Honorable Colin L. Powell
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

We are very pleased that you will go to Berlin next week to attend the OSCE's meeting on antisemitism. We know that you have many competing demands on your time. Therefore we greatly appreciate your making a special effort to attend this important conference.

The Berlin meeting will provide a very useful forum for the United States to work with European governments to craft joint strategies to combat antisemitic discrimination and violence. Your participation in Berlin will be helpful in developing these strategies and a larger framework for addressing a broader anti-discrimination agenda.

Your attendance sends an encouraging message to those European governments which are eager to confront the problem of anti-Semitism more effectively, and puts pressure on less enthusiastic governments to approach the conference seriously. We hope that you and other State Department officials will encourage every OSCE member to include senior government officials in their official delegations.

My colleague Michael McClintock and I will both attend the Berlin meeting, and Human Rights First is issuing a new report on antisemitism in Europe to coincide with the conference. We will send you and the other members of the U.S. delegation copies of this report in the next few days.

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Thank you again for making the Berlin meeting a priority. We look forward to working with you and others in the U.S. government on these issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

Mike Posner

Michael Posner
Executive Director