



*Settlement of Certain Outstanding Claims*, Mar. 10, 1995, T.I.A.S. No. 12,611 (entered into force Apr. 18, 1995) ("Settlement Agreement"). Claims covered by the Settlement Agreement are

the claims of United States nationals (including natural and juridical persons) against Albania arising from any nationalization, expropriation, intervention, and other taking of, or measures affecting, property of nationals of the United States prior to the date of this agreement[.]

Settlement Agreement, Article 1(a).

The Claimant in this case asserts that the properties that are the subject of her claim were confiscated by the Albanian government in May 1951, and that the properties were owned by one Hasim Meraja at the time of confiscation. The Claimant states that Hasim Meraja was an Albanian citizen when the property was taken.

It is a well-established principle of the law of international claims, which has been applied by both this Commission and its predecessors, the War Claims Commission and the International Claims Commission, that a claim may be found compensable only if the property that forms the basis of the claim was owned by a U.S. national at the time the property was confiscated, expropriated, or otherwise taken. *See, e.g., Claim of THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH KREN, DECEASED against Yugoslavia, Claim No. Y-0660, Decision No. Y-1171 (1954); Claim of ILONA CZIKE against Hungary, Claim No. HUNG-2-0784, Decision No. HUNG-2-191 (1976); Claim of JOSEPH REISS against the German Democratic Republic, Claim No. G-2853, Decision No. G-2499 (1981).* Congress has explicitly reaffirmed "the principle and practice of the United States to seek compensation from foreign governments on behalf only of persons who were nationals of the United States at the time" of loss. Czechoslovakian Claims Settlement Act of 1981, Pub. L. No. 97-127, § 6(a)(2)(B), 95 Stat. 1675, 1677 (1981).

Section 509.5(b) of the Commission's regulations provides:

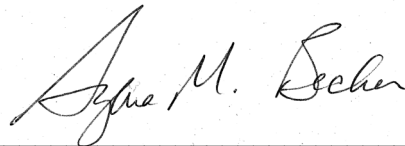
The claimant will have the burden of proof in submitting evidence and information sufficient to establish the elements necessary for a determination of the validity and amount of his or her claim.

45 C.F.R. § 509.5(b) (2021).

The Claimant has not met her burden of proof to provide evidence sufficient to establish that the property that is the subject of her claim was owned by a U.S. national at the time of confiscation. Indeed, Claimant's own Statement of Claim form indicates that at the time of the alleged confiscation, the owner of the property was not a U.S. national. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, this claim thus is not compensable.

Accordingly, the claim must be and is hereby denied.

Dated at Washington, DC, November 16, 2022  
and entered as the Proposed Decision  
of the Commission.



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Sylvia M. Becker, Commissioner



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Patrick Hovakimian, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, any objections must be filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision. Absent objection, this decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. FCSC Regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 509.5(e), (g) (2021).