



# Department of Justice

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The Office of Special Investigations of the Department of Justice today began deportation proceedings against Konrads Kalejs of St. Petersburg, Florida, on the basis of his alleged collaboration with Nazi Germany in the persecution of civilians during World War II.

The order to show cause was filed in the U. S. Immigration Court in Miami, Florida.

The Office of Special Investigations (OSI) alleges that Kalejs served in the Arajs Kommando (Latvian Security Auxiliary Police) during the Nazi occupation of Latvia in World War II.

Neal Sher, Director of OSI, stated that this unit was organized and commanded by Viktors Arajs and operated under the authority of the German SD. The Arajs Kommando was an execution squad which traveled through Latvia, carrying out numerous mass murders of Jews and other civilians. Viktors Arajs was convicted by a West German court in 1980 of the murder of at least 13,000 people during the Nazi occupation of Latvia. Arajs is serving a term of life imprisonment in West Germany.

The order to show cause alleges that Kalejs joined the Arajs Kommando in July 1941 and served as a first lieutenant and company commander in the unit. It is alleged that Kalejs was

stationed in Riga during the time when the Arajs Kommando murdered thousands of Jews in the forests surrounding Riga.

Kalejs is charged with having assisted and participated in the persecution of persons on the basis of race, religion, national origin or political opinion under the direction of the Nazis.

On December 7, 1944, Kalejs entered the 15th SS Grenadier Battalion of the Latvian Legion, where he served as a first lieutenant, according to the order.

The order also alleges that Kalejs lied about his service in the Arajs Kommando and SS when he obtained a visa to come to the United States, claiming under oath that he had been a farm laborer in Latvia during World War II. When questioned by the Justice Department in March 1984, however, Kalejs admitted that he had lied about his activities during World War II when he obtained his visa. He entered the United States on February 6, 1959.

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