

Ronald S. Lauder  
President

February 9, 2015

Mrs. Halina Birenbaum  
Via E-mail: halina@012.net.il

Dear Mrs. Birenbaum,

I want to personally thank you for making not just the extraordinary effort to come back to Auschwitz after 70 years, but sharing your memories with all of us during the commemoration ceremony. Your story made everyone in that room, as well as the millions of people watching on television, aware of the personal nature of the Holocaust. In a place that stole all identity from its victims, you gave us that identity.

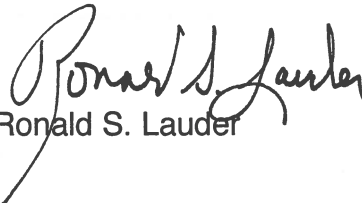
No one who was in the room can ever fully comprehend what you endured in that camp 70 years ago. But through your poignant and very personal story, you helped give all of us some understanding.

You should also know that when you spoke, there was complete silence in that large room. That took great courage, a courage that you have demonstrated every day of your life.

I am so grateful to have been a part of this and to have shared the podium with you.

I am forever indebted.

Sincerely,



Ronald S. Lauder