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International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims to Hold Annual Meeting Tomorrow

KAI RYSSDAL, anchor:

This is MARKETPLACE. I'm Kai Ryssdal.

An international commission that's supposed to resolve insurance claims from Holocaust survivors holds its annual meeting tomorrow. Nancy Marshall reports commissioners are likely to get an earful from a wide variety of critics.

NANCY MARSHALL reporting:

The critics range from Holocaust survivors who say they're having trouble collecting on claims to California's insurance commissioner, who says the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims is, quote, "failing miserably." One of the biggest complaints is that the five-year-old commission has spent more on administrative costs than it's paid out in claims, but the commission's chief operational officer, Mara Rudman, says things will even out eventually.

Ms. MARA RUDMAN (International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims COO): At the end of the day, we will have provided roughly \$400 million to pay claims and for humanitarian needs, and the remaining amount will go to administrative expenses.

MARSHALL: Rudman says that works out to between 18 and 20 percent for overhead. She says that's high, but adds that's because the commission has to seek out claimants from all over the world. In Washington, I'm Nancy Marshall for MARKETPLACE.