

July 2012

**From the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism (SEAS)**

**The SEAS Monitor**

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well. This is the July issue of *The SEAS Monitor*. It covers my activities during the month of July. *The Monitor* is a way for me to keep you informed about my work as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. Please click here for [previous copies](#).

I encourage you to “Like” my page on Facebook: “Hannah Rosenthal, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.” When you “Like” a page on Facebook, it will be listed under your “Activities and Interests” tab, which can be found in your Info section. If my page is updated, the update will appear on your News Feed on your homepage.

Be sure to follow our postings entitled “Here’s What We’re Hearing: Anti-Semitism News Updates.” It is through these updates that we monitor global incidents of anti-Semitism. “Here’s What We’re Hearing: Jewish World News Updates” contains relevant news regarding positive efforts to promote tolerance and inter-religious cooperation.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our warmest regards to Muslims around the world as they observe this month of Ramadan.

Please enjoy and keep in touch.

Warm regards,  
Hannah

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**EVENTS:**

***2012 Hours Against Hours Hate Concert at the Kennedy Center***



On July 3 Special Advisor for International Disability Rights Judy Heumann, Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith, and I attended the [2012 Hours Against Hate \(HAH\) concert](#) at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. Judy introduced Canadian singer/songwriter [Justin Hines](#) and gave short remarks about the *2012 Hours Against Hate* campaign, as Farah and I joined her on stage.



(l-r) Farah Pandith, Judith Heumann, Justin Hines and me

**Active Citizenship Award and Press Conference**

On July 20 I was proud to speak at and give the U.S. Embassy to Hungary's Active Citizenship Award to the March of the Living organization, which conducts walks from

Auschwitz to Birkenau and has sponsored Holocaust memorial walks in Budapest. I talked about the *2012 Hours Against Hate* campaign at the ceremony, and I also held a brief press conference afterwards. I expressed the importance of speaking out to combat all hate speech.

### **Secretary Clinton's Speeches**

#### **"Imagine the Unimaginable: Ending Genocide in the 21st Century"**

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum held the [Imagine the Unimaginable: Ending Genocide in the 21st Century Symposium](#) on July 24, where leaders discussed what can be done to prevent atrocities in the future. Secretary Clinton delivered a powerful [keynote address](#) for the Symposium. I share her sentiments when she stated:

"Let me begin by acknowledging that here in this museum, it's important to note that every generation produces extremist voices denying that the Holocaust ever happened. And we must remain vigilant against those deniers and against anti-Semitism, because when heads of state and religious leaders deny the Holocaust from their bully pulpits, we cannot let their lies go unanswered. When we hear Holocaust glorification and public calls to, quote, "finish the job," we need to make clear that violence, bigotry will not be tolerated. And, yes, when criticism of Israeli Government policies crosses over into demonization of Israel and Jews, we must push back."

### **International Religious Freedom**

The Office of International Religious Freedom promotes religious freedom as a core objective of U.S. foreign policy. The [International Religious Freedom Report for 2011](#) was released on July 30. The report contains an introduction, executive summary, and a chapter describing the status of religious freedom in each of 195 countries throughout the world.

Secretary Clinton delivered [remarks](#) at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on International Religious Freedom on July 30. I particularly liked this section:

"Religious freedom is not just about religion. It's not just about the right of Roman Catholics to organize a mass, or Muslims to hold a religious funeral, or Baha'is to meet in each others' homes for prayer, or Jews to celebrate High Holy Days together – as important as those rituals are. Religious freedom is also about the right of people to think what they want, say what they think, and come together in fellowship without the state looking over their shoulder."

Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Johnson Cook delivered [remarks and took questions from journalists at the State Department](#). She addressed anti-Semitism:

“You’ll see that in countries around the world, anti-Semitism was on the rise, evidenced by attacks on adults and children and the desecration of cemeteries.”

### **Walk A Mile**

Special Representative Pandith and I attended an event in Haringey, London, on July 25, where last year’s race and class riots occurred in London. There, we “walked a mile,” figuratively and literally. We spoke to community leaders and local officials in Haringey’s Bruce Castle about 2012 HAH, *Walk A Mile*, and building peace. We then joined hundreds of families to “walk a mile” around the adjacent Bruce Castle Park. Joining us on the walk were members of the Global Impact Institute, Romero Britto, the Brazilian artist who created the *Hours Against Hate* painting and logo, local officials, the children’s choir, and members of the community. While we were there, we watched as the Olympic torch was passed from Tottenham to the next town before arriving at the Olympic Village for the opening of the Olympic Games.



Farah and I at the *Walk A Mile* Event

### **Commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Massacre of Israeli Athletes at the Munich Olympic Games**

At the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, members of the Israeli Olympic team were killed by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Munich Games attack. International Olympic Committee President Rogge rejected calls for an official moment of silence during the July 27 opening ceremony of the Olympics.

On July 25 [Secretary Clinton](#) called on the International Olympic Committee to commemorate the massacre "with a moment of silence at the opening ceremony of this year’s Games in London." President Obama, Secretary Clinton, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Ambassador Rice and I shared sentiments regarding the moment of silence.

“Yes, we absolutely support the campaign for a moment of silence at the Olympics to honor the Israeli athletes killed in Munich.”

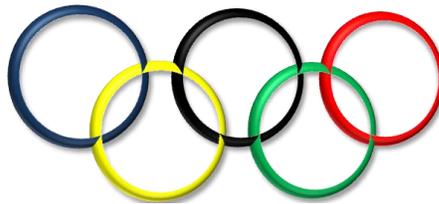
- [Tommy Vietor, a spokesman for the National Security Council](#)

“Let us remember the victims and honour their memory by speaking out against terrorism and armed conflict anywhere, of any kind.”

- [Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon](#)

“I join President **#Obama** in supporting a moment of silence at the **#Olympics** to honor the Israeli athletes killed in Munich.”

- [Ambassador Rice](#)

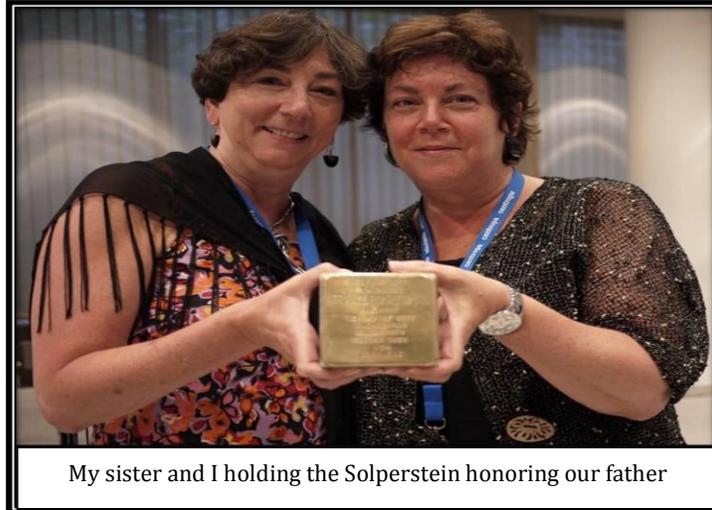


## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH:

### My Personal Journey



I had the trip of a lifetime this month, visiting Mannheim, Germany, where my father was a rabbi before the Holocaust, and where he was arrested on Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938. I also visited his birthplace of Bytom, Poland (Beuthen, Germany when he was born in 1911). I met with the Mayor of Mannheim, Dr. Peter Kurz. The City of Mannheim held a [special event to honor my father with a “stolperstein.”](#) a brass brick that will be installed in the street where his synagogue stood. In Bytom, my sister Debbie and I saw the graves of 18 Rosenthal family members, relatives I’d only heard about from my father. I shared my feelings about these emotionally moving experiences in two postings, [Reflections on My Experience in Mannheim, Germany](#) and [Keeping the Memory and Spirit of Poland’s Absent Jews Alive](#).



My sister and I holding the Solperstein honoring our father

### Germany

I visited Mannheim, Heidelberg, Worms, and Berlin July 9-12 and July 15-19 to participate in the Centropa Teachers Academy and Conference and to meet with German government officials, non-governmental organizations, and youth. The Centropa Teachers Academy brought together 75 educators from 13 countries that prepare participants to teach and engage students on 20<sup>th</sup> century Jewish history and the Holocaust. I was inspired by these teachers – from diverse backgrounds and schools – and the stories they shared and their collaboration across borders. I was honored to address a Centropa dinner and the closing conference, where I talked about the importance of Holocaust education, and the importance of focusing on how Jews lived and thrived, not only how they died.



Addressing Centropa Conference

Roundtable with Berlin Jewish leaders

Ed Serotta and Centropa Teachers Academy group in Berlin

Meeting with Markus Loning, Federal Commissioner of Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid

I also met with officials from the German Foreign Office and the interfaith youth group Jung, Gläubig, Aktiv (JUGA) (in English: Young, Religious, Active), which welcomed enthusiastically *2012 Hours Against Hate*. In my meetings with Jewish community leaders and representatives of non-governmental organizations, they stressed the need for improved education efforts on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, and expressed concern about the trend of minimizing or obfuscating the Holocaust.



Roundtable with interfaith youth group JUGA

### Poland

Following my visit to Bytom, I was in Krakow on July 13-14. I met with Jewish community leaders, including the Chairman of the Katowice Jewish Community, Włodzimierz Kac, and the Chairman of the Krakow Jewish Community, Tadeusz Jakubowicz. I also met with members of various foundations, such as the director of The Judaica Foundation, Joachim Russek; board member of Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation and director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Poland Jozef Wancer; and the president of the Forum for Dialogue Among Nations, Andrzej Folwarczny. I visited the Galicia Jewish Museum, where I met Director Jakub Nowakowski.



Meeting with Mr. Kac, head of Katowice Jewish Community, in Bytom



Director Jakub Nowakowski, Galicia Museum, Krakow

## Hungary

From Berlin, I went to Budapest, Hungary, July 19-23, where I met with government officials Andras Varga, Deputy Prosecutor General, Andras Levente Gal, Government Commissioner, Public Administration and Justice Ministry, and Zsolt Nemeth, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I was proud to speak at and give the U.S. Embassy's Active Citizenship Award to the March of the Living organization, which conducts walks from Auschwitz to Birkenau and has sponsored Holocaust memorial walks in Budapest. I talked about the 2012 HAH campaign at the ceremony, and I also held a brief press conference afterwards. At all these opportunities, I underscored the importance of speaking out to combat all hate speech and raised a variety of issues, including 21 recent incidents of anti-Semitism in Hungary, such as a Hungarian MP raising the blood libel in Parliament, desecrations of Holocaust monuments and 57 Jewish graves, our concerns about the inclusion of fascist writers in the new national curriculum, the religion registration law, the need to prosecute swiftly the recently arrested 97-year-old Nazi war criminal, Laszlo Csatory, and Hungarian efforts to rewrite history.

I also met with some religious and Jewish community leaders. In my roundtable discussions with leaders of Jewish, Roma and civil society organizations, we discussed the importance of working together and coalition building. I was able to visit the Budapest Holocaust Memorial Center and meet with the Museum Director. I also met with Peter Feldmayer, President of MAZSIHISZ, who showed me the historic Dohany Street Synagogue. Janka Szakonyi of the Hungarian Jewish Archives showed me the Kozma Street Jewish Cemetery.



Me with members of March of the Living



Dinner with NGOs



Press Conference



Meeting with Roma community NGOs



Award Ceremony

## United Kingdom

During the week of July 23, I was in London for pre-Olympic activities. The main reason for this trip was to promote, with Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith, our *2012 Hours Against Hate* partnership with the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. The city was buzzing with pre-Olympic excitement -- providing a fantastic forum and energy for our campaign.



Addressing the Beyond Sport Summit

We addressed the Social Inclusion forum of the [Beyond Sport Summit](#), a global sports initiative created by the Tony Blair Foundation. We exchanged ideas of how to use the power of sport to break down barriers, to empower all people-girls, disabled-among those overlooked. There were ingenious and innovative programs showing the power of individuals to make positive change via sport where otherwise they could not get traction. We also opened the London Stock Exchange.



Farah Pandith and I opened the London Stock Exchange on July 24

On July 24, we addressed the crowd at a [rock concert](#) held for *2012 Hours Against Hate* at The Hospital Club in the center of London. Additional speakers at the concert included entrepreneur Howard Buffett and composer Hans Zimmer. Heading up the event was Dave Stewart, formerly of the Eurythmics. Also performing were Daryl Hall (of Hall and Oates), Jihae, KT Tunstall, and The Waterboys.

Besides the incredible heart-pounding rhythms of famous musicians, the breakout stars were the children's choir from the London borough of Haringey who performed their song about tolerance and peace. In the aftermath of the riots that began a year ago in Tottenham, the most ethnically diverse community in all of England, 72 children came together to write and perform "[Everybody Dreams](#)." They said they were motivated to write the song after the riots to let people know there are good folks who want to rebuild the community and strengthen tolerance.

We attended the inaugural meeting of the Global Impact Institute (GII) program held at the House of Commons. Launched by Howard Buffett with Amir Dossal of the Global Partnerships Forum, GII seeks to build "high-impact initiatives to more effectively address global challenges." GII has appropriately put the word *impact* into its title; it is serious about making huge changes, including support for our *HAH* and Walk a Mile campaigns.

With Farah, I met Member of Parliament Stephen Timms, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society in the British Parliament. We discussed how the U.S. involves religious and faith communities in policy development at a governmental level. I also met with representatives of the Community Security Trust and the Holocaust Education Trust to discuss anti-Semitism and Holocaust education, especially how education must change as the last Holocaust survivors and rescuers are aging and dying. A common issue of concern was the security of the Jewish community amidst a profound sense of increased vulnerability in Europe.

*HAH* was adopted by the London Olympic Committee as one of its tolerance campaigns for the 2012 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games and given special recognition by the International Olympic Truce Center. Through social media, the initiative asks young people to pledge an hour or more of their time to volunteer to help someone who does not look, live, or pray like them.



## **AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:**

### **Intern Visit to the Holocaust Museum**



I sponsored the sixth intern visit to the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on July 26 for 13 State Department interns. The Museum's Senior Advisor for External Affairs, Arthur Berger, welcomed the group and gave introductory remarks before the group toured the exhibits. Later, [Manny Mandel](#), a Holocaust survivor, discussed his experiences. This is an important educational and awareness-raising opportunity and has improved the understanding of both the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.

## **STAFF CHANGES**

### **Departure Notice**

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news that I am leaving the Department of State, and my job as Special Envoy, in October. I have dedicated my life unstintingly to make a difference, to make the world less anti-Semitic and more open-minded, more accepting, more respectful. Many of you know that my daughters and only sister are in Wisconsin, and I have always considered Wisconsin my home. I have been named the new CEO/President of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. In Milwaukee, I will continue my advocacy role and strengthening community ties. As much as I will miss this job, I will never stop fighting anti-Semitism, combating all forms of hatred, and building bridges and coalitions of diverse people to get our critically important work done.

It has been my distinct pleasure to work with all of you. We all know that we cannot fight hatred alone, that we all must work together if we are going to move the needle at all. Thanks for all the work you have done and will continue to do. I do hope that we will continue to find ways to work together in the future.

## **INTERNET OUTREACH:**

### **Facebook**

 [www.facebook.com/SERosenthal](http://www.facebook.com/SERosenthal)

Once you are signed into Facebook, search for my name and title: Hannah Rosenthal, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat anti-Semitism. The “Like” button is at the top of my page and has a thumbs-up symbol. The symbol disappears once you have “Liked” the page.

### **State.gov**

Aside from following me on Facebook, I encourage all of you to visit my page on the Department of State’s website ([www.state.gov/j/drl/seas](http://www.state.gov/j/drl/seas)). You can quickly find my page by clicking [here](#). Or you can follow these instructions: Begin by going to the Department of State’s homepage: [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov). Then, click on the “Democracy and Global Affairs” tab in the white toolbar. Then, click on “Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL),” and then click on “Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism” in the left vertical column. Here you will find information about my office, as well as remarks, press releases, past issues of *The Monitor*, photos, and information about the *2011 Hours Against Hate* campaign.

### **HumanRights.gov**

I also encourage you to visit HumanRights.gov, which is the U.S. government’s official website for human rights related information. You can access the homepage [here](#), and you can access my personal page [here](#).

### **Twitter**

Please also follow me on twitter! You can find me at:  [@HannahAtState](https://twitter.com/HannahAtState).