

August -September 2012

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

**The SEAS Monitor**

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well. This is my last issue of *The SEAS Monitor*, covering my activities in August and September. 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](#).

With this issue, I introduce you to my interim successor, Ambassador Mike Kozak, and encourage you to keep posted for changes to the State Department website and Facebook.

I have been honored to serve as the U.S. Government's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism for close to three years and would like to take this opportunity to send you my warmest wishes and ask that you keep in touch with Ambassador Kozak and his team moving forward.

Warm regards,  
Hannah

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## WELCOME MIKE KOZAK



I am pleased to welcome Ambassador Michael Kozak as the interim Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. He will do a terrific job; we are very lucky that he will be in this position. Ambassador Kozak is a staunch advocate for human rights, and he will stand up against anti-Semitism in bilateral and multilateral fora and will continue to meet with international Jewish organizations and civil society to fight this scourge.

Ambassador Kozak has served in a number of senior positions in the U.S. Executive Branch. Prior to his return to the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor in 2009, he was Senior Director on the National Security Council staff with responsibility for Democracy, Human Rights, International Organizations, Religious Freedom, Migration and Detainee issues. He was Ambassador in Minsk, Belarus (2000-2003) and Chief of Mission in Havana, Cuba (1996-1999). He has been Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in three bureaus of the Department of State (Democracy, Human Rights and Labor 2003-2005; Inter-American Affairs 1988-1991; Legal Adviser 1982-88) as well as Acting Assistant Secretary of State for extended periods.

Ambassador Kozak is already pressing anti-Semitism issues. In his first foray as Acting Special Envoy in **early October**, Mike went to the **Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM)**, Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference. This annual meeting is organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights as a platform for OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, civil society, international organizations and OSCE structures to take stock of the implementation of the human dimension commitments, discuss associated challenges, share good practices and make recommendations for further improvements.

Ambassador Kozak delivered these [remarks](#) on tolerance and nondiscrimination which emphasized U.S. concerns about rising anti-Semitism in the OSCE region. During the conference, there was much discussion of neo-Nazi activities in the OSCE region. Unfortunately much of this discussion was not directed at combating neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism, but instead was an effort to conflate resistance to Soviet occupation with pro-

Nazism. As the Norwegian delegation at the HDIM stated: “And we’ve heard both from the Russian Federation and from several NGOs concerns about statelessness and a warning about neo-Nazism and even a glorification of Nazism in the Baltic States. Some of those NGO statements have been so uniform that those NGOs would probably have been named foreign agents according to Russian law.” We are working to ensure that the serious message about the need to combat anti-Semitism is not lost in the noise generated by this campaign.

Ambassador Kozak also visited the Tolerance Unit of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human rights. The staff there is first-rate and is doing outstanding work in monitoring and in providing assistance to governments to combat various forms of intolerance, and anti-Semitism in particular.

Ambassador Kozak will be an excellent interim Special Envoy.

## EVENTS:

### [The Legacy of the \*MS St. Louis\*](#)

On September 24, I hosted a ground-breaking event, along with Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, Douglas Davidson, to [welcome](#) 14 of the surviving passengers of the *MS St. Louis* to the Department of State. Deputy Secretary Bill Burns opened the event with these meaningful [remarks](#). The Director-General of the Foreign Service, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, moderated the event.



The German steamer *MS St. Louis* set sail from Germany in 1939 carrying 937 German Jewish refugees bound for Cuba. Upon arriving in Havana, however, they were denied entry to Cuba, and subsequently to the United States and Canada. They were finally accepted in Belgium, Britain, France and the Netherlands, but nearly a third of the passengers ultimately died in Auschwitz.

One of the survivors, Philip Freund, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, presented to Deputy Secretary Burns a signed copy of Senate Resolution 111, which recognized June 6, 2009, as the 70<sup>th</sup>-anniversary of the date when the MS St. Louis returned to Europe after its passengers were refused admittance to the United States. This document will be kept in the Department of State's Archives. Another group of survivors, who received refuge in Belgium, Britain, France and the Netherlands, presented a "Proclamation of Gratitude" to the Ambassadors and officials of those embassies in Washington.

The program included a special theatrical presentation, *The Trial of FDR*, by Robert Krakow, which showed the audience the difficult decisions faced by leaders at the time. Culminating the event was a question and answer session with the surviving passengers.

### Secretary Clinton's Eid ul-Fitr Reception

Secretary Clinton hosted a reception at the Department of State on September 13 to mark the Eid ul-Fitr, the end of the Ramadan holiday. In her [remarks](#), she highlighted the *2012 Hours Against Hate* campaign initiated by me and Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith:

"Even as we work to spread tolerance more broadly, we also are working to deepen our appreciation for the experiences of others. Our 2012 Hours Against Hate initiative encourages young people to put themselves in another person's shoes through service projects. So far, young people from all over the world have pledged thousands of volunteer hours to help people from a different background, to see them as a fellow human being, not a stereotype, not a caricature, but another real live person – people who don't look like you, live like you, pray like you, but with whom we will share this planet. And therefore, we have work to do."



### United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

On August 6, I briefed USCIRF Commissioners, providing an update on my activities to monitor and combat anti-Semitism, and my travels, including the imam trip to combat Holocaust denial. I highlighted the success of the *2012 Hours Against Hate* campaign and our outreach efforts leading up to the Summer Olympics. I described how anti-Israel

sentiment crosses the line into anti-Semitism, and our efforts to combat intolerance in textbooks. I told the Commissioners that I feel hopeful for the future, based on comments I've heard from young people in my travels. For example, I shared that last summer in Lebanon, students told Farah and me that they didn't want to inherit the hatreds of their parents.

For more information about the current commissioners, please click on this link: <http://www.uscirf.gov/about-uscirf/commissioners.html>.

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

### **Special Adviser for Global Youth Issues**

In early August I met with Zeenat Rahman, who is serving as Secretary Clinton's Special Adviser for Global Youth Issues and is the Director of the Office of Global Youth Issues. She works to coordinate and enhance the Secretary of State's efforts to empower, engage, and elevate global youth issues. With my focus on young people through the *Hours Against Hate* campaign, I look forward to our offices working together in the future.

### **Olive Tree Initiative**



**OLIVE TREE INITIATIVE**  
BEYOND SOUND-BITES AND STEREOTYPES

On September 4, Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith and I met with The Olive Tree Initiative, a group comprised of top University students across faiths, communities, and political perspectives dedicated to the study of international conflict and resolution. We met members of this group last year, and it was a pleasure to meet this year's delegation of young people, along with some University of California administrators and professors. They were especially interested in our *Hours Against Hate* campaign.

### **AJC Polish-Jewish Exchange Program**

It was my pleasure to meet with a group from the American Jewish Committee (AJC) as part of the Forum for Dialogue Among Nations' and AJC's Polish-Jewish Exchange Program. On September 10, I met an excellent group of Polish intellectuals and leaders for a discussion about anti-Semitism and Polish-Jewish relations.

## Sir Andrew Burns

I met with my British counterpart, Sir Andrew Burns, the United Kingdom's Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, on September 19. We discussed his new assignment, which includes monitoring and combating anti-Semitism worldwide for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He was particularly interested in anti-Semitic trends in Europe and the Middle East and how criticism of the state of Israel crosses the line into anti-Semitism.

### LOOKING FORWARD:

The U.S. Ambassador to Portugal, Allan Katz, brought this upcoming conference to my attention, and I would like to share it with you. On **October 29-30**, 2012, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Luso-American Foundation (FLAD), in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, will host a **conference on Portugal and the Holocaust** in Lisbon. The goal of the conference is to bring together leading Portuguese, American and European experts to increase the body of academic knowledge and promote an understanding of the Holocaust and Portugal's role during that period and support Holocaust education in Portugal. To learn more about the conference, please visit the conference website located at <http://portugal.usembassy.gov/portugal-holocaust.html>.

Come **November**, a second **Imam trip** to combat Holocaust denial, this time with imams from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia, will visit Dachau and Auschwitz with Ambassador Kozak, Special Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Rashad Hussain, and lay and religious leaders.

We are hoping to show the documentary "**The Rescuers**" at the Department of State in **December**, subject to confirmation and collaboration with diplomatic colleagues, since the film showcases 13 diplomats who had the courage to go against their governments' orders and issue visas and passports to Jews escaping the Nazis. Raoul Wallenberg was the only diplomat who had the support of his government, Sweden.

### **STAFF CHANGES:**

#### **Departure Notice (Reprinted from the July Monitor)**

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.

Please enjoy my [remarks](#) made at a reception on October 1 to review my tenure as Special Envoy.

### [The SEAS Team](#)

During the transition, my team, led by Stacy Davis, remains in place. Please keep in touch with them at [SEASinfo@state.gov](mailto:SEASinfo@state.gov).

