

# PROTECTION ♦ RENEWAL ♦ CONTINUITY

## 2007 HIGHLIGHTS

### RUSSIA

- NCSJ worked with the U.S. State Department to arrange the release and safe return home of 13 American yeshiva students who had been imprisoned in Rostov, Russia, on charges of immigration violations.
- We are part of the community effort to stop Russia's support of Iran's nuclear weapons program.
- We monitored and reported on the current state of anti-Semitism in the Russian Federation.
- We assisted in planning Federation and Member Agencies' missions to Moscow and other parts of Russia.



NCSJ celebrates the 20th anniversary of the 1987 Freedom Sunday Rally.

- We delivered remarks at the annual conference of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Bucharest, on anti-Semitism in the FSU.
- We urged FSU governments to support issuing Interpol warrants against six former Iranian officials accused of bombing a Buenos Aires Jewish Community Center in 1994, part of an international effort to get Interpol to issue these warrants at their next meeting in early November.

### UKRAINE

- In meetings with Ukrainian government officials during NCSJ's annual Leadership Mission in October, we urged greater rigor in combating anti-Semitic incidents. These meetings led to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' public condemnations of the recent spate of attacks against Jews and to the security forces' creation of a special hate crimes unit.
- We worked with the U.S. and Ukrainian governments to investigate and take appropriate action against the Ukrainian university MAUP, the leading purveyor of anti-Semitism in Ukraine.



Motya Chlenov and Yosef Begun lead NCSJ's "Hidden History Tour" in Moscow of the Soviet Jewry movement's activism.

### U.S. GOVERNMENT

- After NCSJ's involvement in the creation of the State Department's new Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, we assisted in planning the Special Envoy's first trip to Russia and Ukraine.
- The legislative and executive branches sought our analyses of Jewish community interests in the region following national crises and anti-Semitic incidents. We briefed Congressional delegations visiting the region; provided background information for Congressional hearings; arranged meetings between Members and staff with visiting community leaders from the region.



Leadership Mission visits Rabbi Bleich and Kyiv Jewish Community.

### JEWISH FEDERATIONS

- NCSJ is collaborating with the Washington D.C. Federation and American University Hillel

to organize a new student leadership program in Moscow, which is scheduled for Spring 2008.

- We continue to foster community-to-community partnerships such as those between Boston and Dnepropetrovsk; Chicago and Kyiv; and Washington, D.C. and Moscow.

### ESTONIA

- NCSJ participated in the opening of the first new synagogue in Tallinn since the end of World War II.

### ISRAEL

- NCSJ worked closely with the FSU countries to secure votes against anti-Israel and anti-Semitic resolutions in the United Nations.
- We continually work to strengthen the bilateral relationships between Israel and the FSU governments.

### INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

- In October, NCSJ cosponsored a Limmud retreat outside Moscow, which brought together more than 700 young Russian Jews to learn about Jewish culture, religion, education and advocacy.
- Our executive director co-chaired a session at the Global Forum on Anti-Semitism, held in Israel, which made recommendations to counter the rise in anti-Semitism and xenophobia in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES OF THE SOVIET JEWRY MOVEMENT

- Between October and December 2007, NCSJ has co-lead international events, together with several U.S., FSU and Israeli organizations and government agencies, to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Soviet Jewry movement and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Freedom Sunday Rally in Washington, D.C.

- NCSJ activities include a "Hidden History" political tour of Moscow *refusenik* activism; PowerPoint presentation at the UJC General Assembly; Congressional resolutions; an international symposium; exhibition and reception at the U.S. Senate; and a website, [www.sovietjewry.org](http://www.sovietjewry.org).