



**Advocates on behalf of Jews in Russia,  
Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia**

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## 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

Close to forty years ago, when Soviet Jews were at risk and desperate to move to Israel, American Jews put their money and their passion behind NCSJ, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, to help more than one million Jews escape to freedom to Israel, the United States, and elsewhere.

Today, NCSJ is needed, now more than ever, to aid the million and a half Jews who are rebuilding Jewish life in the FSU. They make up the world's third largest Jewish population in a vast region that remains important to the United States and Israel. NCSJ needs your support and the cooperation of governments in the FSU, Israel, and the United States to ensure the security and well being of this important Jewish community.



NCSJ Chairman Richard Stone greeted Daniel Russell, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs at the Board of Governors meeting in Washington, D.C.

### RUSSIA

- Performed prominent role in Iran strategy discussions with senior officials to secure Russian support for inhibiting Iran's development of a nuclear arsenal.
- Testified in support of Russia's graduation from the Jackson-Vanik amendment before the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittees on Europe and on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade.
- Monitored the response of American and Russian officials and spoke with Russian Jewish community leaders when a bomb exploded outside a synagogue in Tver, Russia.
- Contacted the U.S. Embassy, local authorities and the Jewish community to push for an investigation into a Jewish woman's murder in Yekaterinburg.

### UKRAINE

- Urged authorities to investigate the murder of a yeshiva student in Kyiv.
- Established relationships with the new administration in Kyiv and the new Ambassador to the United States.
- Pushed for swift action after a Jewish man was murdered in Uman.

### AZERBAIJAN

- Worked with government officials and community leaders to strengthen the U.S.-Azerbaijan relationship and published a country report documenting the accomplishments of the nation's Jews and the challenges they face.

### KAZAKHSTAN

- Met with President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the Nuclear Summit in Washington, D.C.
- Met with Chief Rabbi Yeshaya Cohen and other Jewish leaders to discuss community and national issues.

### LATVIA

- Called for the government to act against Nazi sympathizers marching in Riga to commemorate Germany's 1941 conquest of the city. The Latvian political leadership denounced the march, ensured that adequate security was present to prevent violence, and allowed a counter-demonstration to take place. In addition, the government participated in a memorial service to the victims of the Holocaust.

### ESTONIA

- Worked with the Estonian government and its Embassy, along with the U.S. State Department and Jewish community, to act against a group of Estonian Waffen SS veterans and their supporters holding a pro-Nazi ceremony.

### LITHUANIA

- Met with senior Lithuanian and U.S. government officials about restitution of Jewish communal property, anti-Semitism, and the government's war crimes investigation of Jewish partisans.

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# PROTECTION • RENEWAL • CONTINUITY • NCSJ's 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

## MOLDOVA

- Met with the Moldovan Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and their delegation regarding an anti-Semitic incident, where a mob led by an Orthodox priest dismantled the community Chanukah menorah in Kishinev. The priest was charged with only a misdemeanor. NCSJ questioned whether this action was adequate, and called for stronger measures to be taken, including the reopening of the investigation.
- Held ongoing consultations with the government and Jewish community about communal property restitution.

## UZBEKISTAN

- Increased collaboration with the new Ambassador on U.S., Israel, and Uzbek relations.

## ARMENIA

- Worked with Jewish community leaders after a Holocaust memorial was desecrated.

## KYRGYZSTAN

- Maintained regular contact with the Jewish communities in Kyrgyzstan during the violence and political unrest.
- Condemned the bombing of a Bishkek synagogue during the Rosh Hashanah holiday and called for a full investigation.

## INTERNATIONAL FORA

- Met with foreign leaders from the successor states at the UN General Assembly in September, including Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov.
- Attended the *OSCE High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination* in Kazakhstan.
- Provided information, analysis and guidance to FSU embassies and consulates in Washington, D.C., New York City, and officials in FSU capitals.
- Participated in the *Legacy of World War II and the Holocaust* conference, organized by the World Congress of Russian Jewry, in Berlin, Germany.
- Participated in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations mission to South Africa and Israel.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT

- Held ongoing discussions with senior Obama administration officials: Senior Director for Russian Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council Michael McFaul, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner, U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE Ian Kelly, and U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal.
- Presented in roundtables convened by the U.S. State Department on human rights and democracy in the FSU.
- Presented in U.S. State Department meetings on Holocaust assets and religious freedom.



Ambassadors from Georgia and Azerbaijan at NCSJ farewell reception for Ukrainian Ambassador.



NCSJ student leaders from Stanford and Kyiv Hillels in Soflyskaya Square, Kyiv.



NCSJ's testimony before Congress.

- Briefed members of the diplomatic corps at the Foreign Service Institute.
- Briefed the Congressional Task Force on Anti-Semitism on attempts by countries in the FSU region to revise WWII history and impede restitution efforts.

## ISRAEL

- Urged FSU countries to vote against anti-Israel and anti-Semitic resolutions in the United Nations.
- Continued working to strengthen the bilateral relationships between Israel and the FSU governments.

## NATIONAL AGENCIES AND JEWISH FEDERATIONS

- Briefed JUF/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago committee on Kehilla project in Kyiv.
- Coordinated Federation missions to the FSU, and briefed on current political, economic, and social conditions of the FSU countries as they affect the Jewish populations.
- Coordinated JDC FSU Chairs mission to Washington, D.C.
- Became a member of the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

## MISSIONS

### NCSJ STUDENT ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- In partnership with Hillel at Stanford, students from Stanford and Kyiv Hillels participated in a week-long leadership program, supported by the Koret Foundation, Taube Foundation, and Jewish Community Endowment Fund of San Francisco.

### NCSJ LEADERSHIP MISSIONS

- Organized mission to Azerbaijan and Russia, led by NCSJ's Chairman, President, and Executive Committee members.

### U.S. VISITS

- Coordinated meetings for the Russian Jewish Congress President and his delegation.
- Met with FSU Jewish community leaders from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Latvia, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan during the American Jewish Committee's annual meeting.
- Hosted and coordinated Yosef Begun film screening about his struggle as a *refusenik*.



NCSJ President Alexander Smukler and new Board member Boris Abramovich.