

Weekly Top 10

WASHINGTON, D.C. October 25, 2019

TO: NCSEJ Leadership and Interested Parties

**FROM: Daniel Rubin, Chairman;
Aleksander Smukler, President;
Mark B. Levin, Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO**

Dear Friend,

Please see below for the links to this week's news updates. We wish you a happy upcoming Shabbat.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Levin
NCSEJ Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO

NCSEJ WEEKLY TOP 10 **Washington, D.C. October 25, 2019**

Georgian Government Commends U.S. House of Representatives Passage of Georgia Support Act Embassy of Georgia to the United States October 22, 2019

TBILISI, Georgia, Oct. 22, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. House of Representatives passed with strong bipartisan support the Georgia Support Act, legislation that significantly strengthens defense, economic, and cyber security ties between Georgia and the United States.

"We thank the members of the U.S. House of Representatives for passing this landmark piece of legislation," said Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia. "The U.S. is our closest strategic ally. Our partnership is based on our shared common values of freedom and democracy and our steadfast mutual support. This represents the first standalone legislation related to Georgia dedicated to taking our partnership to the next level."

[Read the full article here.](#)

1941: The Jews of Odessa Left Out in the Cold Haaretz David B. Green | October 25, 2019

On this day in 1941, the Jews of Odessa, Ukraine, were taken outside the city and left exposed to the elements for 10 days, after already surviving three days of massacres by the Romanian occupying forces.

Odessa, founded in 1794, was a cosmopolitan port city on the Black Sea. Its Jews were involved in politics, commerce and shipping, as well as in education and the city's cultural life. Important Jewish figures from the city include Zeev Jabotinsky, Zionist leader Leon Pinsker, writer Isaac Babel (who called the city the "Star of Exile"), poet Haim Nahman Bialik, and historian Simon Dubnow, to mention a very few.

[Read the full article here.](#)

POLISH PRIME MINISTER: COMMITTED TO COMBATING ALL FORMS OF ANTISEMITISM

Jerusalem Post

HAGAY HACOHEN | October 24, 2019

Poland is committed to “combating all forms of antisemitism” and is proud that the country “remains a safe home to Jews,” Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said in a letter to Jewish Agency head Isaac Herzog on Thursday.

The prime minister was replying to a letter sent by Herzog in which he urged Morawiecki to ensure that the security of Jewish sites and community members be given “high priority” in Poland. Herzog noted previous attacks on Jews that took place on European soil in Toulouse, Brussels and Paris.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Hungarian Fascists Attacked a Jewish Community Center. It's Not the First Time
Vice News

Tim Hume | October 24, 2019

A mob of about 50 far-right radicals attacked a Jewish community center in Budapest, Hungary on Wednesday, tearing down and burning a rainbow flag before covering the building with neo-fascist slogans.

The Aurora community center was closed when it was targeted by members of the ultranationalist Legio Hungaria group, and no one was hurt, according to Adam Schönberger, director of Marom Budapest, the Jewish youth group that runs the center.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Jewish Life in Hungary - Hungary at First 'Site' Conference

Hungary Today

October 25, 2019

Budapest is now a secure place, where Jewish people don't have fear physical attacks anymore – both lecturers agreed this at the Hungary at First “Site” Conference organised by Friends of Hungary Foundation. The first half of the second day of the conference was about the 20th century history of Hungarian Jewry and the Maccabi Games, that Budapest successfully hosted this summer.

The first lecturer, Gábor Deák, founder of the Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association (MAZSIKE) and curator of the Lauder Javne Jewish Community School, started with a little guidance as the boat left its dock. Journalists could take in the Danube panorama while listening interesting facts about the Jewish Budapest including Újlipótváros where heroes like Raoul Wallenberg, Ángel Sanz Briz and Carl Lutz hid and saved thousands of lives during WW2 and where Tom Lantos and Charles Gáti were also hiding two hundred meters from each other.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Democratic Bulgaria apologises to Bulgarian Jewish leaders over candidate's Holocaust comment

The Sofia Globe

The Sofia Globe staff | October 24, 2019

Leaders of Democratic Bulgaria met leaders of the Bulgarian Jewish community on October 24 to apologise for a controversial Holocaust reference by one of the coalition's candidates in the forthcoming local elections, a media statement said.

The controversy arose this past weekend after Toma Belev, a candidate Sofia city councillor on the Democratic Bulgaria list, posted a Facebook comment in connection with transport issues in Bulgaria's capital city.

“The cheapest was when Jews travelled in horse-drawn carriages – completely free,” he said, resulting in outrage and numerous reactions, including by leaders and members of the Bulgarian Jewish community sharply criticising a highly inappropriate reference to the Holocaust.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Czech Parliament chamber passes anti-BDS resolution

JNS

October 24, 2019

(October 24, 2019 / JNS) The lower chamber of the Czech Republic's parliament passed a non-binding resolution on Tuesday condemning the anti-Israel BDS movement.

The final tally was 120-20.

The Chamber of Deputies resolution denounces "all manifestations of anti-Semitism directed against individuals, religious institutions and organizations, as well as the State of Israel, including the denial of the Holocaust."

It also rebukes "any questioning of the State of Israel's right of existence and defense" and "condemns all activities and statements by groups calling for a boycott of the State of Israel, its goods, services or citizens."

[Read the full article here.](#)

'Baltic Truth' Digs Up Dirt on Latvian Activities in World War II

The Jewish Voice

Howard Blas | October 24, 2019

Eugene Levin's connection to Latvia keeps getting deeper and more personal. A native of the Eastern European nation, he is making a documentary about a little-known chapter in history where Latvia "closed its eyes," and allowed Jews to be murdered by Germans and fellow countrymen.

A Boston-area ultrasound technician, Levin came to the United States in 1989. He learned a great deal about the Latvian Holocaust experience from his grandfather, who died in 2013 at the age of 93. "He was the only survivor of 19 in his family," reports Levin. "He lost everything. He owned seven houses, which we tried to get back. He was ignored and footballed. He got nothing."

[Read the full article here.](#)

Russia has earned its success in the Middle East — partly thanks to Trump

The Washington Post

David Ignatius | October 24, 2019

It's heretical to say so, but Russia has earned its current success in the Middle East. It's using the same mix of military and diplomatic tools that made the United States dominant in the region for so many decades. America didn't lose this battle for influence; it surrendered.

President Trump's efforts to dress up his retreat from Syria as a victory are an embarrassment. He squandered America's leverage, abandoned our Kurdish allies to a Turkish invasion and thereby reopened the door for a defeated enemy, the Islamic State, to resume attacks on the West.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Russia's Mideast Plans Abetted by US Syrian Withdrawal

Times of Israel

Jared M. Feldschreiber | October 25, 2019

President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. military forces from Syria has confounded many analysts and reporters, in what some branded as a capitulation to Russia. Was it merely a troop withdrawal to fulfill a campaign pledge? Was it a redeployment of troops to fight ISIS elsewhere? Or was it just another repudiation of the president's predecessor's policies?

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Black Sea resort of Sochi on Oct. 22. During their press conference, Putin said, "Syria should be free from the illegal foreign military presence. To achieve a long-term stabilization in Syria, on the whole, this is only possible by observing the territorial integrity of this country. It's important that our Turkish partners share such an approach to protect the peace and stability on the border."

Erdogan concurred: "We have taken very important steps in the defense industry, and we will continue to do so. We've talked about peace and equality in Syria."

[Read the full article here.](#)

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1120 20th Street NW, Ste. 300N Washington, DC 20036-3413
Telephone: +1 202 898 2500 | ncsejinfo@ncsej.org

About NCSEJ

Founded in 1971, the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry represents the organized American Jewish community in monitoring and advocating on behalf of the estimated 1.5 million Jews in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, including the 15 successor states of the former Soviet Union.

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