

Weekly Top 10

WASHINGTON, D.C. November 22, 2019

TO: NCSEJ Leadership and Interested Parties

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

Dear Friend,

According to a new [ADL Global Survey of 18 Countries](#), the level of anti-Semitic views has increased in Europe to the point where about one in four Europeans harbor pernicious and pervasive attitudes toward Jews. We are disappointed and concerned about the rising levels of anti-Semitism in certain countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

In Poland, where restitution of Holocaust-era Jewish property and a controversial law on Holocaust speech were widely debated in recent years, anti-Semitic attitudes rose to 48 percent of the population, up from 37 percent in 2015.

In Hungary, 25 percent of the population believes “Jews want to weaken our national culture by supporting more immigrants coming to our country.”

France will host [a four-way summit](#) on December 9 to seek an end to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Following months of diplomatic efforts Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, will meet face-to-face for the first time. The two leaders will be joined by French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

In remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Israel will host the Fifth World Holocaust Forum (WHF) in January. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin announced that over 30 world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron, will mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Jerusalem. The event was founded by European Jewish Congress President Moshe Kantor and this year's event is organized by the State of Israel, Yad Vashem, and the World Holocaust Forum.

Finally, we would like to recommend an article from eJewishPhilanthropy "[The Diaspora that is Not Spoken About](#)" about the unique story of the Russian-speaking Jewish diaspora in Germany and around the world.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Levin
NCSEJ Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO

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Belarus Leader Dismisses Democracy Even as Vote Takes Place

YURAS KARMANAU

Bloomberg | November 17, 2019

Minsk, Belarus (AP) -- Belarus' authoritarian president has brushed off concerns that Sunday's parliament election, from which many opposition figures have been excluded, would be regarded as neither free nor fair.

After casting his ballot in a polling station in the capital of Minsk, President Alexander Lukashenko was asked about whether it was important that the election be regarded as valid by Western countries.

[Read the full article here.](#)

What Hope for Ukraine and the Normandy Four Summit?

GWENDOLYN SASSE

Carnegie | November 19, 2019

The first meeting in over three years of the heads of state and government of the so-called Normandy Four is set to take place on December 9 in Paris.

This four-way negotiation format (France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine) brought about the Minsk I and II agreements of 2014 and 2015 aimed at ending the war in eastern Ukraine. While the nitty-gritty of the actual implementation of Minsk II is being handled—as yet by and large unsuccessfully—by a number of working groups that convene regularly in Minsk and include representatives of the non-government-controlled areas in Ukraine, the Normandy format frames the negotiations and provides a communication channel to the rest of the world.

[Read the full article here.](#)

How Holocaust Memory was Hijacked in Post-Communist States

Jelena Subotic

Balkan Insight | November 18, 2019

Within a few short months in the spring of 1942, half of all Serbian Jews - mostly women, children and the elderly, since almost all able-bodied Jewish men had already been shot in 1941 - were killed in a mobile gas van, disguised as a truck, at the Nazi death camp Semlin at Sajmiste, the Belgrade Fairgrounds, just across the Sava river from the city centre.

In June 1942, Emanuel Schäfer, the head of the German Security Police in Serbia, reported back to his supervisors that “Serbien ist Judenfrei” (“Serbia is free of Jews”). Belgrade was thus the first European city, and Serbia only the second Nazi-occupied territory (after Estonia), to carry this macabre designation. The only Jews who remained alive were either in hiding, often in the countryside, or had joined the Partisan resistance.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Jerusalem to host largest-ever event on anti-Semitism; Putin, Macron to attend

TOI Staff

The Times of Israel | November 20, 2019

President Reuven Rivlin said Wednesday that some 30 world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron, will be coming to Israel in January to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Jerusalem, in what is expected to be the largest-ever gathering focused on combating anti-Semitism.

Rivlin spoke at a press conference at the President’s Residence in Jerusalem ahead of the Fifth World Holocaust Forum, which will take place on January 23, 2020, at the Yad Vashem museum in the capital under the title “Remembering the Holocaust, Fighting Antisemitism.”

[Read the full article here.](#)

75th anniversary of liberation of Auschwitz to bring close to 40 world leaders to Israel

GREER FAY CASHMAN

JPOST | November 20, 2019

Not since the 2016 funeral of Israel’s ninth president Shimon Peres have so many global politicians come to Jerusalem at the one time.

At least 36 world leaders, among them three monarchs and Russian President Vladimir Putin, will be in Israel’s capital on January 22-23 for the Fifth World Holocaust Forum (WHF) marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Red Army.

[Read the full article here.](#)

ADL Global Survey of 18 Countries Finds Hardcore Anti-Semitic Attitudes Remain Pervasive

ADL

New York, NY, November 21, 2019 ... About one in four Europeans polled harbor pernicious and

pervasive attitudes toward Jews, according to a new global survey on anti-Semitism commissioned by ADL (the Anti-Defamation League). While anti-Semitic attitudes held mostly steady in Western Europe, the poll found hateful notions about Jews are rising in Eastern and Central European countries polled, where long-held tropes about Jewish control of business and finance and of “dual loyalty” remain widespread.

[Read the full article here.](#)

The Diaspora That is Not Spoken About
Zvika Klein
E-jewish Plinatrophy | November 20, 2019

More than three million Russian-speaking Jews live in the world today of which only one third live in Israel. A look at former Soviet Jews who chose not to immigrate to Israel, but to move to countries such as Germany and the United States, reveals large communities with unique characteristics, a complex Jewish and national identity, and an easy relationship with the other Jewish communities in the countries to which they emigrated.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Serbia accuses Russia of spy plot after video leak
BBC | November 22, 2019

Aleksandar Vucic confirmed a Russian intelligence official had a meeting with a retired Serbian military officer during which money changed hands.

A YouTube video of the December meeting surfaced at the weekend.

Mr Vucic said his officials had also found evidence of 10 other contacts between Russian agents and Serbian officers.

[Read the full article here.](#)

How to End the War in Ukraine
Steven Pifer
Foreign Affairs | November 21, 2019

For more than five years, Russian forces and their proxies have waged a bloody war against Ukrainian forces in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. The conflict has claimed more than 13,000 lives, driven almost two million people from their homes, and caused immense material damage. France and Germany have together sought to broker peace but failed to produce a durable cease-fire—let alone a political settlement.

On December 9, French President Emmanuel Macron will host a summit with his Ukrainian, Russian, and German counterparts aimed at bringing the conflict to an end. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky appears committed to making peace, while Moscow appears committed to sustaining the war. Whether the summit will yield any progress toward closing that gap remains in doubt.

[Read the full article here.](#)

After Almost a Year, Russia Returns Seized Ukrainian Naval Ships
Pavel Felgenhauer
Jamestown | November 21, 2019

Almost one year ago, on November 25, 2018, two small Ukrainian Gyurza-M-class gunboats, together with a tug, attempted to cross from the Black Sea through the Kerch Strait into the Sea of Azov, where Ukraine controls two major port cities: Mariupol and Berdyansk. The Ukrainian convoy was stopped and attacked by Russian forces. One of the gunboats, the Berdyansk was hit multiple times as the Ukrainians, who did not return fire, were attempting a retreat. The boats were boarded and all 24 Ukrainian service members (some were wounded, though none fatally) were imprisoned in the Federal Security Service’s Lefortovo prison, in Moscow; they were questioned and accused of crossing the Russian border illegally, despite the existence of a 2003 Russo-Ukrainian treaty defining the Kerch Strait as a joint sovereignty “internal” waterway. The seized ships were impounded in Kerch (see EDM, November 26, 28, 29, 2018).

[Read the full article here.](#)

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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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