



## NCSEJ Mourns Congressman John Lewis, 80

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Washington, D.C. July, 19, 2020** - The National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry (NCSEJ) mourns the passing of Congressman John Lewis, a voice for civil and human rights, and an influential activist for the freedom for Soviet Jewry.

In December 1987, Lewis spoke at the Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews rally, saying “As long as one Jew is denied the right to emigrate from the Soviet Union, as long as one Jew is denied the right to be Jewish in the Soviet Union, we are all Jews in the Soviet Union.”

NCSEJ Chairman James Schiller said of Lewis, “We will never forget his steadfast support of the Soviet Jewry Movement and are grateful for his strong stance against anti-Semitism and his support of the State of Israel. Our country has lost a tireless defender of human rights.”

NCSEJ CEO Mark B. Levin said, “I had the privilege of meeting John Lewis for the first time during his first year in Congress in 1987 with former NCSEJ Chairman Morris Abram (z’l). Rep. Lewis and Mr. Abram had known each other since the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. It was a memorable encounter that led to Rep. Lewis taking a leadership role in Congress as a Member of the Congressional Coalition on Soviet Jews. I cherish the opportunities I had to work with him.”

On behalf of the NCSEJ Board of Governors, we offer our condolences to his family. May his memory be a blessing.

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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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