

Dear Friends,

This is the April issue of “The SEAS Monitor.” It is a way for me to keep you informed about my work as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat anti-Semitism. If you are interested in previous copies, please visit [The SEAS Monitor](#). I hope that you will enjoy reading about my work. Please feel free to contact us with compliments or comments.

All the best to you,

Hannah

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## April 2011

From the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism (SEAS)

# THE SEAS MONITOR

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## Historian Deborah Lipstadt Visits the State Department on Eichmann Trial Anniversary



I hosted an outstanding program with Deborah Lipstadt on April 11, for almost 200 attendees, including 14 foreign diplomats. Professor Lipstadt spoke about the Adolf Eichmann trial – April 11<sup>th</sup> was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the historic trial in Jerusalem. Lipstadt, the Doro Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, noted it was also the anniversary of the verdict of the trial where she was accused of libel for calling Holocaust denier David Irving a Holocaust denier.

Eichmann, who was the “one of the chief operating officers” escaped a US POW camp in Germany after the war, and got help from the Catholic Church and the Red Cross to flee to Argentina where he lived as Ricardo Klement. In 1960, he was captured by Israel in Argentina, and brought to Jerusalem for the trial.

Lipstadt read some testimonies in her book and walked the audience through the preparation for the trial and the trial itself. The trial, which was televised around the globe, put a human face on the Holocaust. The over 100 survivors who testified provided personal narratives that the world listened to for the first time. I recall sitting with my father, the only survivor of his family, and watching the trial on our grainy black and white TV. Time stood still for me as I listened to the testimonies and watched as Eichmann sat in silence in his glass booth.

No Nazi has ever denied what they did during the Holocaust.

To see the complete program, view the video at this link: [The Lipstadt Event at the U.S. Department of State](#). Professor Lipstadt's book *The Eichmann Trial* is widely available. The Israeli government and Yad Vashem have also put the archives of the trial on-line and can be seen by uploading films on YouTube.



Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner, Professor Lipstadt, and Special Envoy Rosenthal before the April 11<sup>th</sup> event

### **Domestic Conferences, Visits, and Outreach**

This month, I traveled to several U.S. cities to discuss my observations about and experiences combating increased global anti-Semitism. At the beginning of the month, I [addressed](#) the inaugural conference of the **Indiana University Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism**, discussing the U.S. government's efforts to monitor and combat anti-Semitism. On April 4, I was a panelist at an ADL Young Leadership conference with Elisa Massimino, President and CEO of Human Rights First.

I also [spoke](#) at the Second International Conference on Hate Studies, at **Spokane, Washington's** Gonzaga University, discussing anti-Semitism within the context of the comprehensive fight against bigotry and injustice. In order to illustrate the importance of interfaith cooperation, I described my trip to Dachau and Auschwitz last August with American Muslim leadership, as well as my partnership with Special Representative Farah Pandith through the *2011 Hours Against Hate* campaign.



Special Envoy Rosenthal with Seattle AJC Board Members

I had the privilege to speak to the Jewish Community Relations Council in **Portland, Oregon** about the trends I am seeing around the world and how we at the State Department are chronicling them and combating repeats of incidents and anti-Semitic rhetoric. In early April, I was a panelist at an ADL Young Leadership conference with Elisa Massimino, President and CEO of Human Rights First.



Special Envoy Rosenthal with Arden Shenker, a past chairman of the Jewish Center for Public Affairs in Portland

I also spoke to the JCRC in **Virginia Beach, Virginia**, and to leadership from **Cleveland's** Jewish community during their mission to Washington, DC. The American Jewish Committee in **Seattle** hosted me for an excellent community conversation on anti-Semitism and I was interviewed by the local Jewish newspaper [JTNews the Six Degrees of Anti-Semitism](#). On April 12, I met with

American University's Jewish Law Students Association, addressing questions about anti-Semitism around the globe.

### **State Department Intern Trip to Holocaust Museum**



On April 7, I sponsored an intern trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Arthur Berger, of the External Affairs Section of the Museum, provided a thorough briefing on the history of the Museum, and then the interns were able to tour the museum on their own. As one of the interns put it, “everyone was left with a lasting impression.” We plan to offer another trip in June for the summer interns and to continue the practice with each new class of interns.

### **One of the Righteous among Us: Father Patrick Desbois**



On April 12, I once again had the opportunity to meet with Father Patrick Desbois, a French Catholic priest and founder of Yahad In Unum (<http://www.yahadinunum.org/en/>), whose mission is to identify and mark the sites of Jewish mass executions in Eastern Europe (Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland). These murders were never documented and the graves never known nor identified. So far, Father Desbois has found about 1.1 million Jews in almost 1,000 mass graves, half of which he estimates were a total of 2.3 million people shot by the Nazis as the German army advanced into Soviet territory. His work is critical at a time when the direct witnesses to these atrocities are aging and will not be with us much longer. He receives support from the United States

Holocaust Memorial Museum. I aim to support and help publicize his important work before all the witnesses are gone.

### **AJC Latino and Latin American Institute**



I had the pleasure of speaking to about 50 leaders from Jewish communities in Latin America during the American Jewish Committee’s annual meeting on April 27. I learned about an educational program in Ecuador since 2008 where more than 2,000 teachers have been trained to teach all public high school students about Human Rights, the Holocaust, and Recent Genocides.” Two national contests were created, one for teachers on the best teaching methodology and one for students for the best learning methodology of this learning unit; the first prizes for each is a trip to Yad Vashem. I plan to highlight this best practice worldwide. We also discussed the rise of anti-Semitism in Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela, and the need to bring closure to the long investigation of the AMIA Jewish Community Center and the Israeli Embassy bombings that killed over 100 people.

As a follow-up to the lunch, I also met with leaders from the Confederation of Jewish Associations of Venezuela (CAIV), including CAIV President Salomon Cohen. Of great concern to the community is the increase in anti-Semitic rhetoric in the government media since the start of the Libyan revolt in February, and a possible event on May 15<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the Palestinian “expulsion” from the newly established State of Israel. To combat a recent Venezuelan government radio endorsement of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the U.S. Special Representative to Muslim Communities made a statement condemning the broadcast, and encouraged CAIV to ask the Catholic Church and evangelical community to issue statements condemning it as well. The U.S. Embassy in Caracas continues to work closely with and support the CAIV.

## Town Hall 2011 Hours Against Hate Campaign



The Special Representative to Muslim Communities, Farah Pandith, and I co-sponsored a Town Hall on our *2011 Hours Against Hate* initiative. The discussion centered on the virtual campaign to combat discrimination and hatred against Jews, Muslims, and others, focused on young people around the world. Hosted by George Washington University's Elliott School of International Studies, our discussion was moderated by Dr. Irene Oh, Peace Studies Program Director, with Tad Stahnke, Director of Policy and Programs at Human Rights First, as the third panelist.

We heard from two students from the Black Students Union who spoke about the need to take action on the grassroots level to teach others and combat hatred learned at home.

C-SPAN covered the Town Hall. It was aired on both television and radio: [To listen, click here.](#)



Town Hall moderator Irene Oh, GWU student E-K Umez Eroni, Special Envoy Rosenthal, Special Representative Pandith, GWU student Danica Brown, and panelist Tad Stahnke (left to right)

### **Voice on Anti-Semitism**



I was honored to participate in the Holocaust Memorial Museum's popular podcast series, *Voice on Anti-Semitism*, on modern-day anti-Semitism. The series, which features many different voices and perspectives, aims to raise awareness about the continuing threats of hatred and anti-Semitism in our world today, and to explore, in a larger sense, why the lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant. I am honored to be among such diverse and distinguished participants in the series. You may listen to the series at [www.ushmm.org/podcast/antisemitism](http://www.ushmm.org/podcast/antisemitism).

### **Secretary Clinton Receives Rathenau Prize**

On April 15, in Berlin, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton received the Walther Rathenau Prize for outstanding contributions to international understanding and cooperation. Walther Rathenau was a German Jewish industrialist, politician, poet and foreign minister of Germany during the Weimar Republic who was assassinated by right-wing extremists. In giving the Secretary the award, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle Foreign Minister Westerwelle noted that,

“Rathenau was a true champion of individual liberty...He stressed the rights of all people. He worked for a world order where everyone meets as partners.” Please read Secretary Clinton’s remarks [here](#).

## 2010 Human Rights Award Winners



Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns presented the Diplomacy for Human Rights Award, the Human Rights and Democracy Achievement Award, and the Human Rights Defenders Award, along with Assistance Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner on April 21. The Human Rights Defenders Award recognizes individuals or non-governmental organizations that show exceptional valor and leadership in advocating the protection of human rights and democracy in the face of government repression. The Department honored the Cuban NGO Damas de Blanco – “Ladies in White.” Damas de Blanco’s visible, consistently observed vigils focused international attention not only on political prisoners, but the overall human rights situation in Cuba.

Ambassador Stephen Beecroft of U.S. Embassy Amman received the Diplomacy for Human Rights Award for his extraordinary commitment to defending human rights and advancing democratic principles in Jordan. His advocacy has created new opportunities to engage the government on a broad range of human rights issues, with progress on both individual cases and systematic reform.

The Human Rights and Democracy Achievement Award was presented to Christian Marchant of U.S. Embassy Hanoi for outstanding work to prevent torture and defend the rights of Vietnam’s dissidents, and Holly Lindquist Thomas of U.S. Embassy Tashkent for superb reporting underscoring issues of child labor during the cotton harvest and key contributions to diplomatic engagement in support of civil society and human rights activists in Uzbekistan

We commend each of these diplomats and activities for their outstanding work in support of human rights for all individuals under difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstance.

## **Launch of Human Rights Website**



In conjunction with the release of the Department of State's *2010 Country Reports on Human Rights* on April 8, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton launched a new website for human rights reporting, [www.humanrights.gov](http://www.humanrights.gov). She stated, "This site will offer one-stop shopping for information about global human rights from across the United States Government. It will pull together reports, statements, and current updates from around the world. It will be searchable and it will be safe. You won't need to register to use it. We hope this will make it easier for citizens, scholars, NGOs, and international organizations to find the information they need to hold governments accountable."

## **Welcome New Staff to the SEAS Team**

Looking back on the activities in recent months and moving forward to more action and outreach would not be possible without the support of my team. Stacy Bernard Davis joined the team in March from the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. She has a Master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Adela Levis has been part of the team since January. Originally from Bosnia, she is a graduate student at American University, pursuing a Master's degree in International Politics. Joel Malkin, a career Foreign Service officer, covers Latin America in the Office of International Religious Freedom and devotes part of his time to our team. Melissa Wohlgemuth is our spring intern, handling our Facebook and Twitter accounts, among other things. She will soon graduate from The George Washington University with a degree in International Studies. Eunice Johnson provides support for travel and scheduling. This summer, we will welcome a new Foreign Service Officer (our previous FSO Jessica Dancel just had a baby and will be posted to the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia). We also look forward to having two college interns join our team this summer.