



## **JUSTICE FOR JEWS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES**

*International Rights and Redress Campaign*  
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### **Quotes Excerpted from the Testimonies of Expert Witnesses**

at the

### **CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS**



#### ***Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries: Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation***

Thursday, July 19, 2007 • 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. • Rayburn House Office Building • 2255

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#### **Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee**

“International apathy must end. The world must take heed of Jewish and Christian refugees. Justice must be done. Let it begin here and now.”

“Jews who were born in Arab countries have lost their resources; their homes; their heritage and their heritage sites.”

#### **Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), Co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus**

“The Jewish refugee issue is a serious problem. Cairo and other Arab capitals have little or no remaining Jewish population.”

#### **Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)**

“Since 1947, the United Nations General Assembly’s predominant focus has been on Palestinian refugees:

- a) 681 resolutions on the Middle East conflict, including 101 resolutions on Palestinian refugees;
- b) tens of billions of dollars have been disbursed by the international community to provide services to Palestinian refugees.

During that same period, there were no UN resolutions; nor any financial assistance from the international community for Jewish and other refugees from Arab countries.”

**Dr. Irwin Cotler, former Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada**

“Having regard to these principles of truth and justice and reconciliation and state responsibility for massive human rights violations, the time has come to rectify this historical injustice. We trust that this Congressional briefing will restore the plight and the truth and the justice of the Jews from Arab countries to the Middle East narrative from which they have been expunged and eclipsed. Any narrative on the Middle East, that does not include justice for Jewish refugees, is a case study in Middle East revisionism. It is an assault on truth, and memory and justice. Rights for Jewish refugees from Arab countries has to be part of any peace process if that peace process is going to have integrity.”

**Dr. Henry Green, Professor and Former Director of Judaic & Sephardic Studies at the Univ. of Miami**

“Jewish presence in Arab lands has a legacy that is eight times older than American Jewry, which recently celebrated its 350 anniversary (1654-2004).”

“There were two major population movements that occurred during the years of turmoil. Nearly 900,000 Arab Jews were dislocated, lost property and assets. If one adds their children and grandchildren, the numbers increase to several million.”

**Mrs. Regina Publil Waldman, co-founder of JIMENA, whose family was nearly murdered, while escaping from Libya in 1967.**

“Despite our oppression, despite our suffering, and despite our humiliation, we rose above seeing ourselves as victims. We rose above desire for revenge. We focused on rebuilding our shattered lives. We sought dignity and hope and searched for a better life. I have personally forgiven the people who tried to kill my family and me. I do not believe in hating and I truly believe that hate is a weapon of mass destruction.”

**Mr. Stanley A. Urman, Executive Director, *Justice for Jews from Arab Countries***

“History reveals, as a matter of law and equity, that there were two refugee populations created as a result of the longstanding dispute in the Middle East.”

“It would constitute an injustice, were the international community to recognize rights for one victim population - Palestinian refugees - without recognizing equal rights for other victims of that very same Middle East conflict - former Jewish, Christian and other refugees from Arab countries.”