

## STAN URMAN'S REMARKS ON THE CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

*Press conference – March 31, 2008 – In regard to H.Res. 185 – Hosted by Rep. Jerry Nadler*

I want to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Resolutions bi-partisan co-sponsors, Representatives Jerry Nadler, Ileana Ross Lehtinen, Joseph Crowley and Mike Fergusson who, by their leadership, have asserted, that justice for Jews from Arab countries must be done. Let it begin here and now.

House Resolution 185 recognizes, for the first time, the plight and flight of over 850,00 Jews uprooted from 10 Arab countries. They lost their history and their heritage; they lost their homes and their livelihoods. Many lost their lives.

Tomorrow, Congress will record these historical truths:

- That Jews have been an indigenous people in the Middle East for over 2,500 years.
- That Jews fleeing Arab countries were 'bona fide' refugees, victims of mass violations of human rights, who still have rights to-day under international law; and
- And that, Congress will restore truth to the Middle East narrative, by recommending equitable treatment of all Middle East refugees, including Jews Christians and others. Only in this fashion can there be movement from truth to justice, from justice to reconciliation, and from reconciliation to peace - between and among all peoples and states in the region.