

Weekly Top 10



WASHINGTON, D.C. December 20, 2019

TO: NCSEJ Leadership and Interested Parties

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

Dear Friend,

Happy Hannukah to you and your loved ones.

Веселой Хануки вам и вашим близким!

NCSEJ works to promote and protect the well-being of Jewish communities in the second-largest Jewish diaspora. Please remember to support our work as part of our yearly Chanukah Appeal by clicking [HERE](#).

Sincerely,



Mark B. Levin
NCSEJ Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO

WHAT NCSEJ DOES NEXT YEAR DEPENDS ON YOU.

Help protect communities and promote Jewish interests in over twenty countries and across two continents.

NCSEJ WEEKLY TOP 10
Washington, D.C. December 20, 2019

Dozens of Israelis detained for hours at Moscow airport

Sam Sokol

JTA | December 19, 2019

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Nearly 50 Israeli citizens, including children, were detained for hours at a Moscow airport in apparent retaliation for Israel blocking the entry of thousands of Russian citizens.

Itamar Eichner, the diplomatic correspondent at the Hebrew daily Yediot Aharanot, was among those detained on Wednesday. Tweeting from Domodedovo Airport, he described how the Israelis on his flight were separated from the rest of the passengers and had their passports confiscated before being questioned by Russian officials.

By the end of the day, the Israeli Foreign Ministry reported that all but one of the detainees had been freed.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Czech senators push to move Czech Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem

News.expats.cz | December 18, 2019

Prague, Dec 18 (CTK) - Twenty-six senators, including Senate chairman Jaroslav Kubera (Civic Democrats, ODS) and deputy chairwoman Miluse Horska (Christian Democrats, KDU-CSL), have called for the moving of the Czech embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, KDU-CSL senator Zdenek Papousek said today.

Papousek told a press conference that more members of the 81-seat Senate may still support the call.

President Milos Zeman has been supporting the relocation of the embassy for a long time, but the government of Andrej Babis (ANO), which has the final word on the possible step, takes a reserved stance on it.

In the Israeli parliament last year, Zeman promised to do his utmost to promote the moving of the embassy to Jerusalem.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Holocaust remembrance in the occupied USSR

Alan Rosenbaum

The Jerusalem Post | December 20, 2019

"For many years, the Holocaust was symbolized by two places - Auschwitz and the Warsaw Ghetto. These are commonly perceived as the primary symbols. But that's not the entire story of the Holocaust."

Dr. Arkadi Zeltser, director of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, says that to fully grasp the Holocaust and its impact, one must go beyond Auschwitz and the Warsaw Ghetto, and learn about the events of the Holocaust in areas like the occupied Soviet Union. This is the mission of the Moshe Mirilashvili Center, which was founded in 2016 and operates under the auspices of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem. The center initiates and promotes innovative research relating to the history of the Jews during World War II who were living within the borders of the Soviet Union as of June 22, 1941, the date when Nazi Germany attacked the USSR.

[Read the full article here.](#)

For the first time in 3 years: Romania will send an ambassador to Israel

Itamar Eichner

Ynet | December 17, 2019

Romanian President Klaus Johannis has appointed on Tuesday Jewish historian Radu Ioannid as Romanian ambassador to Israel.

Ioanid, a Jewish historian who specializes in the Holocaust, has lived in the United States for the past twenty years and worked in senior positions at the Holocaust Museum in Washington.

For the past three years, no ambassador to Romania has been appointed in Israel because all the candidates proposed by the government have been refused by the president.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Russia's Foreign Policy Is Strategic and Rooted in Soviet History

Emil Avdaliani

Algemeiner | December 16, 2019

The grand analytical narratives of Russian foreign policy dating from the early 2000s draw radical and opposing conclusions. Some analysts warn that Russia is on a downhill trajectory because of internal economic troubles, while others claim it has been transformed into a geopolitical player as important as the US, China, or the EU.

Russian diplomacy lies somewhere in between a grand long-term strategy and a set-up for an apocalyptic scenario in which Russia loses big.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Lessons in solidarity: How to defeat anti-Semitism

Yossi Klein Halevi

Times of Israel | December 17, 2019

The Jewish people owes British Jewry a great debt. At a time of growing fear and confusion and even despair about rising anti-Semitism around the world, Jews in Britain offered a powerful model on how to fight back.

Like many Jews, I was riveted by the drama being played out in Britain, where a small Jewish community not previously known for its assertiveness challenged a leader who could have been the next prime minister and a political camp many had considered home. With growing admiration, I followed the op-eds and tweets and video clips from British Jews that exposed and denounced and, most effectively, mocked the Jew-hatred emanating from the left.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Israel's 'Iron Dome' Is Headed to Europe

Seth J. Frantzman

National Interest | December 15, 2019

Czech Republic is acquiring Israel's famed 'Iron Dome' Multi-Mission Radar in an agreement signed earlier this month. The agreement between the Israel Ministry of Defense and Czech Ministry of Defense will see at least eight ELM-2084 radars operational in Czech Republic in coming years as part of the country's enhanced Mobile Air Defense Radar program.

This is an important \$125 million sale because it represents Israel's inroads into eastern Europe, especially the Visegrad Group of countries that are becoming increasing allies of Jerusalem. This includes Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. The radars will be delivered between 2021 and 2023 and they will be interoperable with NATO command and control. The deal was in the works for years.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Jewish residents of southern Poland to be commemorated (

The First News | December 14, 2019

As part of the project entitled People not Numbers, Jewish residents of Czarny Dunajec, southern Poland, and other localities who were murdered during WWII, will be commemorated with a monument inscribed with their names.

The initiative for the memorial came from Polish Olympic canoeist Dariusz Popiela, current European runner-up and Polish champion in his discipline, who works for the Sadecki Sztetl organisation which commemorates the legacy of Jews in the region.

Last year, Popiela was distinguished with the POLIN 2017 award given by the Museum of the History of Polish Jews for initiating and coordinating the construction of a Memorial of Remembrance of Polish Jews in Koscienko on the Dunajec, southern Poland. Popiela allocated money from the award for the People not Numbers initiative.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Putin to Belarus: No gas discount before union state is advanced

Vladimir Soldatkin

Reuters | December 19, 2019

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia's Vladimir Putin said he saw no point in providing Belarus with a gas discount until a project to create deeper ties between the two states advanced, ratcheting up pressure on his Belarusian counterpart who has complained of bullying from Moscow.

Putin is due to meet Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in St Petersburg on Friday. Russia has helped prop Lukashenko over the past 25 years with loans and energy subsidies, but Moscow started to scale back this help last year, prompting Lukashenko to accuse Russia of trying to bully his much smaller country into a union.

Russia and Belarus have been discussing deeper integration, or a 'union state', for around two decades, but have failed to agree on key points, including a united currency.

[Read the full article here.](#)

The Yandex Affair: Insider Trading and Institutionalized State Control

Vladislav Inozemtsev

Jamestown | December 13, 2019

One of the most commented developments in Russian business news this past November was the reported attempt to "nationalize" one of the country's largest high-technology companies, Yandex. Russia's leading search engine, Yandex holds 51 percent of the domestic market share in its category and is the fifth-most-used search engine worldwide; at the same time, the company is an important e-mail service provider in Russia, though its popularity has been falling due to the relatively poor quality of its digital offerings (Netmarketshare.com, Tendence.ru, accessed December 4). In recent years, the firm successfully diversified, gaining control of huge segments of money transfer operations through Yandex.dengi and taxi services through Yandex.taksi. But at the same time, it has lost some share of its core business: Yandex's dominance of Internet searches in Russia dropped from 60 percent in 2009 to a bit more than 50 percent in late 2018 (RBC, October 19, 2018). The company is incorporated in the Netherlands, with 15 offices throughout the world, and it trades on the NASDAQ since 2011.

[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.

