



U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

Global Efforts to Counter Anti-Semitism

Panel I



Ahmed Shaheed assumed his mandate as Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief on November 1, 2016. He is Deputy Director of the Essex Human Rights Centre. He was the first Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran since the termination of the previous Commission on Human Rights mandate in 2002. A career diplomat, he has twice held the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives. He led Maldives' efforts to embrace international human rights standards between 2003 and 2011.

Panel II



Elan S. Carr serves as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. As Special Envoy, he advises the Secretary of State and is responsible for directing U.S. policies and projects aimed at countering anti-Semitism throughout the world.

Prior to his appointment, Special Envoy Carr served as a Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County, where he prosecuted violent crimes for more than a decade, including murders, rapes, hate crimes, and crimes involving some of the most notorious criminal street gangs in Southern California. Special Envoy Carr is an officer in the United States Army Reserve, and he has received multiple awards and commendations for his nearly two decades of military service. In 2003-04, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he led an anti-terrorism team in life-saving missions.

As the son of Iraqi Jewish refugees who fled persecution in Iraq, Special Envoy Carr speaks Hebrew and the Iraqi dialect of Arabic. While in Iraq, he met with remnants of the Jewish community there and led Jewish services in the former presidential palace of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad. In the course of his work in the Jewish community, he has been a recognized leader in the fight against anti-Semitism on U.S. college campuses and around the world.

Panel III



Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt, Dorot professor of Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, has published and taught about the Holocaust and antisemitism for close to 40 years. Professor Lipstadt's book, *ANTISEMITISM: HERE AND NOW* has just been published to stellar reviews.

She is probably most widely known because of the libel lawsuit brought against her (1996) by David Irving for having called him a Holocaust denier. Irving was then arguably the world's leading denier. After a ten-week trial in London (2000), in an overwhelming victory for Professor Lipstadt, the judge found Irving to be a "pro-Nazi polemicist" who "perverts" history and engages in "racist" and "anti-Semitic" discourse. The movie *DENIAL*, starring Rachel Weisz and Tom Wilkenson with a screenplay by David Hare, tells the story of this legal battle. It is based on her book *HISTORY ON TRIAL: MY DAY IN COURT WITH A HOLOCAUST DENIER* (Harper Collins 2006) and recently reissued as *DENIAL* (Harper Collins 2016).

Professor Lipstadt was an historical consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and helped design the section of the Museum dedicated to the American Response to the Holocaust. She has held Presidential appointment to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council (from Presidents Clinton and Obama) and was asked by President George W. Bush to represent the White House at the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. She was part of a committee that advised Secretary of State Madeline Albright on matters of religious freedom abroad.



As Senior Vice President of International Affairs, **Sharon Nazarian** heads ADL's work fighting anti-Semitism and racial hatred globally, including in Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East and overseeing ADL's Israel office. Sharon joined ADL in 2017.

Prior to ADL, Sharon was active in three worlds: academia, philanthropy and foreign policy. She is the President of the Y&S Nazarian Family Foundation, with a regional office in Israel. She is also the founder of the Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Chair of its Advisory Board. Sharon taught as an adjunct professor at UCLA in the Department of Political Science, is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and sits on a myriad of foreign policy boards.

She studied at the University of Southern California (USC), double majoring in Journalism and International Relations, and received her Masters and Ph.D. in Political Science from USC.



Ambassador Akbar Ahmed is the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University in Washington, D.C. Ahmed's career has included distinguished posts in both academia and public service. Highlights from the past four decades of Ahmed's academic career include appointments such as: Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution; the First Distinguished Chair of Middle East and Islamic Studies at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD; the Iqbal Fellow (Chair of Pakistan Studies) and Fellow of Selwyn College at the University of Cambridge; and teaching positions at Harvard and Princeton Universities. Ahmed dedicated more than three decades to the Civil Service of Pakistan, the senior-most cadre of the Central Superior Services of Pakistan, where
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his posts included Commissioner in Balochistan, Political Agent in the Tribal Areas, including Waziristan, and Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK and Ireland.



Rabbi Abraham Cooper is the Associate Dean, Director Global Social Action Agenda of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a leading Jewish human rights organization with over 400,000 family members.

In 1977, he came to Los Angeles to help Rabbi Marvin Hier found the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Rabbi Cooper had the remarkable opportunity to know and work with Simon Wiesenthal, of blessed memory, for nearly thirty years. Together with Rabbi Hier, Rabbi Cooper regularly meets with world leaders, including Pope Benedict XVI, presidents and foreign ministers to defend the rights of the Jewish people, combat terrorism and promote intergroup relations.

For four decades, Rabbi Cooper has overseen the Wiesenthal Center's international social action agenda ranging from worldwide antisemitism and extremist groups, Nazi crimes, to Interfaith Relations and the struggle to thwart the anti-Israel Divestment campaign, to worldwide promotion of tolerance education. He is widely recognized as a pioneer and international authority on issues related to digital hate and the Internet.

As Associate Dean, he supervised the research and production of the Interactive Learning Center on the Holocaust and World War II for the Center's renowned Museum of Tolerance, which has been utilized by over 4 million visitors. Rabbi Cooper has also authored exhibitions ranging from Simon Wiesenthal to Jackie Robinson. He has written the World Book Encyclopedia's entry on Raoul Wallenberg and edited two major works on this Holocaust hero. Rabbi Cooper has his BA and MS from Yeshiva University and a Ph.D. from the Jewish University of America.