



JUSTICE FOR JEWS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

International Rights and Redress Campaign

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MEDIA ADVISORY

PHONE PRESS CONFERENCE MONDAY, MARCH 31 AT 4 PM (EST)

Final Vote on Congressional Resolution Recognizing Rights For Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, DC (March 27, 2008) – A dramatic shift in United States policy is on the horizon as the House of Representatives will vote Monday on *H.Res.185*, which would grant first-time-ever recognition to Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

A phone-in press conference is planned for Monday afternoon, March 31st at 4 pm, EST. Congressional Dial-in number is (866) 914-0429, Access code: 863143#.

Participating will be: Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY);
Congressman Joseph Crowley (D-NY);
Congressman Mike Ferguson (R-NJ);

Prior to the adoption of *H.Res.185*, all resolutions on Middle East refugees referred only to Palestinians. *H.Res.185* affirms that all victims of the Arab-Israeli conflict must be treated with equality, including Jewish, Christian and other refugees from countries in the Middle East. It further urges that the President and US officials participating in Middle East discussions must ensure: “*That any explicit reference to Palestinian refugees is matched by a similar explicit reference to Jewish and other refugees, as a matter of law and equity.*”

The Resolution will be the strongest declaration on the rights of Jewish refugees that were displaced from Arab countries. *H.Res.185* underscores the fact that Jews living in Arab countries suffered human rights violations, were uprooted from their homes, and were made refugees. The resolution further declares that, “*it would be inappropriate and unjust for the United States to recognize rights for Palestinian refugees without recognizing equal rights for Jewish refugees from Arab countries.*”

Underscoring the importance of *H.Res.185*, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) stated, “*When the Middle East peace process is discussed, Palestinian refugees are often addressed. However, Jewish refugees outnumbered Palestinian refugees, and their forced exile from Arab lands must not be omitted from public discussion on the peace process. It is simply not right to recognize the rights of Palestinian refugees without recognizing the rights of Jewish refugees.*”

Monday’s vote follows on the heels of *H.Res.185* being **unanimously** adopted by the *House Foreign Affairs Committee* on February 27, 2008. A copy of *H.Res.185* and a complete Media Kit is available at www.justiceforjews.com/mediakit2.html.