

NICKOLAI BUTKEVICH

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Research and Advocacy Director at UCSJ: Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union.

I am the author of 25 published articles on ethnic and religious persecution, including antisemitism, and other human rights abuses in the former Soviet Union.

I have testified before three Congressional commissions on antisemitism, extremist groups, and other human rights issues in the former Soviet Union and have written several UCSJ reports. In addition, I have lectured on these topics at Harvard University, Columbia University, Stetson University, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Voice of America, an NSA seminar, and several academic conferences. In March 2005, I appeared as a guest on ABC's television show "World View" on a show devoted to racism and antisemitism in Russia. I have been quoted as an expert on these issues in several publications, including: *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Toronto Globe and Mail*, *Talk Magazine*, *The San Jose Mercury News*, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Izvestiya*, ITAR-TASS, *Forward*, CNS News, and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

I have extensive knowledge of the following issues in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine: antisemitism, persecution of religious and ethnic minorities, the activities of hate groups, and police torture.

I have been certified as an expert witness on the above-mentioned issues by 19 different judges in 30 separate hearings—The Honorable Alan Vomacka on October 17, 2003 and April 27, 2004 (New York City), The Honorable Jill H. Dufresne (Camp Hill Prison, PA on December 18, 2003; Baltimore on February 6, 2004), The Honorable Walter Durling on March 16, 2004, February 4, 2005 and September 19, 2006 (York County Prison, PA), The Honorable Charles Honeyman on March 25, 2004, May 8, 2004 and October 14, 2004 (Philadelphia, PA) and November 15, 2004 in the Allenwood Federal Penitentiary (White Deer, PA), The Honorable John Duck on May 12, 2004, May 6, 2005 and April 12, 2006 (Oakdale Prison, LA), The Honorable Daniel A. Meisner on October 22, 2004 and February 24, 2006 (Newark, NJ), The Honorable Agnelis L. Reese on November 2, 2004 and July 26, 2005 (Oakdale Prison, LA), The Honorable Charles E. Pazar on January 28, 2005 (Memphis, TN), The Honorable John Opaciuch on March 24, 2005 (Miami, FL), The Honorable Rosalind K. Malloy on May 12, 2005 (Philadelphia, PA), The Honorable Theresa Holmes-Simmons, May 18, 2005 (New York City), The Honorable Michael Yamaguchi on June 1, 2005 (San Francisco, CA), The Honorable Beverley M. Phillips on June 8, 2005 (San Francisco, CA), The Honorable Wayne R. Iskra on June 10, 2005 (Arlington, VA), The Honorable O. John Brahos on September 14, 2005 (Kansas City, MO), The Honorable Alan L. Page on February 27, 2006 (New York City), The Honorable Marsha K. Nettles on March 15, 2006 (Detroit, MI), The

Honorable James A. Nugent on April 3, 2006 (Oakdale Prison, LA), The Honorable Gabriel C. Videla on August 21, 2006 (New York City), and The Honorable Vivienne Gordon-Uruakpa on November 1, 2006 (New York City).

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EDUCATION

I received an MA in Central European, Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies from Georgetown University in 1998, and a BA in History from Mary Washington College in 1994.

PUBLICATIONS

Book review of Nathan D. Larson's *Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and the Modern Russo-Jewish Question*. *Electronic Newsletter of the ECPR-SG on Extremism & Democracy*. Volume 7, No. 3, Fall 2006.

"Soft Crackdown by the Kremlin." Letter to the Editor. *Washington Post*. October 27, 2006.

"Russia: The Cruellest Month." *Transitions*. May 4, 2006.

"Moscow Makes a Mockery of Hate Speech Laws." *Forward*. March 31, 2006.

"Motherland Shows Its True Colors." *Transitions*. February 3, 2006.

"Learning the Hard Way." *The Moscow Times*. November 15, 2005.

"Getting Away With Hate." *The Moscow Times*. September 26, 2005.

"Getting Beyond Images." *The Jerusalem Post*. April 27, 2005.

"Banging (Skin) Heads." *Transitions*. March 25, 2005.

"Hate Unleashed." *Transitions*. November 4, 2004.

"Jews: Open Season." *Transitions*. September 3, 2004.

"Statistics Show Russia's Anti-Extremism Efforts Biased, Ineffective." *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Newslines*. August 19, 2004.

"A Potemkin War on Extremism." *Transitions*. July 16, 2004.

"Giving Peace No Chance." *Transitions*. August 14, 2003.

“Minorities at Risk in Russia.” *The Institute for the Study of Genocide Newsletter*, #30. Spring 2003.

“Anti-Semitism in Israel.” Letter to the Editor. *Washington Times*. November 23, 2002.

“Russian Authorities Start to Crack Down on Illegal Hate Publications.” *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: Media Matters*. September 6, 2002.

“The New Face of State-sponsored Anti-Semitism in Russia.” *East European Jewish Affairs*. Volume 32, Number 1, Summer 2002, pgs. 139-148.

“Rash of Attacks.” *Transitions*. November 8, 2001

“Unraveling the Mystery of the Tashkent Bombings: Theories and Implications.” *Demokratizatsiya*. Volume 8, Number 4, Fall 2000. Co-authored with Abdumannob Polat.

“Putin Flirts with Extremists.” *Transitions*. September 25, 2000.

“The Nikitin Case: A Turning Point for Human Rights in Russia?” *Human Rights Tribune*. September 2000.

“Out of Pocket Parliaments.” *Transitions*. July 24, 2000. Co-authored with Abdumannob Polat.

“A Dangerous Decree.” *Forward*. June 2, 2000.

“Antisemitism in Russian Politics.” Letter to the Editor, *Washington Post*. April 10, 2000.

“One Flew Over Putin’s Nest.” *Transitions*. March 8, 2000.

“Russian Vigilantes.” Letter to the Editor, *New York Times*. March 7, 2000.

“Jews of Dagestan Terrorized by Crisis in Caucasus.” *Heritage South-West Jewish Press*. January 7, 2000. Co-authored with Marillyn Tallman.

PRESENTATIONS/MEDIA APPEARANCES

Presentation at an Amnesty International event at Boston University entitled “Dashed Hopes: Human Rights in the Former Soviet Union,” December 10, 2006.

Lecture at Harvard University’s Davis Center of Russian and Eurasian Studies on October 16, 2006.

Testimony before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus hearing entitled “Human Rights in Russia—Religious Freedom Under Attack,” May 17, 2006.
[<http://lantos.house.gov/HoR/CA12/Human+Rights+Caucus/Briefing+Testimonies/06-08-06+Testimony+of+Nickolai+Butkevich+Russia+Religious+Briefing.htm>]

Lecture at an NSA (National Security Agency) training session on ethnic violence in Russia on August 9, 2005.

Appearance as a guest on ABC’s television show “World View,” March 3, 2005.

Three appearances on Voice of America’s Russia service (April 20, 2004, February 8, 2005, March 28, 2005)

Testimony at a US Commission on International Religious Freedom Congressional hearing entitled “Russia: Religious Communities, Extremist Movements, and the State,” February 7, 2005.

Testimony before the US Congressional Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, “Human Rights in Putin’s Russia,” May 20, 2004.
[<http://www.fsumonitor.com/stories/052504Russ2.shtml>]

Presentation at Nizhny Novgorod, Russia conference on xenophobia and extremist groups, May 15, 2004.

Lectured on xenophobia in Russia at the Washington DC offices of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on April 20, 2004.

Chaired a panel on Jewish identity in the Former Soviet Union at the Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual Convention, Columbia University on April 15, 2004.

Presentation at Moscow conference “Ways for Overcoming Xenophobia, Racial Discrimination and Antisemitism in the Multi-National Russian Federation,” March 30, 2004.

I have lectured at Columbia University’s Harriman Institute twice (April 15, 2002; October 10, 2002).

“Does State Anti-Semitism Still Exist in Russia?” Paper presented on November 15, 2001 to the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.

Interview on “Shalom-USA” radio. August 5, 2001.

“Fascism in Three Russian Provinces: How Regional and Central Authorities React to Hate Groups.” Paper presented to the Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual

Convention, Columbia University, April 2001.

“Russia’s Secrecy Paranoia: Implications for International Security.” Lecture given to students participating in the Washington Semester Program at American University, Washington, DC. September 28, 2000.

“Antisemitism and Russian Nationalism.” Symposium at Stetson University, DeLand, Florida. February 3-4, 2000.

Numerous presentations to Jewish groups.