

**Thousands Around the World Express
Solidarity with Jewish Prisoners in Iran**
"Free the 10" is the Rallying Cry at Gatherings in July

Expressing solidarity with the ten Jews convicted and imprisoned in Iran, thousands of people throughout the world gathered in July to call for the prisoners' immediate release by the Iranian government.

In New York, nearly 2,000 people gathered near the United Nations in a Solidarity Gathering called by United Jewish Communities (UJC), along with The Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the New York Jewish Community Relations Council and UJA-Federation of New York.

"Here in New York, across the continent, and around the world — in such capitals as London, Moscow and Paris — advocates for justice and religious freedom are gathered today as one," Louise F. Stoll, UJC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, said in public remarks. "And in one clear, resounding voice, those of us gathered — human rights advocates all — proclaim that the injustices meted out in Iran are unacceptable." (The full text of Ms. Stoll's remarks can be found in the sidebar.)

Richard Holbrook, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel also spoke at the Solidarity Gathering, joining a host of human rights, political, cross-denominational religious and Jewish community leaders in calling for the prisoners' immediate release.

The Solidarity Gathering in New York was one of many that took place around the world on

Monday. Similar gatherings occurred in Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Omaha, Philadelphia, San Antonio, London, Moscow, Ottawa, Paris, Toronto, and Vancouver.

Verdicts in the cases were handed down on July 1 and have been strongly denounced by human rights groups, religious organizations and governments around the world.

"The proceedings [were] a mockery of internationally-accepted judicial norms," Stoll said. "To the Iranian authorities, we say, 'Free the Iran 10 now.' We stand together as one and will not be silenced until these prisoners — our brothers — are released and

their dignities and freedoms restored."

United Jewish Communities, formed by the recent merger of United Jewish Appeal, the United Israel Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations, is the dominant fundraising arm for American Jewry, and represents 189 Jewish federations and 400 non-federated, independent communities across the continent. It reflects the values and traditions of education, leadership, advocacy and social justice, and continuity of community that define the Jewish people. ☆



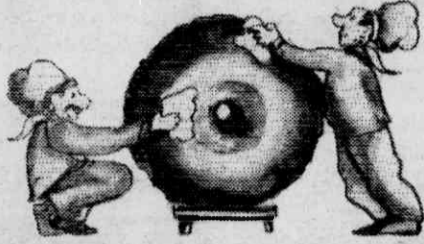
Thousands of human rights advocates rallied at the UN Building in NY for the Solidarity Gathering in support of the Iran 10.



Louise F. Stoll, UJC Exec. VP and COO (left) with US Rep. Jerrold Nadler of Manhattan.



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UJC and AJFCA Oppose Drastic Social Service Funding Cuts, Urge Immediate Restoration

WASHINGTON, DC — United Jewish Communities (UJC) and the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies (AJFCA) today joined with Senator Bob Graham (D-FL), Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to oppose over \$1 billion in unprecedented cuts to social service funding.

As the Senate nears debate on critical Labor/Health and Human Services Appropriations legislation that would cut Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding by 66% — from \$2.38 billion to \$660 million, UJC and AJFCA urged that the proposed cuts be restored immediately. The SSBG program helps states fund key programs including Meals on Wheels, adoption, and day care for both children and adults. With this funding, states contract with non-profit social service agencies to provide

many of these crucial services.

"Our national Federation system raises millions of dollars annually for social services, and relies on SSBG funding to fill in the gaps. Without this funding, our agencies would be unable to fulfill their mission to serve all of our clients," said Diana Aviv, UJC's Vice President of Public Policy.

"In the 1996 welfare reform law, Congress pledged to provide states with a steady stream of SSBG funding if they assumed responsibility for administering welfare programs. The states have lived up to their part of the agreement. Now, Congress must follow through on its promises so we can meet our commitment to serve the most vulnerable people in our community," Aviv continued.

Bert Goldberg, Executive Vice President of AJFCA, said that these cuts would affect tens of thousands of clients nationwide.

"Without SSBG funding, the number of clients we serve would be drastically diminished. This cut would mean thousands of elderly people losing their Meals on Wheels and home care, and thousands of children losing their day care," he said.

At a press conference today, Jerry Starr, Director of Older Adult Services for the Jewish Family Service Agency of Central New Jersey, stood together with Graham, Grassley, and Shalala as he urged Congress to restore the funding.

"For many of our clients, especially elderly people, the in-home services they receive from us represent their only contact with the outside world. Cutting SSBG funding would cut off their lifeline to the community," Starr said.

United Jewish Communities, the entity formed by the merger

(Continued on page 28)

Remarks by
Louise F. Stoll,
Executive Vice
President and Chief
Operating Officer,
United Jewish
Communities, at the
Solidarity Gathering,
New York, July 10,
2000:

"United Jewish Communities — on behalf of the hundreds of Jewish Community Federations throughout North America — stands in solidarity with our imprisoned brothers in Shiraz, their families, the Iranian Jewish community, and with each of you.

"Here in New York, across the continent, and around the world — in such capitals as London, Moscow and Paris — advocates for justice and religious freedom are gathered today as one.

"And in one clear, resounding voice, those gathered — human rights advocates all — proclaim that the injustices meted out in Iran are unacceptable.

"The charges - baseless. The trial — a blatant injustice. The proceedings — a mockery of internationally-accepted judicial norms.

"Such flagrant violations of judicial standards, human rights and religious freedoms won't be tolerated.

"To the Iranian authorities we say, 'Free the Iran 10 now!' We stand together as one and will not be silenced until these prisoners — our brothers — are released and their dignities and freedoms restored. ☆