

International Farhud Day to Be Proclaimed June 1, 2015, at Event at United Nations Headquarters

For further information: lynda@lewinlewin.com

International Farhud Day will be proclaimed June 1, 2015, at a side event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The entire program entitled “*The Farhud and the Creation of 850,000 Post-War Jewish Refugees from Arab Lands*” will be broadcast as a live global event, streamed over the internet from 1:15 PM ET to 2:30 PM ET through the UN Web Portal, <http://www.webtv.un.org>.

June 1 is the anniversary of the “Farhud,” which means *violent dispossession* in Arabic-Kurdish dialect. On June 1-2, 1941, hundreds of Jews in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq were massacred and their communities pillaged by Nazi-allied Arab marauders during a bloody Holocaust-era pogrom. This violent pogrom marked the beginning of the end of most Jewish communities in Arab lands. Ultimately, the Farhud was the first step in a process that saw the post-war expulsion of 850,000 Jewish refugees from their ancestral homelands in Arab lands where they had lived peaceably for many centuries. For many members of the Sephardic community, the Farhud symbolizes the equivalent of Kristallnacht. For years, survivors of that violence, and their descendants, have urged international recognition of this turning-point event, which demarcated the end of 2,700 years of Jewish life in Iraq. As the world grapples with the current refugee crisis, it is important to remember these Jewish refugees who were subsequently resettled and absorbed into new societies. What are the lessons to be learned from their experiences?

The American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (AAJLJ), The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ), and StandWithUs are sponsoring this side event at the United Nations, in association with Justice for Jews from Arab Countries, The Auto Channel, The Israeli-American Council, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, the Babylonian Heritage Museum at Or Yehuda, and a coalition of other organizations worldwide. Constitutional attorney Alyza Lewin, on behalf of the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, will convene the event. Rabbi Elie Abadie, co-president of Justice for Jews from Arab Countries, will moderate the program.

New York Times bestselling author Edwin Black, who wrote the award-winning book, *The Farhud: Roots of the Arab-Nazi Alliance in the Holocaust*, will deliver the keynote address, “The Farhud and the Creation of 850,000 Post-War Jewish refugees from Arab Lands.” After the lecture, Black will answer questions from the audience, as well as questions submitted in advance by individuals and academics worldwide. A copy of Black’s book *The Farhud* will be presented to all attendees. A short video of clips offering solidarity from communities worldwide will also be shown.

Seating is limited. For security purposes, advance registration is required.
To reserve a seat, send an email with your name, affiliation and contact information to
lynda@lewinlewin.com no later than May 28, 2015.
Media inquiries may be submitted to the same address.

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