

**Report by U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
Special Representative
on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance
Report February 10 – June 15, 2016**

**Annual Session, Tblisi
July 1-5, 2016**

On March 9, 2015, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) appointed U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin to serve as the OSCE PA's first Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance (SRARI). Following are the SRARI's activities from February 10 – June 15, 2016, that, with the support of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, focus on his four priorities for this year: 1) anti-Semitism and community security; 2) anti-Muslim bigotry/Islamophobia; 3) discriminatory policing; and 4) anti-migrant/refugee bias.

These activities include:

- *July 1-5, 2016* – Introduced the Supplemental Item “A Call for OSCE Action to Address Violence and Discrimination” expressing alarm over heightened incidents of violence and discrimination and increased prejudice in the OSCE region, and calling for immediate action
<http://www.oscepa.org/documents/all-documents/annual-sessions/2016-tbilisi/supplementary-items/3280-call-for-osce-action-eng/file>
- *May 18, 2016* - SRARI Cardin signs letter urging President Obama to resettle more Syrian refugees
<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-joins-colleagues-in-urging-president-obama-to-resettle-more-syrian-refugees>
- *May 1 & March 8, 2016* – SRARI Cardin Resolution for International Women's Day and History Month includes a focus on refugees
https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/statements_and_speeches/womens-history-month-2016
- *April 28, 2016* – provisions SRARI Cardin, in his capacity as Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, included in Senate State Department Authorization legislation pass Senate Committee. Provision include: to 1) provide State Department funding to support U.S. and European civil society work with youth to combat anti-Semitism and other

forms of intolerance; 2) supporting consultations between the governments of the United States and the European Union on a Joint Action Plan to combat prejudice and discrimination towards racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, including addressing anti-Semitism; and 3) increasing diversity in U.S. international affairs careers.

- *February 12 & May 2, 2016* – SRARI Cardin introduces the 2016 Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, stating that “Over seventy years after the Holocaust, the United States still lacks a comprehensive framework to prevent and respond to mass atrocities and genocide.”

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/us-senators-introduce-bipartisan-genocide-and-atrocities-prevention-act-of-2016>

<http://www.foreign.senate.gov/press/ranking/release/cardin-marks-yom-hashoah-2016>

video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2tnaOntX0w>

SRARI Cardin statement for International Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-commemorates-international-genocide-awareness-and-prevention-month>

Select Statements & Speeches

- *June 13, 2016* – SRARI Cardin statement in response to the mass shooting in Orlando, Fla.

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-statement-on-the-orlando-shooting>

- *May 24, 2016* - SRARI Cardin statement for Jewish American Heritage Month

https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/statements_and_speeches/jewish-american-heritage-month

- *April 20, 2016* - SRARI Cardin statement on Harriet Tubman being featured on the \$20 bill

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-few-are-people-more-deserving-of-being-featured-on-the-redesigned-20-bill-than-marylander-harriet-tubman>

- *April 20, 2016* - SRARI Cardin marks one year since death of Freddie Gray

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-marks-one-year-since-the-death-of-freddie-gray>

- *February 19, 2016* - SRARI Cardin on End of Slavery in Romania Commemoration

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-welcomes-commemoration-of-the-end-of-slavery-in-romania>

Meetings, Consultations, Events

- Omar Ba, Belgium Equality and Diversity Expert, Belgian African Community Platform Coordinator
- Dr. Ethel Brooks, Chair of the Board of the European Roma Rights Center
- Roland Ferkovics, Romani civil society activist (Hungary)
- Dr. Kathrin Meyer, Executive Secretary, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
- Marouane Mohamed, former OSCE/ODIHR Advisor on Combating Intolerance Against Muslims
- Katharina Von-Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator for Anti-Semitism
- Jordi Vaquer, Open Society Foundations
- Michael Whine, ECRI Board Member
- consultations with Romani and other civil society in Bulgaria
- consultations with participants in the U.S. and European Muslim Forum for Change
- consultations with U.S. and European diverse politicians and civil society leaders of the Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network (TILN) on inclusive society initiatives
- International Parliamentary Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism
- OSCE's Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on Policies and Strategies to Further Promote Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

Other Select Global Human Rights Work

- 06/07/16 - Cardin in The Hill: Time for a Human Rights Dialogue with India
- 06/07/16 - Cardin Statement on Assad's Recommitment to Violence Against Syrian People
- 06/01/16 - Cardin Statement on War Crimes Conviction of Hissene Habré
- 05/25/16 - Cardin Statement on Release of Azeri Political Prisoner Khadija Ismayilova
- 05/25/16 - Cardin Statement on Release of Ukrainian Pilot, Parliamentarian Nadiya Savchenko
- 05/23/16 - Cardin Statement on Lifting of U.S. Arms Embargo on Vietnam
- 05/18/16 - Cardin, McCain Statement on Global Magnitsky Act's Passage by House Committee

- 05/18/16 - Cardin Joins Colleagues in Urging President Obama to Resettle More Syrian Refugees
- 05/17/16 - Cardin Statement on Obama Administration's Burma Sanctions Renewal
- 05/17/16 - Cardin Statement on Assault of Russian Opposition Figure Alexei Navalny
- 05/13/16 - Cardin Statement on Threats Against Golos, Other Russian Civil Society Groups
- 05/12/16 - Cardin Statement on Brazilian Political Situation
- 05/10/16 - Cardin Statement on President Obama's Historic Visit to Hiroshima
- 05/03/16 - Cardin Statement on World Press Freedom Day
- 04/29/16 - Cardin Statement on Jacobson's Confirmation as Ambassador to Mexico
- 04/28/16 - Senate Passes Cardin, Corker Resolution Supporting Colombia's Efforts to Pursue Peace, End Armed Conflict
- 04/28/16 - Cardin Condemns Killing of Civilians in Syria Hospital Bombing
- 04/28/16 - Corker, Cardin: State Department Authorization Bill for 2017 Passes Committee
- 04/27/16 - Cardin Statement Commemorating Armenian Genocide Anniversary

Appendix I

Mandate of the Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance

The mandate of the OSCE PA Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance is to:

- Raise awareness in and report to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the persisting problem of prejudice and discrimination in the OSCE area, including anti-Semitism, other religion- and race-based intolerance and other forms of intolerance;
- Raise awareness in and report to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the track records of OSCE participating States in combating these problems;
- Advise the Assembly on the implementation of its agreed policies in these matters as well as on the development of new policies and strategies, including on how to protect the individuals and communities affected;
- Seek to promote dialogue and exchange of best practices within the Assembly on combating these problems; and
- Communicate with relevant actors within the OSCE who work on combating prejudice and discrimination in the OSCE area, including anti-Semitism, other religion- and race-based intolerance and other forms of intolerance.