



Advocacy Update

Sent December 1, 2010

Ask the Senate to Support the New START Treaty!

Visualize a world free of nuclear weapons. Your help is urgently needed to take action in support of the new START treaty, which would be an important step in that direction. Urge your senators to support START and to make sure it goes to a vote in the Senate.

The new START treaty will pare back the number of deployed nuclear weapons in the U.S. and Russia and would set up an inspection and monitoring procedure to replace that of the 2009 first START treaty, which expired in 1991. It is essential that the Senate addresses this treaty now.

Go to the [Religious Action Center website](#) for more information and to take action to let your senators know you support the new START treaty for nuclear arms reduction.

Immediate Action Needed to Restore Emergency Unemployment Insurance

Yesterday, November 30, the emergency federal Unemployment Insurance program for long-term unemployed people ended. It is hard to believe, but unless Congress acts quickly two million long-term jobless people will lose their unemployment insurance benefits, and hundreds of thousands more will do so each subsequent month. Quick action by Congress could restore the program to prevent loss of unemployment benefits by jobless individuals.

We will begin to celebrate Chanukah tonight – encourage Congress to help the long-term jobless to celebrate their holidays!

ARZA Statement: Rachel's Tomb and the Western Wall

The Association of Reform Zionists of America, ARZA, has alerted us to “news you need to know.” Rachel's tomb has been identified by UNESCO as a mosque and the Palestinian Authority has been stating that the Western Wall is not part of our Temple Mount.

ARZA has issued the following statement:

"If there is ever to be true peace in the Middle East, the shrines of each of the three Abrahamic religions must be respected by the political bodies in the region and by the United Nations. Referring to Rachel's tomb as a "mosque" is both factually and historically inaccurate. Similarly statements by the Palestinian Authority that the Western Wall in Jerusalem is not the retaining wall of our Temple Mount ignores established historical fact. Both of these references are disrespectful of Judaism and of the generations of Jews who have consistently venerated these sites; one from the time of Genesis and the second from before the Christian era to the present. Accordingly, we call upon UNESCO, the Palestinian Authority and upon all people and all nations of good will to cease referring to Rachel's tomb as a mosque or the Western Wall as anything other than a treasure of the Jewish people."

In addition, there is also an excellent article on the subject in *The New York Jewish Week* entitled "[Rachel's Tomb is Now a Mosque - Who Cares?](#)"