

2011 Hours Against Hate



Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith and Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal meet with English Language Micro-scholarship students in Ahmedli, Azerbaijan. Photo: U.S. Embassy Baku

Baku, March 16, 2011

Two senior-level State Department officials traveled to [Azerbaijan](#) March 13-15, 2011, to learn more about Azerbaijan's long traditions of religious diversity and tolerance and to enlist support for a unique on-line campaign against hate. Those interested in the campaign can pledge their volunteer support at www.facebook.com/2011hoursagainsthate.

Special Representative to Muslim Communities [Farah Pandith](#) and [Special Envoy](#) to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal met with religious leaders, government officials and youth to discuss their "2011 Hours Against Hate" campaign, which is focused on ending hatred and bigotry and encourages people to pledge hours of volunteer service. Sheikh Allahshukur Pashazade, Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Board, and Hidayet Olujov, head of the State Committee for Work with Religious Associations, were among the interlocutors.

Apart from meetings, the special envoys met with alumni of the [FLEX student exchange program](#), toured the Khabad Ohr-Avner educational center, visited the newly constructed

Mountain Jew Community synagogue, spoke with students at the University of Language and met with students of the English Access Microscholarship Program in Ahmedli.

For more information about the campaign, see www.facebook.com/2011hoursagainsthate or <http://www.state.gov/s/2011hoursagainsthate/index.htm>.



Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith and Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism Hannah Rosenthal tour the Bibi Heybat Mosque with Akhund Haji Hikmet.

Photo: U.S. Embassy Baku



Special Representative to Muslim Communities Farah Pandith speaks to the media at Bibi Heybat Mosque, Baku.

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