



## Shai Franklin

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*Veteran community executive in the United States and internationally, advocacy trainer, frequent lecturer and commentator on TV and radio, online, and in print.*

Shai Franklin is a Partner with Gotham Government Relations, a versatile firm with strong ties to business and government leaders in New York, Washington, and globally. In September 2012, The Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute named him Senior Fellow.

Shai was instrumental in forging the 2004 mandate by 57 governments across Europe and North America to combat anti-Semitism through the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), organizing the April 2002 National Israel Solidarity Rally, establishing systematic Jewish participation in the Organization of American States (OAS), securing tens of millions of dollars in new reimbursements for New York Jewish day schools, admitting Israel's Magen David Adom into the International Red Cross, coordinating the first distribution of U.S. Government food assistance in post-Soviet Russia, and upholding Interpol "Red Notices" against the Iranian perpetrators of the 1994 AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires. He served three years as Treasurer of CONGO, the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations.

Shai is former Executive Director of the World Jewish Congress, TEACH-NYS, and Sephardic Community Federation. He has worked as a community professional with the American Council for World Jewry, Anti-Defamation League, and NCSEJ (formerly National Conference on Soviet Jewry). He has been a Fellow with The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, United Nations Watch, Institute on Religion and Public Policy and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and a Wexner Graduate Fellow at UCLA. His clients have included American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Institute for Gulf Affairs, Israel Policy Forum, Libya's Government of National Accord, Libyan Investment Authority, Ruderman Family Foundation, Ukrainian Jewish Committee, Ukraine's Ministry of Education, and Kharkiv Regional State Administration.

Shai has testified in the U.S. Congress and addressed numerous international fora of the United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (the "Helsinki Process"), and the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Human Rights and Religious Freedom, and was a plenary speaker at the International Economic Forum in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Under the auspices of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has conducted research in France on Muslim-Jewish relations.

Shai has appeared as an expert on TV networks as diverse as Al Jazeera, Shalom TV, i24, Turkey's TRT World, Pakistan's Indus News, Russia's RT, and Argentina's C5N. He is a frequent contributor to The Hill, Jerusalem Post and Times of Israel, among other outlets.

Shai earned a B.A. in political science (summa cum laude) from Temple University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He holds an M.A. from the Johns Hopkins University's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, where was selected for the U.S. Government's elite Presidential Management Intern Program. As a student activist, Shai was founding editor of Brown Middle East Journal, and the key organizer for AIPAC and Soviet Jewry advocacy on the campuses of Rhode Island School of Design, Brown University, and Temple.

Now based in New York, Shai has traveled widely across Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and South Asia, and the former Soviet Union, lecturing, managing projects, and consulting with senior government officials and community leaders.

**SELECTED VIDEO CLIPS: Available on [YouTube Channel](#)**

**SELECTED OP-EDS**

[Israel-UAE: The Devil in the Details](#) – Times of Israel, August 2020

[Beyond Coronavirus, Connecting Our Communal Conversations](#) – eJewish Philanthropy, May 2020

[The dog ate my Mideast peace plan](#) – Jerusalem Post, April 2019

[A better way for Gulf States to engage Americans and American Jews](#) – TRT World, October 2018

[Surviving the ‘Holocaust Law’ controversy](#) – Jerusalem Post, August 2018

[Need a scapegoat? Just blame ‘the UN’](#) – Jerusalem Post, June 2017

[Clarifying an American Jewish Agenda](#) – Jerusalem Post, February 2017

[Why I Attended the Jewish-Azerbaijan Event in Trump’s DC Hotel](#) – Times of Israel, December 2016

[Let ADL Condemn Bannon, Let JFNA Feed the Hungry](#) – Jerusalem Post, November 2016

[In Ukraine, U.S. Is Forfeiting New Cold War](#) – World Post, March 2015

[Obama Should Send High-Level Rep to AIPAC Conference](#) – Ha’aretz, February 2015

[The Real Risk of ‘Another 20 Gazas’](#) – Huffington Post, September 2014

[Time for Candid, Meaningful Interfaith Talks](#) – Huffington Post, April 2014

[David Brooks Only Wrote About the Orthodox 1%](#) – Forward, March 2013

[Jews Lose By Ceding Israel to GOP](#) – Huffington Post, March 2013

[ADL must reassess opposition to gov’t support for parochial schools](#) – JTA, August 2012

[Letter from Bahrain: A Jew at the Arab table](#) – JTA, December 2010