



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2014

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Milwaukee Jewish Federation CEO Appointed to Bi-Partisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin— Hannah Rosenthal, president and CEO of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, was appointed this week to the bi-partisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

“Freedom of religion and belief or non-belief is a fundamental human right,” said Rosenthal. “In the world of chaos that we all live in, this is a group that focuses on that human right.”

The Commission is a bi-partisan body created by an act of Congress in 1998 to make religious freedom a higher priority in U.S. foreign policy. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), the minority leader in the House of Representatives, recommended Rosenthal’s appointment that was ultimately approved by Speaker of the House Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio).

“While this is a bi-partisan commission, I cannot imagine any issue of religious freedom that would be partisan,” said Rosenthal.

The Commission watches the International Religious Freedom Office along with playing an active role in foreign policy. It identifies “Countries of Particular Concern” and “Closely Monitored Countries” because of religious abuses, and also works towards freeing political prisoners because of their religious beliefs.

“In some of these countries, many do not have Jews left, and in countries that still have Jews, they represent a minority, and like all religious minorities, are at risk of abuse of religious freedom,” said Rosenthal.

This appointment also gives her an opportunity to represent both Milwaukee and the Jewish community on an international level, and in turn sharing an international perspective with the local community.

The Commission has 10 meetings per year that are a combination of teleconference and traveling to Washington, D.C., and may include some optional international travel.

Rosenthal is the former U.S. State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.

About the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

For more than one hundred years, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation has been dedicated to building a strong Jewish community. The agency distributed nearly \$19 million last year to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations locally and around the world.

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