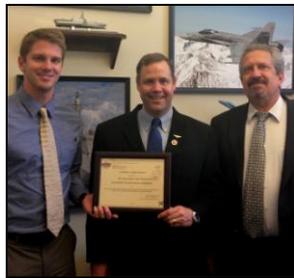




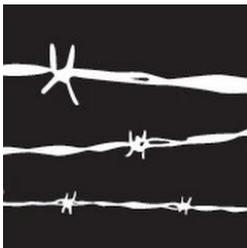
## JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- Keeping Washington informed on Baltic issues since 1961

e-newsletter: AUGUST 15, 2014



### August 23rd Black Ribbon Day events



Black Ribbon Day events in Washington D.C., Chicago, Canada, and around the globe are planned for August 23rd. JBANC has been closely involved with the planning of the DC events. The commemoration is intended to raise awareness of the tragic legacy and toll that communism has taken on modern society. The 23rd marks the 75th anniversary of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between the Soviet Union and Germany, which divided Europe and helped precipitate the Second World War.

Read more here: [Black Ribbon Day event page](#)

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### JBANC Meets with House Baltic Caucus Members



JBANC completed two weeks of meetings in the U.S. House of Representatives to thank members of the House Baltic Caucus, and to recognize them for their support for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. In total we visited all 52 House Baltic Caucus member offices, including face-to-face meetings with 18 members, and six additional meetings with staff members. JBANC also delivered letters to over 380 other members of the House with invitations to join the Caucus, and three new members have joined the group –

Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Tom Petri (R-WI), and Devin Nunes (R-CA).

Read more here: [JBANC press release](#)

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### Russian Propaganda Report

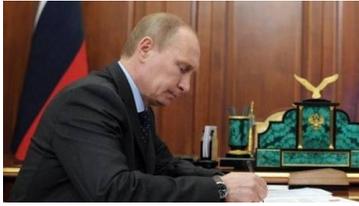


JBANC graduate summer intern Mikelis Berzins has been working on a report on the worrisome increase in Russian disinformation and antagonism in Eastern Europe. This report focuses on these issues since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine. The paper intends to designate, analyze, and dispel some of the most pervasive themes that make up the focus of current Russian propaganda.

Read more here: [JBANC Propaganda Report](#)

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## Analysis: Putin Picks the Worst of All Bad Choices



This analysis by Pavel K. Baev, with the Jamestown Foundation, provides an insightful look at the Kremlin's response to the ramped up western sanctions. Baev presents the possibility that the Russian ban on Western food imports could have devastating implications for Russian food prices and availability. This is of special importance to the Baltics, due to their close trade ties with the Russian Federation.

Read more here: [Jamestown Foundation Analysis](#)

Also, please stand together with Ukraine and participate in the International Unity March Against Terrorism on August 16th at 2:00 pm, also taking place in Washington, DC.

Read more here: [Unity March](#)

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## Obama to Visit Estonia



President Obama plans to visit Estonia early next month to meet with all three Baltic Presidents. This event follows last summer's visit by the three Baltic leaders to Washington. Among other topics, the Russian aggression in Ukraine is planned to be discussed.

Read more here: [USA Today - Obama to Estonia](#)

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## Other Events

American Latvian Association: Conference of Latvian Diaspora Archives and Material Culture in Washington D.C. on September 11-13, 2014.

More information here: [ALA Archives Conference](#)

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