

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 707

Condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2014

Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mrs. LOWEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and rejecting attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere.

Whereas there is clear evidence of increasing incidents and expressions of anti-Semitism throughout the world;

Whereas the United States Department of State released this week the International Religious Freedom Report for 2013 and noted in the Executive Summary, “Throughout Europe, the historical stain of anti-Semitism continued to be a fact of life on Internet fora, in soccer stadiums, and through Nazi-like salutes, leading many individuals who are Jewish to conceal their religious identity.”;

Whereas anti-Semitic acts committed and recorded in 2014 around the world, including countries in the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, and North America, include incidents of murder at Jewish sites, violent attacks and death threats against Jews, as well as gun violence, arson, graffiti, anti-Semitic cartoons, and other property desecration at Jewish places of worship and communal activity;

Whereas a survey by the Anti-Defamation League of attitudes towards Jews in more than 100 countries around the world, released in May 2014 found that over a quarter of the people surveyed (26 percent) hold anti-Semitic views, a stunning indicator of the stubborn resilience of anti-Semitic beliefs, even in countries where no Jews reside;

Whereas anti-Semitic attitudes in the Middle East and North Africa (74 percent) far surpass those in any other region;

Whereas the finding that 70 percent of those around the world who harbor anti-Semitic attitudes have never met a Jew shows how deeply embedded stereotypes of Jews that developed over centuries are in the consciousness of many countries and societies;

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League survey also found that a majority of people surveyed overall have either not heard of the Holocaust or do not believe it happened as has been documented by factual accounts and recorded by history;

Whereas this month Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban erected a monument commemorating the Nazi Occupation of Hungary that white washes the Hungarian gov-

ernment's role in deporting over 400,000 Jews, most of whom died in Auschwitz;

Whereas President Barack Obama said in his remarks at the USC Shoah Foundation Dinner on May 7, 2014, “. . . if the memories of the Shoah survivors teach us anything, it is that silence is evil's greatest co-conspirator. And it's up to us—each of us, every one of us—to forcefully condemn any denial of the Holocaust. It's up to us to combat not only anti-Semitism, but racism and bigotry and intolerance in all their forms, here and around the world. It's up to us to speak out against rhetoric that threatens the existence of a Jewish homeland and to sustain America's unshakeable commitment to Israel's security”;

Whereas in 2004, Congress passed the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act, which established an Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, headed by a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism;

Whereas the United States Government has consistently supported efforts to address the rise in anti-Semitism through its bilateral relationships and through engagement in international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of American States (OAS);

Whereas during Israel's July 2014 Operation Protective Edge aiming to stem the rocket fire and terrorist infiltrations by Hamas, Jews and Jewish institutions and property have been attacked in Europe and elsewhere, including attempts to invade a synagogue in Paris, fire-bombings of synagogues in France and Germany, assaults on Jewish individuals, and swastikas spray-painted in a heavily

Jewish area of London and also in Rome's historic Jewish quarter;

Whereas anti-Semitic imagery and comparisons of Jews and Israel to Nazis have been on display at demonstrations against Israel's actions in Gaza around the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, including—

(1) placards held at many demonstrations across the globe comparing Israeli leaders to Nazis, accusing Israel of carrying out a “Holocaust” against Palestinians, and equating the Jewish Star of David with the Nazi swastika, and

(2) demonstrations that have included chants of “Death to Jews”, “Death to Israel”, or expressions of support for suicide terrorism against Israeli or Jewish civilians;

Whereas Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's continued anti-Israel incitement, including stating that Israel's defense against Hamas rocket fire is “barbarism that surpasses Hitler”, sparks unwarranted anger towards Jews and endangers the Turkish Jewish community and Jews around the world;

Whereas the Governments in France, Germany, and Italy, the three countries where the majority of incidents have occurred, have strongly condemned anti-Semitism as unacceptable in European society, including French President Hollande and Prime Minister Valls, German Chancellor Merkel, and the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and Italy collectively, have all made clear statements that such attacks on their Jewish communities are intolerable, and they have matched those words with strong law enforcement;

Whereas some civil society leaders have set strong examples, including the condemnation by the Union of Mosques of France, on behalf of their 500 mosques, called the attacks “morally unjust and unacceptable”, and stated, “nothing can justify any act that could harm our Jewish compatriots, their institutions or their places of worship” and, in Germany, the largest circulation paper, Bild, featured statements against anti-Semitism from politicians, business leaders, civic leaders, media personalities and celebrities with “Never Again Jew Hatred” on the front page; and

Whereas Congress supports freedom of expression and the right to criticize any government or its policy and has played an essential role in shining a spotlight on the resurgence of anti-Semitism worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-
3 Semitism and rejects attempts to justify anti-Jewish
4 hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression
5 of disapproval or frustration over political events in
6 the Middle East or elsewhere;

7 (2) decries and condemns the comparison of
8 Israel to Nazis perpetrating a Holocaust or genocide
9 as an insult to the memory of those who perished in
10 the Holocaust and an affront to those who survived
11 and their children and grandchildren, the righteous
12 gentiles who saved Jewish lives at peril to their own

1 lives and to those who bravely fought to defeat the
2 Nazis;

3 (3) applauds those foreign leaders, especially in
4 France, Italy, and Germany, who have condemned
5 anti-Semitic acts and calls on those who have yet to
6 take firm action against anti-Semitism in their coun-
7 tries, to do so;

8 (4) reaffirms its support for the mandate of the
9 United States Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat
10 Anti-Semitism;

11 (5) pledges to support and expand Holocaust
12 educational programs at home and abroad to in-
13 crease awareness, counter prejudice, and enhance ef-
14 forts to teach the universal lessons of the Holocaust;
15 and

16 (6) urges the Secretary of State to—

17 (A) maintain the fight against anti-Semi-
18 tism as a United States foreign policy priority
19 and to convey United States concern in bilateral
20 meetings;

21 (B) ensure that the instruments of United
22 States public diplomacy including President
23 Barack Obama's emissary to the Organization
24 of the Islamic Conference pursue ways to ad-

1 dress the issue of anti-Semitism where data
2 show it is needed most;

3 (C) ensure high-level United States partici-
4 pation in the 2014 Organization for Security
5 and Cooperation in Europe high level event
6 marking the 10th anniversary of the 2004
7 OSCE Berlin Declaration against anti-Semi-
8 tism;

9 (D) urge governments to ensure that ade-
10 quate laws are in place to punish anti-Semitic
11 violence and hate crimes as well as establish
12 mechanisms to monitor, investigate and punish
13 perpetrators;

14 (E) continue robust United States report-
15 ing on anti-Semitism as a human rights and re-
16 ligious freedom issue by the Department of
17 State and the Special Envoy to Combat and
18 Monitor Anti-Semitism;

19 (F) provide necessary training and instruc-
20 tion for personnel posted in United States em-
21 bassies and missions to analyze and report on
22 anti-Semitic incidents as well as the response of
23 governments to those incidents and to hate
24 crimes in general;

1 (G) ensure that United States efforts to
2 train law enforcement personnel and prosecu-
3 tors abroad incorporate tools to address anti-
4 Semitism and other bias motivated incidents;

5 (H) deepen engagement with the Organiza-
6 tion for Security and Cooperation in Europe
7 and support its specialized efforts to monitor
8 and address anti-Semitism, including through
9 support for its law enforcement and civil society
10 training programs; and

11 (I) redouble his commitment to oppose all
12 efforts to prevent any individual from freely ex-
13 exercising their religion without fear of prosecu-
14 tion or violence.

○