

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 219

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives condemning the arson attacks against three California synagogues on June 18, 1999.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 1999

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. PORTER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. NADLER, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. WEXLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives condemning the arson attacks against three California synagogues on June 18, 1999.

Whereas freedom of religion and respect for all faiths is one of the fundamental pillars of a free and open society;

Whereas in recent decades great progress has been achieved in the realm of religious tolerance;

Whereas, in spite of this progress, over eight thousand hate crimes were reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1997, which targeted Americans based on their race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation;

Whereas many of the reported hate crimes committed against persons and property on the basis of religion were carried out against Jews and Jewish institutions;

Whereas all hate crimes must be publicly and vigorously denounced and fought by all decent citizens of the United States;

Whereas the cowardly arson attacks against predominantly African-American churches in recent years were strongly condemned by this House and by the American people;

Whereas three separate acts of arson were perpetrated against synagogues in the Sacramento, California, area on June 18, 1999, causing nearly \$1 million in damage to the B'nai Israel synagogue in Sacramento, Congregation Beth Shalom in Carmichael, and Keneset Israel Torah Center in northeastern Sacramento County;

Whereas viciously anti-Semitic leaflets were found at two of these locations, documents that mirror escalating anti-Semitism around the world and on the Internet; and

Whereas such outrageous hate crimes are frontal terrorist attacks on our free and open and pluralistic society: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) condemns the outrageous attacks against  
3       three Jewish places of worship in the Sacramento,  
4       California, area on June 18, 1999;

5               (2) commends the multitude of citizens from  
6       California and across the country who have provided  
7       moral support to Sacramento's Jewish community,

1       and who have offered money, labor, books, and other  
2       materials to help rebuild these three synagogues;

3           (3) strongly supports the efforts of all Federal,  
4       State, and local law enforcement agencies to bring  
5       the perpetrators of these heinous and cowardly acts  
6       to justice; and

7           (4) reaffirms its commitment to a society that  
8       fully respects and protects all places of worship and  
9       reaffirms the right of individuals of all religious con-  
10      victions freely to practice their religion.

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