

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 469

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the recent escalation within many participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of anti-Semitic violence, as well as manifestations of xenophobia and discrimination directed against ethnic and religious minorities, is of grave concern and requires the highest attention of all OSCE governments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PITTS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. WAMP) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the recent escalation within many participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of anti-Semitic violence, as well as manifestations of xenophobia and discrimination directed against ethnic and religious minorities, is of grave concern and requires the highest attention of all OSCE governments.

Whereas the participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) unanimously agreed in the 1990 Copenhagen Concluding Document to “unequivocally condemn . . . totalitarianism, racial and

ethnic hatred, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and discrimination against anyone as well as persecution on religious and ideological grounds”;

Whereas the Copenhagen Concluding Document further committed states to take effective measures to protect individuals from “any acts that constitute incitement to violence against persons or groups based on national, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, hostility or hatred”, and highlighted anti-Semitism;

Whereas the 1999 OSCE Charter for European Security committed participating states to “counter such threats to security as violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and manifestations of intolerance, aggressive nationalism, racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism”;

Whereas the OSCE participating states, at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, deplored violence and other manifestations of racism and discrimination against minorities, including the Roma and Sinti;

Whereas on March 27, 2000, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe convened the “Consultation on Anti-Semitism in Europe Today”, where participants adopted “A Declaration of Concern and Intent” and undertook “the Strasbourg Plan of Action”;

Whereas the escalation in Europe and Eurasia of acts of anti-Semitic violence, as well as manifestations of xenophobia and discrimination against ethnic, linguistic, racial and religious minorities, is of grave concern;

Whereas the anti-Semitic violence precipitated throughout the OSCE participating states includes physical assaults,

with some instances involving weapons or stones, firebombing of synagogues, including one that burned to the ground, and desecration of Jewish cultural sites, such as cemeteries and statues;

Whereas the scourge of anti-Semitism is not unique to any one country and requires steadfast vigilance, as this escalation of violent anti-Semitic acts against Jews and Jewish cultural sites, documented throughout the OSCE participating states, can no longer be viewed as separate occurrences;

Whereas vicious propaganda and violence in certain OSCE participating states have reached alarming levels against both Jews and “foreigners”, in part due to the dangerous revitalization of political candidates promoting aggressive nationalism and Neo-Nazi “skin head” activities;

Whereas some officials of the governments of OSCE participating states have repeatedly dismissed the significance of the dramatic increase of attacks on Jews and attributed them to “hooliganism” and to “Muslim immigrant” youth expressing solidarity with Palestinians;

Whereas the legitimization by some governments voting in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights of an armed struggle against Israeli civilians has emboldened some individuals and organizations to lash out against Jews and Jewish institutions;

Whereas hostility, frustration, and disaffection over violence in the Middle East must never be permitted to justify personal attacks on Jews;

Whereas violence and other manifestations of xenophobia and discrimination can never be justified by political issues or international developments;

Whereas Muslims in OSCE participating states have also been the target of intolerance and xenophobia, and although governments have struggled to integrate Muslim immigrants, they are often marginalized in society;

Whereas intolerance and xenophobia of immigrants have been propagated by political parties espousing aggressive nationalism, which further exacerbates hostility towards immigrants, creates a greater sense of disenfranchisement from the country of resettlement, and manifests itself in assaults on individuals;

Whereas the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities has found that discrimination and exclusion are fundamental features of the Roma experience;

Whereas Roma continue to be the victims of violent, and sometimes deadly, racially motivated attacks, and are subjected to efforts to segregate them in housing and education, including by enclosing them in walled ghettos;

Whereas discriminatory acts or policies against minority religious communities, exhibited in burdensome and restrictive government registration schemes or in violence by nonstate actors, is particularly troubling;

Whereas the proliferation of oppressive registration requirements, which impair the ability of minority religious communities to obtain legal personality, and therefore the ability to rent facilities, open banking accounts, and, in some cases, even exist, demonstrates an attitude of intolerance by many governments of OSCE participating states; and

Whereas the unwillingness of governments to effectively protect minority religious communities, knowingly permitting violence against these groups, contributes to a climate of

fear and violence in some OSCE participating states:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the governments of all participating states
4 of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in
5 Europe (OSCE) should—

6 (A) unequivocally condemn racial and eth-
7 nic hatred, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and dis-
8 crimination against anyone, as well as persecu-
9 tion on religious and ideological grounds when-
10 ever they occur, and when appropriate, make
11 public statements recognizing violence against
12 Jews and Jewish cultural sites as anti-Semitic;

13 (B) decry the rationalizing of anti-Jewish
14 attitudes and even violent attacks against Jews
15 as merely a result of justified popular frustra-
16 tion with the conflict in the Middle East;

17 (C) ensure effective law enforcement by
18 local and national authorities, including thor-
19 ough investigation and prosecution of criminal
20 acts stemming from anti-Semitism, xenophobia,
21 or discrimination, whether directed at individ-
22 uals, communities, or property;

1 (D) take effective measures to protect indi-
2 viduals from acts of violence based on ethnic,
3 linguistic, racial, or religious reasons;

4 (E) ensure that laws and policies fully re-
5 spect the rights of Roma and, where necessary,
6 to promote antidiscrimination legislation to this
7 effect;

8 (F) ensure that minority religious commu-
9 nities and their adherents are able to realize all
10 the rights and benefits on the basis of full
11 equality, regardless of the number of members
12 or the length of time in the country in which
13 they live; and

14 (G) make a concerted effort to cultivate an
15 atmosphere of cooperation and reconciliation
16 among the diverse parties affected by discrimi-
17 nation in Europe; and

18 (2) both executive branch officials and Members
19 of Congress should raise the matters set forth in
20 paragraph (1) in their bilateral contacts with coun-
21 tries that are participating states of the OSCE and
22 in appropriate multilateral fora, including the Per-
23 manent Council of the OSCE and the July 2002

- 1 Eleventh Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamen-
- 2 tary Assembly.

