

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 616

Condemning the recent increase in acts of anti-Semitism in member countries of the European Union, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. PENCE, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. McCOTTER, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Condemning the recent increase in acts of anti-Semitism in member countries of the European Union, and for other purposes.

Whereas since the outbreak of violence against Israel and in the West Bank and Gaza in 2000, member countries of the European Union (EU) have experienced an increase in acts of anti-Semitism;

Whereas violent attacks on individuals of the Jewish faith and Jewish institutions in EU countries were reported to be committed often by disaffected members, mostly youths, of Arab-Muslim minorities;

Whereas members of the Arab-Muslim minorities in Europe are themselves frequent targets of racist and anti-Islamic attitudes;

Whereas France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Denmark have witnessed numerous physical and verbal attacks directed against individuals of the Jewish faith and have experienced acts of vandalism against Jewish institutions;

Whereas, since the second Intifada began, one-third of the total anti-Semitic attacks committed worldwide have taken place in France;

Whereas, according to an Anti-Defamation League survey, almost two-thirds of Europeans believe “that the recent outbreak of violence against Jews in Europe is a result of anti-Israel sentiment and not traditional anti-Semitic or anti-Jewish feelings”;

Whereas in Belgium in particular, since the beginning of the “al-Aqsa Intifada” in the autumn of 2000, the number of violent actions against Jews and Jewish institutions has increased, with the suspected perpetrators mainly from Muslim and Arab communities;

Whereas on December 5, 2001, the Chief Rabbi of Brussels, Albert Gigi, was physically assaulted by a group of youths in Brussels;

Whereas in August 2003 in Denmark, the widely circulated newspaper Jytland Posten carried a radical Islamist’s offer of a reward of \$35,000 for the murder of prominent Jews;

Whereas more than 50 years after the horrors of the Holocaust, anti-Semitism has again become a disease spreading throughout the world;

Whereas these murderous and one-sided approaches are not directed at finding a fair and balanced solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and are also assaults not only

on Jews, but also on what Israel represents, which is democratic values, modern society, and the West;

Whereas on April 28, 2004, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), comprised of countries from Europe, Central Asia, and North America, convened a conference in Berlin focusing on the problem of anti-Semitism, including sessions on the roles of governments, civil society, education, and media in combating prejudice and in promoting tolerance;

Whereas this was the second OSCE conference on anti-Semitism intended to draw high-level attention to the problem of anti-Semitism in Europe and focusing on practical measures that can be taken by the OSCE and nongovernmental organizations to combat anti-Semitism and promote tolerance;

Whereas clause 3 of the summary statement at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism stipulated that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should not be allowed to serve as a cover for the expression of anti-Semitic positions and opinions;

Whereas at that conference, Secretary of State Colin Powell stated that “[w]e are appalled that in recent years the incidence of anti-Semitic hate crimes has been on the increase within our community of democratic nations . . . [a]ll of us recognize that we must take decisive measures to reverse this disturbing trend,” adding that “our states must work together with non-governmental organizations, religious leaders and other respected figures within our societies to combat anti-Semitism by word and deed . . . [w]e need to work in close partnership to create a culture of social tolerance and civic courage, in which anti-Semitism and other forms of racial and religious hatred are

met with the active resistance of our citizens, authorities and political leaders”;

Whereas as a prelude to this anti-Semitism conference, EU countries, in coordination with the United States, worked to reaffirm anti-Semitism as a form of racism and xenophobia and secured references to anti-Semitism in three resolutions adopted by consensus at the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; and

Whereas section 598 of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108–199), requires that “a description of persecution targeted at specific religions, including acts of anti-Semitism” be included in the report required by section 102(b)(1)(B) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)(B)): Now, therefore, be it

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

3               (1) all countries should formally recognize the  
4       seriousness of acts of anti-Semitism and should take  
5       decisive action against those individuals and entities  
6       that incite hatred and perpetrate criminal acts  
7       against Jewish populations;

8               (2) member countries of the European Union  
9       (EU) should continue to officially and publicly repu-  
10      diate those individuals and entities that carry out  
11      acts of anti-Semitism and should undertake tougher  
12      and more unified measures to combat the growth of  
13      violence and intimidation throughout the European

1 continent against individuals of the Jewish faith and  
2 Jewish institutions;

3 (3) the EU should protect the safety and well-  
4 being of their Jewish communities through the es-  
5 tablishment of the position of a director to monitor  
6 and combat anti-Semitism within the EU through  
7 education, media analysis, and coordination with re-  
8 sponsible partners in each EU member country;

9 (4) the delegates from the 55 countries at the  
10 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Eu-  
11 rope (OSCE) Conference on Anti-Semitism should  
12 call on their governments to make anti-Semitism a  
13 criminal offense and should establish a framework  
14 within the OSCE to monitor anti-Semitic activities  
15 in the OSCE region, to monitor governmental imple-  
16 mentation of legislation to combat anti-Semitism, to  
17 coordinate between law enforcement organizations in  
18 such countries, and to implement relevant edu-  
19 cational programs for the next generation of Euro-  
20 peans;

21 (5) the President should direct the United  
22 States Permanent Representative to the United Na-  
23 tions to work with EU member countries to secure  
24 passage of a resolution condemning anti-Semitism at

1 the upcoming session of the United Nations General  
2 Assembly; and

3 (6) combating acts of anti-Semitism worldwide  
4 through concrete diplomatic efforts, on both a bilat-  
5 eral and multilateral basis, should be a foreign pol-  
6 icy priority for the United States, and the Secretary  
7 of State should regularly report to Congress on the  
8 status of these efforts.

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