

East, and Latin America have taken action against the anti-Semitic environments in their countries and in some cases have even promoted violence;

Whereas other leaders have made hostile pronouncements against Israel and Jews, including the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, who called Israel's actions a "Holocaust against the Palestinian people" and singled out Venezuela's Jewish community, demanding that they publicly renounce Israel's "barbaric acts" and in so doing implying that the Jewish community is co-responsible for any actions by the Government of Israel and thus a legitimate target, the leader of Hamas, Mahmoud al-Zahar, who recently called for Jewish children to be attacked around the world, and the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, who vowed to confer the status of "martyr" on "anyone who dies in this holy struggle against World Zionism";

Whereas incitement to violence against Jews also continues in state-run media, particularly in the Middle East, where government-owned, government-sanctioned, or government-controlled publishing houses publish newspapers which promulgate anti-Jewish stereotypes and the myth of the Jewish blood libels in editorial cartoons and articles, produce and broadcast anti-Semitic dramatic and documentary series, and produce Arabic translations of anti-Semitic tracts such as "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and "Mein Kampf";

Whereas Jewish communities face an environment in which the convergence of anti-Semitic sentiment and demonization of Israel in the public debate have fostered a hostile environment and a sense of global insecurity, especially in places such as Belgium, Argentina, Venezuela, Spain, and South Africa;

Whereas, in response, the United States Government and other governments and multilateral institutions have supported international government and civil society efforts to monitor and report on anti-Semitic activities and introduce preventive initiatives such as tolerance education and Holocaust Remembrance; and

Whereas challenges still remain, with the governments of many countries failing to implement and fund preventive efforts, accurately track and report anti-Semitic crimes, and prosecute offenders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and rejects attempts to rationalize anti-Jewish hatred or attacks as a justifiable expression of disaffection or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere;

(2) decries the comparison of Jews to Nazis perpetrating a Holocaust or genocide as a pernicious form of anti-Semitism, an insult to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust, and an affront both to those who survived and the righteous gentiles who saved Jewish lives at peril to their own and who fought to defeat the Nazis;

(3) calls on leaders to speak out against manifestations of anti-Semitism that have entered the public debate about the Middle East;

(4) applauds those foreign leaders who have condemned anti-Semitic acts and calls on those who have yet to take firm action against anti-Semitism in their countries to do so;

(5) reaffirms its support for the mandate of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism; and

(6) urges the Secretary of State—

(A) to maintain the fight against anti-Semitism as a foreign policy priority of the United States and to convey the concerns of

the United States Government in bilateral meetings;

(B) to continue to raise with United States allies in the Middle East their failure to halt incitement to violence against Jews, including through the use of government-run media;

(C) to urge governments to promote tolerance education and establish mechanisms to monitor, investigate, and punish anti-Semitic crimes, including through utilization of the education, law enforcement training, and civil society capacity building initiatives of the Tolerance and Non-discrimination Department of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

(D) to swiftly appoint the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism of the Department of State;

(E) to ensure that Department of State Annual Country Reports on Human Rights and International Religious Freedom Reports continue to report on incidents of anti-Semitism and the efforts of foreign governments to address the problem;

(F) to provide necessary training and tools for United States embassies and missions to recognize these trends; and

(G) to ensure that initiatives of the United States Government to train law enforcement abroad incorporate tools to address anti-Semitism.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan resolution condemning the recent, troubling rise in anti-Semitism across the globe. The resolution also calls upon world leaders to speak out against anti-Semitic acts and reaffirms that the United States is committed to making the fight against anti-Semitism a top foreign policy priority.

I am very pleased that Senator CARDIN and 40 other Senate colleagues have joined me in saying to the world that we stand tall with the Jewish community against these acts of violence and crimes of hate.

In recent months, there has been a substantial rise in anti-Semitic violence around the globe. We are deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of Jews in Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America, where they have faced a significant increase in anti-Semitic attacks, often very violent. These criminal acts include physical and verbal attacks, arson, and vandalism against synagogues, cemeteries, and Holocaust memorials. In some nations, demonstrations have included chants of "death to Israel" and expressions of support for suicide terrorism against Israeli or Jewish civilians.

Also distressing are the blatantly anti-Semitic Nazi imagery and Holocaust comparisons. Our resolution rejects attempts to rationalize Jewish hatred or attacks as justifiable expression of disaffection or frustration over Israeli policy and political events in the Middle East or elsewhere. The Nazi imagery and Holocaust comparisons have been prevalent at demonstrations throughout the world. Placards held at many demonstrations have compared Israeli leaders to Nazis, accused Israel of carrying out a "Holocaust" against the Palestinians, and equated the Jewish Star of David to the Nazi swastika. This is intolerable. We must speak out

against these unacceptable acts of hatred and bigotry.

While we applaud those world leaders who have shown courage by condemning these acts, we call on those who have yet to do so to expressly reject anti-Semitism in their own countries. We must continue to impress upon our allies the critical importance of opposing these disturbing trends, all the while ensuring that our own initiatives to address these forms of hate violence are bolstered.

I urge our colleagues to join our effort to raise awareness of this important issue.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am deeply troubled by the rise in anti-Semitic acts around the globe, which is why I am joining the junior Senator from Maine in introducing a bipartisan resolution that condemns anti-Semitism and calls upon world leaders to speak out against it. The concurrent resolution reaffirms that the U.S. is committed to making the fight against anti-Semitism a top foreign policy priority.

Senator COLLINS, the other co-sponsors of this resolution, and I are extremely concerned about the safety and well-being of Jewish communities worldwide. In recent weeks and months, Jewish communities around the world have been subjected to vicious anti-Semitic attacks. These attacks include acts of violence and hatred against members of the Jewish community. The criminal acts include physical attacks, arson, and vandalism against synagogues, cemeteries, and Holocaust memorials.

In some nations, demonstrations have included chants of "death to Israel" and expressions of support for suicide terrorism against Israeli or Jewish civilians. Placards held at many demonstrations have compared Israeli leaders to Nazis, accused Israel of carrying out a "Holocaust" against Palestinians, and equated the Jewish Star of David to the Nazi swastika. Anti-Semitism is not a legitimate form of policy or public protest. We cannot, in good conscience, allow these acts of hatred to continue without swift and strong action from world leaders. We must speak out against these atrocities.

We applaud those world leaders who have spoken out against these acts, but call on those who have yet to do so to take firm action against anti-Semitism in their own countries. We must continue to impress upon our allies and other nations the critical importance of combating anti-Semitism. At the same time, the United States must bolster its own initiatives to address anti-Semitism as a foreign policy priority. The resolution we are introducing today helps to do that so I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 686. Mr. BINGAMAN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 146, to establish

a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 686. Mr. BINGAMAN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 146, to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "To designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes."

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The Committee will conduct a legislative hearing on legislation to strengthen American manufacturing through improved industrial energy efficiency.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Alicia Jackson at (202) 224-3607 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 19, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Modernizing Bank Supervision and Regulation."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 10:45 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct an executive business meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Perspectives From Main Street on Small Business Lending".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 19, 2009 at 2 p.m. to conduct a financial institutions subcommittee hearing entitled "Current Issues in Deposit Insurance."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 19, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas.

NATIONAL SERVICE REAUTHORIZATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to proceed to Calendar No. 35, H.R. 1388, the National Service Reauthorization Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 35, H.R. 1388, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 35, H.R. 1388, a bill to reauthorize and reform the national service laws.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Barbara Boxer, Tom Harkin, Daniel K. Akaka, Tom Udall, Patty Murray, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher J. Dodd, Jon Tester, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Blanche L. Lincoln, Kent Conrad.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur on Monday, March 23 at 6 p.m.; and that if cloture is invoked, then postcloture time count as if cloture had been invoked at 3 p.m. that day; further, that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 25, 26, and nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

John P. Holdren, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.