

media as well is not only abhorrent, it is chilling, but these incidents, as my colleagues have described, are not taking place only abroad.

Just this past weekend, as my friend from Florida related, a synagogue in her district was vandalized with the words "Hamas" and swastikas spray-painted on the front column. Nearby, a Jewish family woke up to find one of their cars completely covered in eggs, and on another car was written "Jew" and "Hamas."

Yesterday, outside my own office in Boca Raton, Florida, during a rally, a few angry individuals screamed, "Throw the Jews into the sea."

A former employee of mine recently posted a story of an occurrence that happened to him last weekend. He said:

Today, I was walking home alone from synagogue, minding my own business. When I got to the crosswalk, I waited for the light to turn, so I could cross safely. While waiting, a car pulled up in front of me where a young man rolled down the window and yelled, "Jew, Hitler was right," and then drove off.

I remind you this was not at a rally. I was wearing a yarmulke and was walking from synagogue, and I was enjoying Shabbat.

There are many more examples domestically, including a Jewish summer camp in California where graffiti was found that read, "Jews equal killers," and "Jews are children killers." It is unacceptable that radical groups have used the conflict between Israel and Hamas as pretext for their own anti-Semitism.

Last month, I proudly joined my colleagues in a letter to Secretary Kerry, urging the State Department's continued focus on combating anti-Semitism worldwide. I applaud the statements of condemnation by European leaders, including those in France, in Germany, and Italy, and their stated commitment to ensuring the safety of their own communities is to be admired, but there is more that needs to be done to rid societies of this baseless hatred toward Jews.

A number of Jewish leaders in the U.S., Europe, and Israel have expressed serious concern about the rise in the number of incidents in hate speech and violence, and many believe that this animosity has risen to the worst level seen since the Holocaust.

We must continue to speak out on these issues, which is why I am so grateful to have this opportunity tonight. We have to use this opportunity to educate and to combat anti-Semitism in all of its forms.

When we combat anti-Semitism, we stand not just against hatred for the Jews, we stand against hatred, and it affects not just the Jews, but when we stand against anti-Semitism and we speak out against hatred, ultimately, every minority group that is the target of hatred—every one of those groups benefits from our willingness to speak out.

I am glad to have that opportunity to do that here on the floor tonight, and, with that, I, again, would like to thank

my friend, Ms. MENG, for bringing us together today.

Ms. MENG. In conclusion, we stand today united as a Congress to condemn acts of anti-Semitism through the world and right here in our communities. Hate is never the answer. We must always speak up.

I would like to end by reciting a well-known poem by Martin Niemöller:

First, they came for the socialists—and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists—and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews—and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HAMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I would now yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I want to thank my good friend for yielding and thank him for his leadership and his very eloquent remarks just a few moments ago on Hamas terrorism and the fact that we need to do much more than we have, to try to mitigate, end, and disarm this organization that is committed to the demise of the State of Israel.

Hamas, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, is a terrorist organization, and as Netanyahu put it so well, it is like al Qaeda, and it is just like Boko Haram. They kill people, they murder, they rape, they abduct, and they do all kinds of terrible terrorist activities in order to promote their ends.

Yesterday, Khaled Mashal, leader of Hamas, spoke to Charlie Rose, who asked: Do you want to coexist with the State of Israel? The Hamas leader said in a completely matter-of-fact manner, "No."

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that Hamas doesn't want peace, reconciliation, or coexistence. Hamas seeks only the total demise of Israel.

I would like to quote, Mr. Speaker, briefly from the Hamas Charter, and I encourage Members of this body, Americans, and people around the world to read the Hamas Charter.

Article 13 says:

Initiatives and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement. There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors.

It gets even worse, Mr. Speaker. Article 20 obscenely compares Israeli society with Nazism. Article 28 charges so-called Zionism with massive conspiracy which "aims at undermining societies, destroying values, corrupting

consciences, deteriorating character, and annihilating Islam."

Article 32 charges that the plan of the so-called Zionist is embodied in one of the greatest libels of all human history, the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

All of this, Mr. Speaker, recalls Natan Sharansky's "3-D test of anti-Semitism," which he called demonization, double standards, and delegitimization.

Sharansky twice testified in hearings that I chaired on combating anti-Semitism and proposed what he called the simple test to help us distinguish legitimate criticism of Israel from anti-Semitism.

As he put it, the three Ds are, again, demonization—he said:

When Israel's actions are blown out of all sensible proportion; when comparisons are made between Israelis and Nazis, this is anti-Semitism, not legitimate criticism of Israel.

Second, the double standard:

When criticism of Israel is applied selectively, when Israel is singled out by the United Nations for human rights abuses while the behavior of known and major abusers, such as China, Iran, Cuba, and Syria is ignored, this is anti-Semitism.

The third D, delegitimization, as he puts it:

When Israel's fundamental right to exist is denied—alone among all peoples in the world—this, too, is anti-Semitism.

This, too, is exactly what Hamas is engaged in. From its origins to the present day, the Hamas movement has been poisoned by anti-Semitism, and the murderous nature of this evil has not diminished. It has got worse. Jews today continue to die because of it.

Five IDF soldiers were killed yesterday, 48 have died since July 8, and of course, we are deeply saddened by these deaths, as well as all who have died in the conflict, and we must not forget that it is anti-Semitic hatred that is driving this conflict and causing all of these deaths.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I call on President Obama to give Israel our government's full support and to make unmistakably clear our government's position that Israel, in response to Hamas' unprovoked attacks, is fully in the right to defend itself, including to search out and destroy Hamas terror tunnels and those who launch rockets at Israel.

Again, I thank my good friend, Mr. FRANKS, for his leadership and, again, for his strong and eloquent statement earlier on, during the Special Order on Hamas.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I just would suggest to you that, in the time that I have been in Congress—nearly 12 years now, about 12 years—I do not know of a greater defender of humanity and truth and just the kind of principle that made America what we are than one Congressman CHRIS SMITH, and I just consider it a privilege for the time that I have been able to serve with him.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, Soviet Marshal Ogarkov announced that Flight 007 of Korean Airlines had been terminated, that the Soviets had shot down a civilian airliner killing all 269 passengers aboard.

President Reagan immediately addressed the entire Nation about the tragedy and resolutely called for justice and for action. He then proceeded to accelerate work on America's missile defense system. He worked with Congress on the Reagan defense buildup, he built relationships with European allies and enforced strong sanctions that ultimately bankrupt and brought down the once-unshakeable Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, last week, another civilian airliner, flight MH17, with 298 innocent people aboard, was also shot down and this time by Russian-backed separatists.

On that same day in which the conflict in Israel also escalated to new heights, The New York Times reported President Obama's schedule as, "a cheeseburger with fries at the Charcoal Pit in Delaware, a speech about infrastructure, and two splashy fundraisers in New York City."

Mr. Speaker, where would America be today if we had elected Barack Obama in 1980? Where will this President's leadership take us tomorrow?

With that question, I yield back the balance of my time.

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CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, as I have said several times in recent weeks, I want to bring attention to the plight of Christians in the Middle East. Any person watching the news for the last several months will have seen an increasingly violent, chaotic, and unpredictable environment. The Middle East, and Iraq in particular, are not stable. This creates an enormous problem for Christians in the region.

Chaldean Christians in Michigan and in my district have repeatedly raised the issue of ongoing persecution of Christians in Iraq. Just recently, the last remaining Christians were forced to flee. ISIS has taken the city. For the first time in well over a thousand years, Sunday mass is no longer being said.

My colleague, friend, and mentor, Representative FRANK WOLF, has characterized the situation facing Christians in Iraq as genocide. That analysis is about as accurate as it can get. Christians have been targeted and killed for their faith. What we are seeing is genocide, the eradication of a specific group of people, namely, Christians.

ISIS is trying to wipe the face of Christianity from Iraq. Not only have

they killed and pushed Christians out of territory that they control, they are also destroying the physical traces of Christianity. Churches, monasteries, and religious sites are being destroyed and desecrated. Even Jonah's tomb has been destroyed. And the shrine of the Prophet Seth has been blown up. As a Christian, it is an incredibly heart-breaking series of events that I have watched unfold.

I have been an advocate for human rights and religious freedom since I took office, and what really bothers me is the fact that neither the President nor the State Department have addressed the challenges facing Christians in Iraq. Chaldean Christians in my district have been asking me what can be done for Iraqi Christians. But, as I have said many times before, there is only so much that can be done when the President has not taken action.

The government and military of Iraq are weak, ineffectual, and unable to defend the people of their country. The U.S. withdrawal from Iraq has left a power vacuum that has allowed a group like ISIS to take control and force their radical beliefs on an increasingly large portion of the population. I am worried that what we have seen is only the beginning. Christians are being targeted now, but I suspect that they will eventually begin to target Muslims who don't share their beliefs as well.

Radical Islamists are trying to shape and form an Iraq that adheres to their beliefs. They are destroying Iraq's cultural and religious heritage, its history. If they succeed, there will be nothing left of it.

Chaldeans and Iraqi Christians don't want to leave Iraq, and many in my district wish that they never had to. However, it has become too dangerous to stay. When faced with forced conversions, death, and other forms of violence, most Christians have chosen to flee. Genocide is indeed a brutal thing.

As I discussed in a previous speech on the House floor, there is a severe problem in U.S. foreign policy that needs to be examined. The U.S. began the Iraq war with the goal of ridding the region of a tyrannical government that didn't protect its people. However, a decade later, at the conclusion of the U.S. military mission in Iraq, the people are perhaps worse off than they were before the U.S. invasion.

What did we miss? If the U.S. is leaving Iraq in a considerably worse state than when we arrived, there is something that went wrong. That is the question that needs to be asked and what needs to be considered. It is not that we can afford to make these kinds of mistakes; it is that people who live there absolutely can't afford the consequences.

We need to put pressure on the Kurdish government to continue protecting the Iraqi Christians. We need to analyze where our foreign aid is going and whom it is going to. I have heard from many of my constituents, Chaldean Christians and others from Iraq, that

the aid we are sending to Iraq is not making it to the Christian communities.

If we are going to be giving foreign aid, humanitarian or otherwise, to a country or government in order to protect its people, then they better do it. If we are propping up a government or nation that doesn't protect its people from radical threats, religious and ethnic persecution, and genocide, then it is time to reevaluate that relationship and figure out a better path forward.

I have said before and firmly believe, if countries in the Middle East are unable to provide security and stability for all of their people, then they will never be stable. They will continue to be at risk. We have to encourage stable societies, respect for religious freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. We can't just build strong governments and militaries or the U.S. will always face the problems we are seeing in Iraq.

If Iraq's Christians are forced out entirely, I don't think there will be much hope left for the country. I would like to see Chaldean Christians and other Iraqis one day be able to return home. At the moment, I am not sure when that will be possible. That depends on Iraq's resilience and ability to manage radical threats. I will remain hopeful, and I ask that others also pray for those still there facing a dire situation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to my friend for yielding, and I am very grateful for his strong stance on the issue of Israel and just wanted to add an exclamation point to the gentleman's comments.

There has been a lot of discussion about Israel tonight and about what is being done against the interests of Israel, but, Mr. Speaker, I think it bears pointing out that this administration could do much to help our friend Israel. And that when anyone in this administration says to the world and, in particular, the people in the Middle East, including the terrorists in the Middle East, that we see Israel, a country whose leaders are elected, and Hamas, whose leaders are sworn to the destruction of Israel and the death of Jews, then the world gets the wrong impression. They get the impression that we see terrorism and love of life in Israel—terrorism by Hamas, love of life in Israel—as equals. That is a despicable thing to show the world from the United States, from any administration official.

It is important that we let the world know that when a nation that is such a dear friend as Israel is attacked repeatedly by rockets intended to kill innocent children, women, others around the country, then they have the right of self-defense to go in and clean up those who would destroy them. That means, when they go in to shut down the tunnels by which terrorists are allowed to enter their country and kill people, that we don't have some do-gooder from the United States rush in