

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 253

Reiterating the sense of the Senate regarding Anti-Semitism and religious tolerance in Europe.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MAY 23, 2002

Reported by Mr. BIDEN, with an amendment

JUNE 4, 2002

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Reiterating the sense of the Senate regarding Anti-Semitism and religious tolerance in Europe.

Whereas many countries in Europe are protectors of human rights and have stood as shining examples of freedom and liberty to the world;

Whereas freedom of religion is guaranteed by all Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) participating states;

Whereas the 1990 Copenhagen Concluding Document declares all participating OSCE States will “unequivocally condemn” anti-Semitism and take effective measures to protect individuals from anti-Semitic violence;

Whereas anti-Semitism was one of the most destructive forces unleashed during the last century;

Whereas there has been a startling rise in attacks on Jewish community institutions in cities across Europe in the last 18 months;

Whereas these violent incidents have targeted youth such as an assault on a Jewish teen soccer team in Bondy, France on April 11, 2002, and the brutal beating of two Jewish students in Berlin, Germany, the burning of Jewish schools in Creteil and Marseille, France and even the stoning of a bus carrying Jewish schoolchildren;

Whereas attacks on Jewish houses of worship have been reported in many cities including Antwerp, Brussels, and Marseille and as recently as April 22 an automatic weapon attack on a synagogue in Charleroi, Belgium;

Whereas the statue in Paris of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, who was the victim of anti-Semitic accusations and became a symbol of this prejudice in the last century, was defaced with anti-Jewish emblems;

Whereas the French Ministry of Interior documented hundreds of crimes against Jews and Jewish institutions in France in just the first two weeks of April, 2002;

Whereas the revitalization of European right wing movements, such as the strong showing of the National Front party in France’s presidential election, reaffirm the urgency for governments to assert a strong public stance

against anti-Semitism, as well as other forms of xenophobia and intolerance;

Whereas some government leaders have repeatedly dismissed the significance of these attacks and attributed them to hooliganism and Muslim immigrant youth expressing solidarity with Palestinians;

Whereas the legitimization of armed struggle against Israeli civilians by some governments voting in the U.N. Commission on Human Rights 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 Jewish citizens;

Whereas when governments have raised a strong moral voice against anti-Semitism and worked to promote and implement educational initiatives which foster tolerance, we have seen success; and

Whereas Congress recognizes the vital historical alliance between nations of Europe and the United States and has high regard for the commitment of our allies to fighting discrimination, hatred, and violence on racial, ethnic, or religious grounds: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That (a) the Senate calls upon European

2 governments to—

3 (1) acknowledge publicly and without reserva-

4 tion the anti-Semitic character of the attacks as vio-

5 lations of human rights;

1 (2) utilize the full power of their law enforce-
2 ment tools to investigate the crimes and punish the
3 perpetrators;

4 (3) decry the rationalizing of anti-Jewish atti-
5 tudes and even violent attacks against Jews as mere-
6 ly a result of justified popular frustration with the
7 conflict in the Middle East;

8 (4) take measures to protect and ensure the se-
9 curity of Jewish citizens and their institutions, many
10 of whom suffered so grievously in Europe in the past
11 century; and

12 (5) make a concerted effort to cultivate an at-
13 mosphere of cooperation and reconciliation among
14 the Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Europe.

15 (b) Further, it is the sense of the Senate that—

16 (1) both Congress and the Administration
17 should raise this issue in their bilateral contacts;

18 (2) the State Department's Annual Country Re-
19 ports on Human Rights should thoroughly document
20 this phenomenon, not just in Europe but worldwide;
21 and

22 (3) the Commission on International Religious
23 Freedom should continue to document and report on
24 this phenomenon in Europe and worldwide.

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