

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 894) strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 894

Whereas acts of hate, intimidation, discrimination, and violence based on ethnicity or religion have no place in our country nor in the global community;

Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism is widely accepted and serves as a critical tool to help individuals comprehend and identify the various manifestations of antisemitism;

Whereas, since the massacre of innocent Israelis by Hamas, an Iran-backed terrorist organization, on October 7, 2023, antisemitic incidents of harassment, vandalism, and assault in the United States have spiked 388 percent over the same period last year, according to reports from the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Center on Extremism;

Whereas drastic increases in antisemitic activity has also been seen in Jewish communities around the world since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks;

Whereas the slogan "From the River to the Sea", which is a rallying cry for the eradication of the State of Israel and the Jewish people, has been used by anti-Israel protesters in the United States and globally;

Whereas, on October 8, 2023, a car with individuals holding Palestinian flags appeared to intentionally swerve out of its lane, nearly hitting a visibly Jewish family in Clifton, New Jersey;

Whereas, on October 15, 2023, an individual in New York, New York, punched a Jewish woman in the face at Grand Central Terminal solely because she was Jewish;

Whereas, on October 28, 2023, a Jewish man in Sydney, Australia, was severely injured by 3 anti-Israel rioters, in which he was punched in the head at least 12 times, suffered a concussion, 2 black eyes, and 4 spinal fractures;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, a Jewish woman's store in New York City was attacked by a mob of anti-Israel protesters all because she hung posters of Israeli hostages in the store window;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, 4 masked men walked into a restaurant in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and proceeded to tear down an Israeli flag and yelled "Free Palestine";

Whereas, on November 4, 2023, an Arizona man was arrested by Federal authorities for threatening to execute a local Rabbi and "every other JEW I can find tonight at midnight of your Sabbath";

Whereas, on November 4, 2023, during an anti-Israel protest in Washington, DC, rioters shouted their support for Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023, and other acts of terror targeting Israel, called for the end of the State of Israel, and spewed hateful and vile language amplifying antisemitic themes;

Whereas, during that same protest in Washington, DC, rioters stormed and tried to scale the White House fence, vandalized property by staining blood-red handprints

onto the side of the White House pillars, and spray painted "Death to Israel" and "Glory to our Martyrs" on buildings in DC;

Whereas, on November 6, 2023, Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old Jewish man, tragically died due to injuries sustained when an anti-Israel protester struck him in the head with a megaphone in Los Angeles, California;

Whereas, on November 11, 2023, as part of a massive anti-Israel protest, rioters set off smokebombs in front of a synagogue in London, England;

Whereas, on November 12, 2023, police found several headstones at the Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery, a Jewish cemetery in Brooklyn, Ohio, were desecrated with swastikas;

Whereas, on November 13, 2023, a mezuzah was torn off the doorpost of a Jewish person's apartment and a knife was stuck into the wood in its place in Milan, Italy;

Whereas, on November 13, 2023, the evening before the March for Israel in Washington, DC, anti-Israel rioters vandalized a Jewish medical tent by spray painting "Free Gaza", "Palestine Will Be Free", and "Gaza Will Win"; and

Whereas, on November 15, 2023, anti-Israel protesters illegally blocked and violently attacked the Democratic National Committee headquarters, endangering the lives of individuals inside, including Members of Congress, and injuring 6 Capitol Police Officers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns and denounces all instances of antisemitism occurring in the United States and globally;

(2) reaffirms and reiterates its strong support for the Jewish community at home and abroad;

(3) calls on elected officials and world leaders to condemn and fight all forms of domestic and global antisemitism;

(4) clearly and firmly states that anti-Zionism is antisemitism; and

(5) rejects all forms of terror, hate, discrimination, and harassment of members of the Jewish community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 894.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, since the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel, anti-Semitism has surged in the United States and around the world.

Reports show that there was a nearly 400 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents in the weeks after the attack. These incidents include harassment, vandalism, and assault. Americans have been punched, beaten, and forced to flee for their lives from swerving cars simply because they are Jewish.

□ 1715

A Jewish cemetery in Brooklyn, Ohio, was vandalized with swastikas.

On college campuses, Jewish students have been subjected to harassment, threats, and forced to hide from violent protests.

In a recent survey, 73 percent of Jewish college students said they had experienced or witnessed some form of anti-Semitism this academic year.

In the same survey, just 39 percent of Jewish students said they felt comfortable with their peers knowing they were Jewish.

Less than half of Jewish students surveyed said that they felt safe on campus.

At a hearing before our committee last month, a college student testified that she now thinks twice before wearing any sign of her Jewish faith. This was a young woman who is maybe 20 years old. She had the courage to come and testify before Congress, but she can't safely wear something that would suggest to her fellow students and her teachers that she is Jewish.

She testified that her family and friends who live in Israel—people who are under nearly constant rocket attack from Hamas—and others check in with her every day to see if she is safe. They are in a war zone. She is in the United States, and they are checking to make sure that she is safe.

These incidents are absolutely horrifying, Mr. Speaker. They are unacceptable in the United States and in any civilized society. Members of the Jewish community should not have to hide their faith in order to safely go about their lives or receive an education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 30, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee, which agrees to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 894 (Strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world), so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I ask that you place our letters on this resolution into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on the Judiciary and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 894, Strongly

condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

I will include the exchange of these letters in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this measure. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together on matters of shared jurisdiction during this Congress. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of any and all serious and meaningful efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

The explosion of anti-Semitism around the world, on college campuses, and online is so shocking that it was the subject of nearly every Jewish household's Thanksgiving meal a week ago.

The Jewish community is absolutely right to consider this terrifying situation a five-alarm fire, as Senator SCHUMER so appropriately put it in his moving speech to the Nation just a few days ago.

Unfortunately, this resolution does absolutely nothing to genuinely counter the scourge of anti-Semitism, nor does it help bring us together with the unity of purpose that this topic merits. Rather, it is another attempt in a long series of veiled efforts by the GOP to weaponize Jewish lives for political gains. It is another partisan gotcha game that amounts to cheap value signaling, not serious action. If there ever was a time for real action, it is now.

Today, in the face of the largest increase in anti-Semitism, both violent and virulent, in this Nation's history, we have a clear choice. We can abuse this moment to try to inflict inter-party political damage or we can rise to the occasion and do something real and powerful to actually help the Jewish community.

Just in the last few weeks, we have seen disgusting displays of outright anti-Semitism. Over the weekend, protesters in Philadelphia targeted a Jewish business. It is plainly and unequivocally anti-Semitic to hold Jews collectively responsible for Israel's actions.

In my district, vile, anti-Semitic graffiti has been scrawled on apartment buildings in the Upper East Side. On the Upper West Side, two Jewish women were assaulted after calling out individuals who were despicably tearing down posters of Israeli hostages.

Last week in Brooklyn, three attackers violently attacked a 15-year-old Jewish boy, yelling, "Free Palestine" as they punched and kicked the stranger.

This anti-Semitic hate is happening across the country. The Oakland City

Council rejected a bid to denounce Hamas, as speaker after speaker espoused dangerously misguided and factually erroneous views at a deeply troubling anti-Semitic public hearing.

Since the Israel-Hamas war began, the GOP has seemed gleeful at their partisan wedging at the expense of the Jewish community, and they have utterly failed to do anything serious to address this crisis. If they object to my charges, let me ask them here today three key questions:

First, what have my friends on the other side of the aisle—the only ones who actually control the agenda on the floor—done to implement the White House's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism? This historic whole-of-government plan, which has bipartisan support, has been completely ignored in this dysfunctional MAGA-extremist Congress. The answer is clear: They have done nothing.

Second, when will the GOP majority stop its efforts to defund the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the office that must protect Jewish students from the horrendous discrimination they face on campus today? In order to enforce title VI, the law that prevents such discrimination in education, the Department needs the resources to put legal and investigatory boots on the ground. The answer: The majority still supports defunding this office, and that means Jewish students will remain at terrible risk.

Third, what will the GOP do to ensure that the high-risk Nonprofit Security Grant Program run through the Department of Homeland Security has a meaningful increase in funding? This program keeps our synagogues and Hebrew schools safe across the country. The answer: House Republicans have done absolutely nothing to shore up this program.

I demand that we take real action. Representatives GOLDMAN, RASKIN, and I today introduced a resolution which would commit ourselves to the full implementation of the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. I implore my Republican colleagues to join it. Join us and take concrete action.

I call on them to actually protect Jewish lives by a dramatic increase in funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and the high-risk Nonprofit Security Grant Program. That is what taking meaningful action would look like.

Mr. Speaker, by bringing this resolution to the floor without a single Democratic cosponsor, which is extremely unusual, and by rushing it to a vote without careful and considerate collaboration, my Republican friends have shown us who they are and precisely what are their intentions.

In my three decades in Congress, I have voted on numerous bills and resolutions addressing anti-Semitism, including my own. I have never seen an anti-Semitism-focused vehicle come to the floor without the cosponsorship of a single member of the minority party.

The House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism doesn't support such partisan gamesmanship, nor does the Anti-Defamation League, nor does the American Jewish Committee. With this resolution, the GOP has shown themselves fundamentally unserious about combating anti-Semitism. Of course, none of us should be surprised.

If our friends on the other side of the aisle were serious about combating anti-Semitism, they would have spoken up when former President Trump called the Nazis in Charlottesville very fine people. They would have condemned the former President when he dined with known Holocaust denier Nick Fuentes. Chairman JORDAN would have thought better before tweeting out "Kanye, Elon, Trump," sending out dog whistles to their white supremacist, anti-Semitic base.

They also would have chosen their recent witnesses more carefully. Chairman JORDAN chose to give a platform to Robert Kennedy, Jr., just days after he trafficked in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories suggesting Jews were responsible for COVID.

I cannot help but note that although this resolution strongly condemns and denounces anti-Semitism, its authors carefully avoided mentioning any of the obvious instances of anti-Semitism coming from their own leaders.

The resolution is flawed in other ways, as well. For example, the resolution implicitly compares some peaceful protesters with the January 6 rioters and insurrectionists. I suppose they have their reasons for that.

More problematically, the resolution suggests that all anti-Zionism—it states that all anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. That is either intellectually disingenuous or just factually wrong. It unfairly implicates many of my orthodox former constituents in Brooklyn, many of whose families rose from the ashes of the Holocaust.

While most anti-Zionism is indeed anti-Semitic, the authors, if they were at all familiar with Jewish history and culture, should know about Jewish anti-Zionism that was and is expressly not anti-Semitic. This resolution ignores the fact that even today certain orthodox Hasidic Jewish communities—the Satmars in New York and others—as well as adherents of the prestate Jewish labor movement have held views that are at odds with the modern Zionist conception.

According to the Jewish Encyclopedia, "the anti-Zionist world-view of the ultra-Orthodox groups . . ." like the "Satmar Hasidism perceives Zionism and the establishment of the State of Israel as an anti-messianic act . . ." That is to say that these ultra-orthodox Hasidic Jews believe that only the Messiah can bring about the true Israel, and I assure you the Satmar Hasidic Jews are certainly not anti-Semitic.

I should also note that there are those who try to smear even progressive pro-Israel supporters with the inappropriate label of "Israel hater" or "anti-Zionist." Under this resolution, those who love Israel deeply but criticize some of its policy approaches could be considered anti-Zionist. That could make every Democratic Jewish Member of this body—because they all criticized the recent Israeli judicial reform package—de facto anti-Semites. Might that be the authors' intention?

Again, let me be unequivocally clear, most anti-Zionism, particularly in this moment, has a real anti-Semitism problem, but we cannot fairly say that one equals the other.

As the most senior Jewish Member in this House, with perhaps the largest Jewish constituency in this country, I have always and will always support real, meaningful legislation to combat anti-Semitism. This, of course, is deeply personal for me and for so many of my constituents. Indeed, I take a back seat to no one in this body when it comes to fighting against this scourge.

In the aftermath of October 7, we have a moral obligation to act to protect our own Jewish citizens and our critical ally Israel. I pray that the GOP majority makes today the day that they stop playing these partisan games and commit themselves to doing the real work to protect Jewish lives. There is not a single minute to spare.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I say briefly that I very much do applaud the gentleman from New York, who I think has shown tremendous leadership in many ways in standing up for Israel and fighting against anti-Semitism in this country.

I think one of the valuable things that we have seen over the last several weeks is that we have had bipartisan support on both counts. I actually sponsored a separate resolution dealing specifically with the problem of anti-Semitism on college campuses, and that got overwhelming bipartisan support on this floor. I think it had only about 21 "no" votes. That has been very encouraging.

With respect to the three charges that were mentioned, number one, there is legislation in the House right now to codify the President's executive order, on which I think it is important that we move forward.

Number two, far from saying we shouldn't have an Office of Civil Rights within the Department of Education, Representative BURGESS OWENS and I wrote a letter to the head of the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education telling them they need to be doing more, they need to be more proactive in looking into anti-Semitic incidents at our universities, and we would certainly welcome their support on that letter.

Number three, as far as the protection for synagogues and other facili-

ties, I would be very interested in partnering with you on any such efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution that strongly condemns the dramatic rise of anti-Semitism both here in our Nation and abroad.

Last week, I had the privilege and the honor, frankly, of speaking with Amir Ohana, who is the Speaker of the Knesset. We discussed a lot of things. We talked about how life has changed not only in Israel but around the world since Hamas' horrific and brutal terrorist attack against Israelis on October 7. We also talked about how we have seen an absolute explosion of anti-Semitic incidents, attacks, and harassment in Israel, here in our own Nation, and across the world.

Mr. Speaker, two interesting statistics, if I can: According to the Anti-Defamation League, since the Hamas massacre on October 7, anti-Semitic incidents around our Nation have increased over 400 percent compared to the same time period last year.

□ 1730

The second statistic, Mr. Speaker, more Jews were murdered on October 7 than on any other single day since the Holocaust. Let that sink in.

We have seen Members of this very body repeat blatantly anti-Semitic rhetoric and spread lies about Israel and her right to exist. Let me be absolutely clear: Such hate has no place in the Halls of Congress nor in our national discourse.

It is our fundamental responsibility as leaders and as Members of Congress to condemn and fight these horrific acts of hate and discrimination against the Jewish community.

That is why I am proud to work with my colleague, Congressman MAX MILLER, to introduce this critical resolution to condemn and denounce all instances of domestic and global anti-Semitism.

A few months ago, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity—really, the privilege—to take a group of people through the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

A lot of us have been there. It is not too far away from here in the Capitol where we are standing. That museum serves not only as a reminder of the atrocities that took place during the Holocaust, but it also serves as a stark reminder that we can never forget the horrors of the Holocaust and that we, as leaders, have an obligation and a duty to make sure that it never happens again.

For these reasons, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very simple, yet critical, resolution.

It is absolutely important that we send a clear and firm message to the world that the United States House of

Representatives stands shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish community here in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, as Jews around the world celebrate Hanukkah very soon in the next few days, we should remember the words of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks.

He said: "Hanukkah tells us not to curse the darkness, but instead to bring light to the world. It tells us to fight back and not be afraid."

We should truly heed those words. I thank my colleagues for supporting this resolution.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we hear in this resolution about the opposition to anti-Semitism. As I said before, I would be more impressed with the sincerity of that opposition if the Republican Party were not trying to defund the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, the office that enforces title VI to protect Jewish students on campus, and if the Republicans were not opposing an increase in funding for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and for the high-risk, nonprofit security grant program that protects our synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

Mr. Speaker, the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States and across the world is a real and growing problem.

I wish the majority would use its power to actually do something about it instead of playing partisan political games.

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 894.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.