

posed by Iran. The IRGC has for decades played a direct role in threatening the European Union and its citizens.

Given its increasing reach, most recently with its murderous support of war criminal Putin's invasion of Ukraine, it is imperative that no stone is left unturned. We must work together to cut off Iran's ability to fuel terrorism on a global scale, and that must include designating the IRGC as a terrorist organization.

Madam Speaker, I thank, in particular, Congresswoman CLAUDIA TENNEY for developing this resolution and her extraordinary efforts in a bipartisan manner to do research on the IRGC that should be very informative to the American people and be a message to even the people of Iran how the oppression of the people of Iran actually has consequences, sadly, around the world. Congresswoman TENNEY effectively promotes the safety and security of American and European families.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution calling on the European Union to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 288.

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. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam 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.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SLOGAN, "FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, PALESTINE WILL BE FREE" IS ANTISEMITIC AND ITS USE MUST BE CONDEMNED

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 883) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the slogan, "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" is antisemitic and its use must be condemned.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 883

Whereas the slogan "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" is an antisemitic call to arms with the goal of the eradication of the State of Israel, which is located between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas the slogan seeks to deny Jewish people the right to self-determination and calls for the removal of the Jewish people from their ancestral homeland;

Whereas Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations and their sympathizers have used and continue to use this slogan as a rallying cry for action to destroy Israel and exterminate the Jewish people;

Whereas this rallying cry can promote violence against the State of Israel and the Jewish community globally;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas committed a barbaric and uncivilized slaughter against the Jewish people, killing 1,200 people;

Whereas victims of this massacre included children, the elderly, Holocaust survivors, and women, who were murdered indiscriminately in their homes, communities, public spaces, and at a music festival;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas reportedly beheaded dozens of babies, committed countless atrocities, and violently raped women;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas recorded and broadcasted to the world mutilation, desecration, and public parading of bodies;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas took over 240 hostages, including children, women, elderly Israelis, Americans, and other foreign nationals;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas murdered the highest number of Jewish people since the Holocaust;

Whereas Hamas' 2017 Charter states, "Hamas rejects any alternative to the full and complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.";

Whereas Hamas' 2017 Charter states, "There shall be no recognition of the legitimacy of the Zionist entity.";

Whereas Hamas' 2017 Charter states, "Resistance and jihad for the liberation of Palestine will remain a legitimate right.";

Whereas this slogan is used by the same people who utter "death to America" and "death to Israel";

Whereas former Hamas Chief Khaled Meshaal called for the "day of rage", a global mobilization against the State of Israel, which had profound consequences for Jewish communities around the world;

Whereas a member of the Hamas political bureau, Ghazi Hamad, in an interview about the October 7 massacres, vowed, "We must teach Israel a lesson, and we will do it twice and three times. The Al-Aqsa Deluge is just the first time, and there will be a second, a third, a fourth.";

Whereas Ghazi Hamad, in the same interview, responded, "Yes, of course", when asked if he believed in the annihilation of Israel;

Whereas the Secretary General of Hezbollah Hassan Nasrallah stated, "Palestine, from the sea to the river is the property of Arabs and Palestinians and no one has the right to give up even a single grain of earth or one stone.";

Whereas Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, on November 11, 2023, stated that the only solution to this war is "The establishment of the Palestinian State from the river to the sea.";

Whereas the founder of al-Qaeda and the perpetrator of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Osama bin Laden, stated, "Borders must be opened by force so as to obtain all the necessary requirements to liberate the entire Palestine from the river to the sea, God willing.";

Whereas the former Dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, stated, "Glorious and sublime are our martyrs in Palestine, Iraq, and the nation as a whole. Long live Palestine, free

and Arab, from the sea to the river", and "Palestine is Arab and must be liberated from the river to the sea";

Whereas this slogan neglects the fact that innocent civilians are used as human shields by Hamas;

Whereas Hamas intentionally locates its military weapons supply depots and intelligence outposts directly under and within civilian populated sites such as schools, mosques, residential buildings, and hospitals such as the Al Shifa Hospital, the largest hospital in Gaza;

Whereas using civilians as human shields for protecting weapons and fighters from a lawful attack is considered a war crime;

Whereas hateful rhetoric obstructs peace efforts;

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee deem this slogan antisemitic;

Whereas this slogan incites fear within the Jewish community in the United States and around the world;

Whereas students attending institutions of higher education have chanted and continue to chant this slogan since the barbarous October 7 massacres, yet all the while, their fellow Jewish students are being harassed and intimidated; and

Whereas this slogan has been used recently by violent protestors throughout the United States and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the slogan, "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free", is outrightly antisemitic and must be strongly condemned;

(2) this slogan is divisive and does a disservice to Israelis, Palestinians, and all those in the region who seek peace;

(3) this slogan rejects calls for peace, stability, and safety in the region;

(4) this slogan perpetuates hatred against the State of Israel and the Jewish people; and

(5) anyone who calls for the eradication of Israel and the Jewish people are antisemitic and must always be condemned.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank our colleague from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) for introducing this important bipartisan resolution to condemn anti-Semitic speech.

Hamas' horrific and murderous attack on Israel on October 7 massacred over 1,200 innocent people. Hamas terrorists committed brutal sexual assaults. They took over 250 people hostage and held them in wretched conditions.

October 7 was the deadliest day for people of Jewish faith since the Holocaust.

Since that awful day 6 months ago, we have seen a shocking rise in anti-Semitic attacks, symbolism, and speech, including a resurgence of the slogan "from the river to the sea."

This phrase, "from the river to the sea," comes directly from the terrorist organization's covenant. Hamas is clear about their ultimate goal: the destruction of the State of Israel and the death of Jews around the world.

Article 7 of the August 18, 1988, Hamas Covenant calls for chasing every Jew behind trees and rocks until the last Jew is found behind a rock and is killed.

We must be clear. This rallying cry, and others like it, have no place in a peaceful and tolerant society. "From the river to the sea" refers to the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. This language calls for entirely destroying the State of Israel and replacing it with the Palestinian state.

Slogans like this are clearly anti-Semitic and hateful. They inherently support the destruction of Israel and denying Jews their right of self-determination of any kind.

Promoting violence against Israel and Jews is anti-Semitism, and we have the responsibility in Congress to condemn such language.

With this resolution, we are condemning this hate speech and standing with our valued ally, Israel. We understand the chant of Tehran gruesomely in English, "Death to Israel, death to America."

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, the 10-word slogan "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" means different things to different people. For many well-meaning supporters of the Palestinian cause, it is a slogan calling for future Palestinian statehood and Palestinian dignity. I agree with those goals, and that is why I support a two-state solution.

To others, particularly to Israelis and Jews in the diaspora, the phrase is a threat, symbolizing the destruction of the Jewish people and the Jewish State of Israel, and I acutely understand that concern as well.

However, a basic truth is evident. If you consider the geographic area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea to be exclusively Palestine, you are taking the Jewish State of Israel off the map.

As clearly demonstrated by pro-Palestinian protesters following the horrific events of October 7, far too many people who boldly chant this phrase do not want Israel to exist. I know this because when asked, that is how they answer.

As someone steeped in America's civil rights movement, I clearly under-

stand the First Amendment and the right of free speech. I support peaceful protest. I support what my dear friend and former colleague John Lewis taught us about good trouble. It is okay for supporters of the Palestinian cause or the Israeli cause to cause some good trouble.

When good trouble turns into calls for violence or, in this case, wiping the State of Israel off the map, the rhetoric has gone too far. It becomes dangerous, and it can cause people harm. That is why I support this nonbinding resolution critical of that phrase.

Let me be clear: There is absolutely nothing anti-Semitic about advocating for an independent Palestinian state. However, calling for the elimination of the Jewish state, praising Hamas who strives for Israel's destruction, or suggesting that the Jews alone do not have the right to self-determination is anti-Semitic.

I am a strong supporter of a two-state solution, which will result in the area between the river and the sea being the home to a Jewish State of Israel and an independent and prosperous Palestine. That is what we should be chanting for and what I will never give up hope for, a peaceful Middle East, two states side by side.

When I talked to some citizens of Israel right after intifada, all they said is they wanted to live in peace with their neighbors.

When I talked to some young Palestinians in the West Bank, all they said they wanted was to live in peace with their Israeli neighbors.

That is what we should be striving for.

While I am not really happy that we have to consider this resolution that I do believe, unfortunately, was brought here by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in an attempt to divide this House, I also know the danger of the phrase in question. That is why the resolution actually has my begrudging support.

In this institution, at times you have got to do what you think is the best thing to do, the right thing to do, and that is why I support this resolution, and I encourage my colleagues to join in doing the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO), chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology and the author of this resolution.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 883. I rise today, as well, to thank House Republican leadership for bringing my resolution to a vote as part of their swift and necessary response to Iran's unprecedented attack on Israel. My resolution condemns the slogan "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" because it is blatantly anti-Semitic.

Madam Speaker, it is no coincidence that this slogan has been embraced by not only the violent, barbaric leaders of Hamas, but also countless other terrorist organizations and adversarial nations like Iran. I remind my colleagues that this slogan was used by Iranian leaders responsible for the recent attacks on Israel. It is also no coincidence that this phrase has roots in Hamas' charter, a document which explicitly calls for the destruction of the State of Israel, the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people.

When anti-Semitic activists, masquerading as merely pro-Palestinian, spray-painted this slogan on the site of the 1972 Munich massacre of Israeli Olympians, we know and they know exactly what they are communicating. This slogan communicates one thing and one thing only. It is not human rights. It is certainly not peace. It is the violent destruction of the State of Israel and the Jewish people that live within it.

Madam Speaker, at a time in history when anti-Semitic attacks have surged nearly 400 percent following Hamas' brutal, unprovoked October 7 attack on Israel, we need this resolution now more than ever. When Jewish students throughout this Nation and in my home State of New York at universities like Columbia and Cooper Union speak up about the anti-Semitism they are facing, they cite phrases and slogans just like these. Too often, events that may have started as peaceful protests quickly cross the line and turn into anti-Semitic, anti-Jew rallies. Perhaps the most common denominator in these instances is the presence of this slogan. It is not simply a slogan; it is a threat. It is a threat to Israel. It is a threat to the Jewish people. It does not get us any closer to peace. It gets us further from it. To employ this slogan is to perpetuate the cause of hate and regional instability.

I remind my colleagues that the Anti-Defamation League regards the slogan as anti-Semitic and a cry for Israel to not exist. The ADL informs us that to use this slogan is to call for "effectively erasing and destroying the entire Jewish state." I remind my colleagues that between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea sits America's strongest ally, the Middle East's only democracy, and the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people.

As the Representative of the most Jewish communities in this country, it is very clear that we need to act. Between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea sits Israel, a free, diverse nation, a safe haven for Jewish people formed in the wake of the mass murder of European Jews.

When the world witnessed the tragedies of the Holocaust, we said: "Never again." Now is our chance to mean it and to reject anti-Semitic hate in all of its forms whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
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Tiffany
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Torres (CA)
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Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
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Wagner
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Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Omar
Tlaib