

Events of this past year force us to view anti-Semitism in a new light. It needs to be understood in an optique of religious hatred directed towards the rest of the world, the United States in particular and to Israel as the nominated whipping boy standing in place of the West and specifically the United States. Jews have been made the worldwide representatives of the whipping boy.

Although the twin towers and the defense department attacks began as general victims of Islamic fundamentalism, the perpetrators discovered a more viable victim than the United States alone. Jews made a new and vulnerable target. This must be practically addressed and the terror and continued threat must be arrested and squelched. The assault on the Jewish nation and people is the litmus test for this old brand of hatred and if they succeed in terrorizing Israel and the Jewish people, Western civilization at large will fall under attack and become victimized by this new crusade.

I have a survey of anti-Semitism as it appears around the world, which was conducted by the World Jewish Congress, Tel Aviv University and the Anti-Defamation League. This is something I would like to submit for the record. However, what I would like to direct to this committee today is far more important and that is a plan for action and not merely a series of reports.

I have come here today to tell you that civilian institutions in the West that are unguarded, particularly those in the United States need to be protected because of our open and liberal way of life. Specifically, we can no longer delay the creation of a protection system for all Jewish institutions because their protection is the protection of the democratic way of life that we are duty bound to protect. They are the target-test case not merely of the Islamic fundamentalist but everybody for whom classical anti-Semitism has always been an activity of hatred.

European and Latin American Jewish communities are better protected than U.S. Jews because their numbers are smaller and their histories of anti-Semitism are greater although they too are lacking in sufficient defense. American Jews live in a society where open institutions are part of the lifestyle, but organizations without proper defense become the new targets. We are the soft underbelly of terrorism.

We have to find a way to protect these places because if they are exposed and naked all of Western civilization is vulnerable and unguarded. Conversely, we cannot succumb to the base instincts of many people that would revel in the creation of an armed camp for vigilante action. A secure environment must be created slowly and carefully without the repression that in so many countries becomes an excused method of the loss of civil liberties where freedom is at bay in the name of security.

We cannot be limited to a religious approach of prayer for safety or to making statements and pronouncements that will not make safety happen; this is not sufficient and so far we have not done enough. Today, the World Jewish Congress is announcing a worldwide campaign calling on all governments of free men to exchange information, intelligence and resources to protect their Jewish communities, because the primary duty of democracies is to protect minorities not only the majority. This is something we are not used to in the United States because we never had this problem. But this is a new ballgame. We will not countenance a response like the one that occurred in Argentina where we have waited for a decade to find the culprits that killed hundreds of civilians. We thought that the world of tolerance and mutual respect was upon us, but we were wrong. This is a new era with an old enemy. Once again, we find ourselves struggling for our existence against a formidable foe and we will not be the victims, not again.

Defensive strategies have to become the new approach. Western governments must heed this call and protect their citizenry from within and without. We alone cannot be asked or expected to this. We will not be vigilantes. We will create a mechanism to test whether governments will be sufficiently effective. We will not allow Western European governments to hide behind their own attempts to make peace with their Muslim minorities at the expense of their Jewish minorities. Dealing in a soft and flaccid manner was the response of most Western European governments for their own misguided, self-serving notions of security and the need for fossil fuels.

We hope we do not have to replace governments; the burden of protecting the Jewish people should fall on their countries, the United States and other Western governments. This will be the ultimate test of Western civilization and the American policing and investigatory systems. Governments are being tested not just whether American society will be safe, but if social minorities worldwide will be safe, not just from fanatical Muslims but all those who hate who are using the Muslim fundamentalist hate as a model to mimic.

Schools should not be protected by right wing defense institutions and our neighborhoods should not be transformed into camps governed by vigilantes, but in the absence of sufficient government protection we will not leave the wellbeing of our citizenry to others. This is something we must do to protect our people. We shall be examining our institutions and government on a day-to-day basis to see that they give us security and peace of mind.

Every parent should know that their child can attend a Jewish school and that that child is safe. This safety needs to be assured. It cannot be implied or implicit. It must be overt and concerted. A citizen minority that is free but is left to defend that freedom alone has no liberty at all.

Last week the secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress announced the establishment of the European Information Center at the parliament in Strasbourg. This monitoring group will act

as a watchdog and collect information which will be shared with the United States Government and particularly this body. We expect to establish the same kind of mechanism in Latin America and will integrate these functions through the World Jewish Congress and its Latin American Jewish Congress and European Jewish Congress branches. Our head office in New York will make regular reports available to this committee and to all interested national states and international institutions.

What is happening now that is different than before is that terror is not merely a general assault in a diffuse way on everyone to be hated, despised and feared but is directed at a defenseless group of individuals who have been nominated once again by a new breed of haters that are doing something heinous about it. Silence and dependence on public institutions alone are not a functional method of responding to this reality. From these halls today, we announce a process, which will monitor anti-Semitism as it is expressed through fundamentalism.

If the governments with whom this information will be shared will be efficient then our societies and our way of life will be secure. I trust and hope that they will be. If their answers are weak and ambivalent we will publicly announce those who are accomplices by indifference and cynicism. We will not accept a response like the one that occurred in Argentina where we have waited for a decade to find the culprits that killed hundreds of civilians. That is the purpose of this testimony, to warn of an impending danger to all free men.