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June 25, 2025

The Honorable Brian Mast
Chair
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Mast and Ranking Member Meeks,

Since 1913, the mission of ADL has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” Today, ADL is a global leader in fighting antisemitism, exposing extremism, and monitoring and fighting the spread of hate in our communities and online. For decades, one of the most important ways in which ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism has been by investigating extremist threats across the ideological spectrum, producing research to inform the public of the scope of the threat, and working with law enforcement, educators, the tech industry, and elected leaders to promote best practices that can effectively address and counter these threats.

Jewish communities across the U.S. and around the globe are experiencing antisemitism at levels not seen in generations. ADL has been tracking antisemitic incidents – including incidents of vandalism, harassment and assault – since 1979. According to our data, antisemitic incidents have been on the rise for years, reaching record levels since ADL began tracking incidents.

Antisemitism dramatically skyrocketed in the U.S. after the Hamas massacre in Israel. In 2024, ADL tallied 9,354 incidents across the country – a 5 percent increase from the 8,873 incidents recorded in 2023, and an 893 percent increase over the past 10 years. It is the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents 46 years ago. This issue is unfortunately not limited to the U.S., globally antisemitic incidents are skyrocketing from Europe to South America to Australia, Jewish communities around the world feel increasingly threatened. In 2024 ADL research found that that 46 percent of the world’s adult population – an estimated 2.2 billion people – harbor deeply entrenched antisemitic attitudes, more than double compared to ADL’s first worldwide survey a decade ago and the highest level on record since ADL started tracking these trends globally.

In order to ensure the State Department can effectively fight antisemitism, combat extremism, and support a more just and inclusive global society, we write to urge the Committee to include the following items within this year’s State Department Reauthorization Legislation.

SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

We are facing a global crisis of rising antisemitism, which has been exacerbated in the last few years due to several factors, including the pandemic, proliferating cyberhate, rising populism in certain countries, and anti-Zionist vitriol from the far left and far right. Almost 80 years after the Holocaust, antisemitism remains a serious and growing danger for Jews in Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere in the world.

The events of October 7, 2023, changed the global landscape of an already alarming problem. Following Hamas's terrorist assault on southern Israel, antisemitism around the world has skyrocketed dramatically. The United Kingdom's community security trust (CST) recorded 3,528 antisemitic incidents across the nation in 2024, the second highest total ever reported to CST in a single calendar year. The previous year, 2023, had the highest number of incidents at 4,103. France's Ministry of the Interior reported a 1,000% increase in antisemitic incidents in the three months after October 7, compared to prior months. The alarming rates of antisemitism continued into 2024 with 1,570 incidents reported. In Argentina, there were more than 100 reported antisemitic incidents in January 2024, representing a 600% increase compared to January 2023. In Australia, over 2,062 antisemitic incidents were logged in 2024, according to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. This marks an increase of 316% from the previous year.

ADL's Global 100, which measures antisemitic attitudes globally, found that nearly half of all people worldwide hold elevated levels of antisemitic attitudes. The Global 100 also found that 20% of respondents worldwide had not heard of the Holocaust and only 48% recognized its historical accuracy.

Combating antisemitism around the world is an American interest, and there is no way that we can win this fight unless the United States plays a leading role by pressing other countries to do more. The Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism (SEAS) plays a crucial role in leading the State Department's work to fight antisemitism globally. We thank the Committee for including this Office in the initial proposal for the reauthorization of the State Department.

ADL requests the Committee:

- **Authorize at least \$3 million for the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Counter Antisemitism;**
- **Include report language that highlights the need for robust staffing levels, including adequate Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions to ensure stability and continuity of operations of the Office;**
- **Strike the hyphen in antisemitism in the name of the Office;**
- **Include bill language to urge the Department to provide full support of the implementation of the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism and supporting efforts of further adoption and implementation of the guidelines by all countries and international organizations; and**
- **Include bill language to urge Regional Bureaus to engage the Office in diplomatic engagements in their respective regions when appropriate.**

SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HOLOCAUST ISSUES

In ADL's Global 100, the results relating to Holocaust familiarity and education, which plays an important role in helping combat antisemitism, were quite shocking. The survey found that 20% of respondents worldwide have not heard about the Holocaust, and only 48% recognize the Holocaust's historical accuracy, which falls to 39% among 18- to 34-year-olds, highlighting a worrying demographic trend.

In congruence with the efforts of SEAS, it is crucial that Committee fully support and provide vital resources to the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues (SEHI). We must never forget the horrors of the Holocaust, the work of SEHI to pursue restitution and justice for Holocaust survivors and their families so that they may live out their remaining days in dignity is crucial. Further, the Office is pivotal in promoting greater action by countries around the world to adopt robust Holocaust education programs, making sure the lessons of the past are not forgotten and building greater tolerance for future generations. We thank the Committee for including this Office in the initial proposal for the reauthorization of the State Department.

ADL requests the Committee:

- **Authorize at least \$1.5 million for the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, for staffing and additional programs or exchanges to combat Holocaust denial and distortion and to promote Holocaust education abroad in partnership with civil society; and**
- **Include bill language to direct the Secretary to support the Offices of Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, International Religious Freedom, and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism to work jointly to create and implement interfaith curriculum development and trainings specifically related to Holocaust and antisemitism education, and contemporary Jewish life. Further, the Office of International Religious Freedom, in conjunction with the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, should use existing processes and augment future programming with Holocaust education. These efforts will help combat Holocaust distortion within other faith communities and set a foundation for greater interfaith efforts.**

SPECIAL ENVOY FOR ABRAHAM ACCORDS, NEGEV FORUM, AND RELATED INTEGRATION AND NORMALIZATION FOR A AND AGREEMENTS

Over the past four and a half years, the historic Abraham Accords have transformed the Middle East and created the opportunity for systemic change in the fight against antisemitism and Holocaust denial in the region. The normalized relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco are ushering in a new era of bridge-building between Israel and her neighbors. At the same time, these accords provide unprecedented opportunities to promote tolerance and fight antisemitism in the region. The United States must leverage these accords to fight antisemitism globally and advance global efforts to support Holocaust education and curricula that fight violence, bigotry and hate. ADL has recognized this unique moment and was proud to partner with the UAE in opening the Manara Center in 2023, which aims to implement key educational programming, including forging relationships with universities across the Middle East and Southeast Asia to promote peace and prosperity through specific trainings designed for university students and young learners.

In past years, Congress has recognized the strategic importance of the Abraham Accords and other normalization agreements between Israel and regional partners in advancing U.S. foreign policy interests and regional stability. However, especially during the current unrest in the Middle East, it is crucial that Congress continue to find ways to enhance and bolster this vital initiative. We thank the Committee for including the Special Envoy in the initial proposal for the reauthorization of the State Department.

ADL requests the Committee:

- **Include report language directing the Secretary of State to enhance training at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) to include dedicated content on the Abraham Accords and prior peace agreements between Israel and its regional partners;**

- **Include bill language to authorize and direct the Secretary to (1) Develop and implement virtual training modules accessible across the Department of State that promote understanding of the Abraham Accords and their implications for U.S. diplomacy; (2) Establish a fellowship program to support Foreign Service Officers engaging with counterparts in Abraham Accords countries; and (3) Establish an Abraham Accords and Normalization Advisory Board, composed of one member appointed by each of the Chairperson and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and one member each by the Chairperson and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The Board shall provide, on a unanimous basis, independent advice and recommendations on curriculum development, resource allocation, and strategic planning for training and education programs at the FSI and within the Department of State relating to the Abraham Accords and normalization efforts;**
- **Include report language directing the Department to submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, a strategy outlining how this training and engagement effort will be integrated into existing professional development frameworks and how it supports broader U.S. diplomatic and regional policy objectives; and**
- **Include bill language to rename the role Special Envoy for Abraham Accords and Normalization Agreements.**

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DEMOCRACY AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

In past years, the Office of International Religious Freedom has been instrumental in promoting and protecting religious freedom globally, with a significant focus on combating antisemitism. The office monitors religious persecution and discrimination, advocating for individuals' rights to practice their faith without fear. The Office's work has been crucial in integrating religious freedom as a key tenet of U.S. foreign policy, ensuring that this fundamental human right is a priority in the global community. The office has actively supported efforts to combat antisemitism by producing annual reports that highlight issues of religious intolerance and working with Office of Special Envoy to Combat and Monitor Anti-Semitism and international partners to address and reduce antisemitic incidents. Through these efforts, the office seeks to hold violators accountable and promote peaceful coexistence among diverse religious communities.

ADL requests the Committee:

- **Include bill language to reestablish and authorize the Office of International Religious Freedom under the direction of the Assistant Secretary for Democracy and Fundamental Freedom;**
- **Include bill language to authorize the Office of International Religious Freedom to annually produce an International Religious Freedom Report;**
- **Include bill language that continues to direct the inclusion of an assessment and description of the nature and extent of acts of antisemitism and antisemitic incitements in countries in the annual International Religious Freedom Report;**
- **Include bill language to authorize and direct the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Democracy and Fundamental Freedom to annually produce in conjunction with the regional bureaus of jurisdiction Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; and**
- **Include bill language that continues to direct the inclusion of the nature and extent of acts of antisemitism and antisemitic incitements in countries in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.**

USAID PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA) was enacted into law in 2020 with bipartisan support and directs \$50 million for people-to-people exchanges and economic partnerships between Israelis and Palestinians. The legislation, named after the late Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, Nita Lowey, provided grants to support Palestinian and Israeli private sector initiatives to build partnerships, increase economic growth, and lay the foundation for peace through people-to-people programs.

MEPPA programs are a critical tool of U.S. foreign policy, aiming to build greater trust among Israelis and Palestinians, including through enhanced economic cooperation to build the foundation for a time when greater civil society and bilateral relationships may develop and flourish. These efforts continue to play an important role in Israeli-Palestinian civil society and peace-building.

As USAID programs are reassessed, we urge the Committee to prioritize the continuation and funding of this program.

ADL requests the Committee:

- **Include bill language to reestablish and authorize \$50 million for the Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA) under the direction of Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs.**

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR GLOBAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

State-controlled media outlets operated by authoritarian regimes pose a serious and ongoing threat to democratic values, global security, and the safety of Jewish communities worldwide. Iranian state media networks such as Press TV and HispanTV consistently broadcast antisemitic conspiracy theories, glorify designated terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, and promote Holocaust denial. These networks are not independent journalistic entities—they are propaganda arms of a regime that sponsors terrorism and routinely calls for the destruction of Israel. They often use social media platforms to spread dangerous antisemitism to millions, with impunity. Similarly, segments on Qatar’s Al Jazeera network have amplified anti-American narratives and given a platform to individuals who promote antisemitic rhetoric and justify violence against civilians. The global reach of these networks allows them to spread hatred far beyond their borders, inciting violence and undermining efforts to promote tolerance and peace.

ADL requests the Committee:

- **Include bill language to authorize a report compiled by the Assistant Secretary for Global Public Affairs on foreign state-controlled media outlets which actively promote antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion, and terrorism. The report should include a strategy to address the promotion of anti-Jewish hatred on social media and other platforms through means such as diplomatic pressure and sanctions.**

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COUNTERTERRORISM

ADL has been supportive of past U.S. government led efforts to counter transnational “Racially and Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism (REMVE)” and supports further efforts to shepherd in a new era of capabilities to counter white supremacy globally. White supremacy and other forms of domestic terrorism are clear threats domestically, but many of those responsible for these threats have overseas counterparts with whom they coordinate or from whom they receive inspiration. The Department’s multilateral coordination and best practices can serve as a cost-effective way to catalyze global efforts to mitigate the threat. By providing

startup-funding for community resilience non-profits, facilitating best practices for policymakers, and creating best practices and training for prosecutors and terrorism prevention practitioners, a new era of capabilities can be launched.

ADL requests the Committee:

- **Include bill language to reestablish and authorize additional funding specific to counter transnational “Racially and Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism (REMVE)” , including dedicated funding for donations to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (\$2 million), Hedayah (\$800,000), the International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law (\$800,000), and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (\$12 million) to build counter-REMVE capacity.**

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS

As the Abraham Accords have showcased, normalization efforts by Israel and others have been crucial for fostering peace, stability, and economic growth in the region and beyond. By helping facilitate greater diplomatic and economic ties with more countries, the United States has laid the groundwork to further enhance security capabilities, expand trade opportunities, and promote cultural exchanges. Argentinian President Javier Milei recently announced a new initiative called the Isaac Accords aimed at strengthening and developing new ties between Israel and several Latin American countries. As with the Abraham Accords, the Isaac Accords will potentially open the door to build stronger political alliances, boost economic benefits, promote greater mutual understanding, and contribute to a more interconnected and peaceful international community. As the facilitator of the initial agreements, it is crucial the United States does not miss the opportunity to engage on these new agreements, which could lead to multilateral benefits for all parties.

ADL requests the Committee:

- **Include report language directing the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs in consultation with the Special Envoy for Abraham Accords and Normalization to produce a report examining how the United States can support and benefit from the proposed Isaac Accords.**

These authorization requests are essential to dealing with the grave situations our nation faces, including domestic extremism, increased antisemitism and hate crimes, and other critical issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me at msevillia@adl.org or Joel Cohen at jcohen@adl.org with any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration of ADL’s requests.

Sincerely,



Max Sevilla
Senior Vice President for National Affairs