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**U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight**

**Testimony
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All of the distinguished presenters this afternoon have shared the shocking statistics—with 100% rise in violent acts against Jews the world over. The Roth Institutes provides the overview:

“...[The 1,129] violent incidents recorded by the Institute in 2009, represented an increase of more than 100 percent over the 2008 figure of 559. In addition, many more hundreds of threats, insults, graffiti signs and slogans and demonstrations featuring virulently anti-Semitic content were registered, sometimes resulting in violence...

According to our criteria and data, the highest rise in numbers of violent incidents was registered in 2009 in the UK – 374 compared to 112 in 2008; France recorded 195 violent events compared to 50 in 2008; Canada – 138 compared to 13, and the US – 116 compared to 98. In Germany, the final reports for 2009 may show a slight increase in the overall number of anti-Semitic manifestations, but the community feels threatened – a major incident has greater impact than several minor ones. The figures for Russia and Ukraine declined, from 40 and 38 to 28 and 20, respectively. In most other countries, numbers ranged from 1 to 30, but even low numbers when doubled or tripled compared to previous years might indicate the beginning of a tendency: for instance, from 1 to 6 violent cases in Norway, from 0 to 15 in Brazil, and from 0 to 22 in Austria, where the extreme right scored impressive electoral gains. In the UK, the Jewish community's long-established monitoring system logged over a three-fold increase in anti-Semitic manifestations of all kinds since 1999, and Canada recorded a five-fold rise since the beginning of the decade. With Jewish synagogues, schools and community centers receiving better protection, close to half of violent cases were perpetrated, sporadically and spontaneously, against persons, and about a sixth against private property, far from Jewish institutions.”

But much more than Synagogues, schools, and cemeteries are under attack. Memory and the very legitimacy of Jewish identity are under assault.

French Holocaust survivor Jules Isaac, labeled the centuries-long, Christian theological anti-Semitism, “the teachings of contempt”, which created an environment that made the Shoah possible.

In 2010, The Catholic Church is an ally, not an enemy in the struggle against history’s oldest hatred.

But a generation after Auschwitz, the “teachings of contempt” are alive and well.

Using statecraft, the Internet, academic freedom, age-old canards have been powerfully repackaged to disrespect our dead, demonize the living and de-legitimize the Jewish people’s narrative.

Why not desecrate a synagogue in Caracas, hurl rocks at a Passover Seder at a Rabbi’s home in Budapest, attack Jews on the streets of Berlin on a Sabbath morning--- if you are taught that *The Protocols of Zion* is a legitimate book about Jews and Judaism and that synagogues are the epicenter for Jewish conspiracies to control the world?

What if, as the United Nations Human Rights Council's webpage posts, there really is a plot by the Israeli military to harvest organs of Palestinians, Ukrainians, even Haitians? After all, the government of Sweden in the name of defending freedom refused to condemn a mainstream article headlining such canards?

If Jews lie about a 3,500 year old relationship with the Holy Land; if Solomon's Temple was never built in Jerusalem, as senior Palestinian leaders insist; if, as a recent article in Kuwait's *al-Watan* insists, Adolf Eichmann, the chief organizer was actually a friend of the Jews, whose kindness was repaid by perfidious Jews by kidnapping and executing him;

If there was no Final Solution, as the genocide-threatening Ahmadinejad insists and that the real Nazis are the people of Israel, as too diplomats, Imams and ministers, professors and campus activists chant in unison...

Or what if, as some leaders in the Baltics say, there is nothing unique about the Nazi Holocaust, that it should be remembered simultaneously with victims of Communism. Why not then in democratic Lithuania prosecute former Jewish partisans while refusing to try a single Nazi collaborator?

Mr. Chairman, what we need to stop the Jew-hatred aren't more charts and annual lists, but political and moral leadership prepared to make the anti-Semites and bigots pay a price.

Nothing will change so long as Ahmadinejad is welcomed to keynote at the United Nations. Nothing will change so long as spiritual leaders of the religion of peace validate suicide terror against the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors.

Nothing will change unless European nations begin to pay more attention to the safety of living European Jews than attending ceremonies for dead ones.

Nothing will change unless the Palestinians are held accountable to teach their children the truth: That the Jewish people have its inalienable rights in the Holy Land

Nothing will change unless American universities take action against all those who seek to intimidate Jews on campus into silently acquiescing to a campaign of vilification against Israel's rights to stand equal among the nations.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center wishes to thank this committee for its concern on this issue and to recognize OSCE/ODIHR for their work, the CSCE and its chairmen, Senator Cardin and Congressman Hastings, the International Taskforce on the Holocaust, as well as Ambassador Christian Kennedy who is retiring as Special Envoy for Holocaust issues and of course, Hannah Rosenthal who is spearheading the State Department's monitoring of this critical issue.

In closing let me quote the namesake of our institution, the late Simon Wiesenthal who once said: "I was not surprised by how many Nazis there were but by how few anti-Nazis there are", adding "Freedom is not a gift from heaven; it must be earned every day".

For the sake of our children—let us be equal to that task.