

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2002

Secretary-General Javier Solana  
Council of the European Union  
Rue de la Loi 175  
B-1048 Brussels, Belgium

Dear Secretary-General Solana:

We are writing to express serious concern about the alarming rise of anti-Semitism in member countries of the European Union. We urge you to speak out and forcefully condemn these dangerous acts of hatred and intolerance.

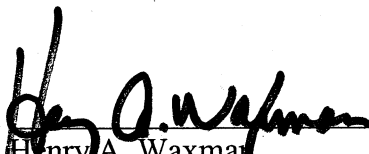
In France alone, authorities have reported over 400 anti-Semitic attacks in recent months involving arson against synagogues, desecration of Jewish cemeteries, vicious incitement, and physical attacks against Rabbis, Jewish students, and patrons of Jewish shops. Similar attacks have also been reported in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom, and other areas of Europe. We are deeply concerned that the lack of decisive action by authorities at the local and national level has led to the escalated frequency and ferocity of these hate crimes. We urge the European Union to take a leadership role in publicly condemning these bigoted acts, and the Arab and European media outlets that feed their fervor with the demonization of Jews and the justification of suicide killings by Palestinian terrorists.


The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms espouses the basic rights of all Europeans to liberty, security, freedom of religion, and freedom from discrimination. We call upon you to work with the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), and other EU institutions to uphold these rights for Jewish minorities. It is vital that the European Union take a bold unified stance condemning the re-emergence of anti-Semitism in Europe and calling upon members states to aggressively prosecute the perpetrators of anti-Semitic attacks.

In our lifetime we have seen powerful examples of atrocities and destruction bred by unchecked hatred and violence. As pluralistic, democratic societies, we cannot police the hearts and minds of people, but we can be vigilant in our pursuit of peace and security.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

  
Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress

  
Benjamin A. Gilman  
Member of Congress

List of signatures on June 27, 2002 Waxman/Gilman letter to EU Sec-Gen Javier Solana

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