

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 672

To require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2017

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. GRANGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Combating European  
3 Anti-Semitism Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) During the past decade, there has been a  
7 steady increase in anti-Semitic incidents in Europe,  
8 resulting in European Jews being the targets of  
9 physical and verbal harassment and even lethal ter-  
10 rorist attacks, all of which has eroded personal and  
11 communal security and the quality of daily Jewish  
12 life.

13 (2) According to reporting by the European  
14 Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), be-  
15 tween 2005 and 2014, anti-Semitic incidents in-  
16 creased in France from 508 to 851; in Germany  
17 from 60 to 173; in Belgium from 58 to 130; in Italy  
18 from 49 to 86; and in the United Kingdom from 459  
19 to 1,168.

20 (3) Anti-Zionism has at times devolved into  
21 anti-Semitic attacks, prompting condemnation from  
22 many European leaders, including French Prime  
23 Minister Manuel Valls, British Prime Minister David  
24 Cameron, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

25 (4) Since 2010, the Department of State has  
26 adhered to the working definition of Anti-Semitism

1 by the European Monitoring Center on Racism and  
2 Xenophobia (EUMC). Some contemporary examples  
3 of anti-Semitism include the following:

4 (A) Calling for, aiding, or justifying the  
5 killing or harming of Jews (often in the name  
6 of a radical ideology or an extremist view of re-  
7 ligion).

8 (B) Making mendacious, dehumanizing,  
9 demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about  
10 Jews as such, or the power of Jews as a collec-  
11 tive, especially, but not exclusively, the myth  
12 about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews  
13 controlling the media, economy, government, or  
14 other societal institutions.

15 (C) Accusing Jews as a people of being re-  
16 sponsible for real or imagined wrongdoing com-  
17 mitted by a single Jewish person or group, the  
18 State of Israel, or even for acts committed by  
19 non-Jews.

20 (D) Accusing the Jews as a people, or  
21 Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating  
22 the Holocaust.

23 (E) Accusing Jewish citizens of being more  
24 loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of

1           Jews worldwide, than to the interest of their  
2           own countries.

3           (5) On October 16, 2004, the President signed  
4           into law the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of  
5           2004. This law provides the legal foundation for a  
6           reporting requirement provided by the Department  
7           of State annually on anti-Semitism around the  
8           world.

9           (6) In November 2015, the House of Rep-  
10          representatives passed H. Res. 354 by a vote of 418–  
11          0, urging the Secretary of State to continue robust  
12          United States reporting on anti-Semitism by the De-  
13          partment of State and the Special Envoy to Combat  
14          and Monitor Anti-Semitism.

15          (7) In 2016, the International Holocaust Re-  
16          membrance Alliance (IHRA), comprised of 31 mem-  
17          ber countries, adopted a working definition of anti-  
18          Semitism which stated: “Anti-Semitism is a certain  
19          perception of Jews, which may be expressed as ha-  
20          tred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical mani-  
21          festations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jew-  
22          ish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property,  
23          toward Jewish community institutions and religious  
24          facilities.”.

1           (8) The IHRA further clarified that manifesta-  
2           tions of anti-Semitism might also target the State of  
3           Israel, conceived of as a Jewish collectivity. Anti-  
4           Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to  
5           harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews  
6           for “why things go wrong”. It is expressed in  
7           speech, writing, visual forms, and action, and em-  
8           ploys sinister stereotypes and negative character  
9           traits.

10 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

11           It is the sense of Congress that—

12           (1) it is in the national interest of the United  
13           States to combat anti-Semitism at home and abroad;

14           (2) anti-Semitism is a challenge to the basic  
15           principles of tolerance, pluralism, and democracy,  
16           and the shared values that bind Americans and Eu-  
17           ropeans together;

18           (3) there is an urgent need to ensure the safety  
19           and security of European Jewish communities, in-  
20           cluding synagogues, schools, cemeteries, and other  
21           institutions;

22           (4) the United States should continue to em-  
23           phasize the importance of combating anti-Semitism  
24           in multilateral bodies, including the United Nations,

1 European Union institutions, and the Organization  
2 for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

3 (5) the Department of State should continue to  
4 thoroughly document acts of anti-Semitism and anti-  
5 Semitic incitement that occur around the world, and  
6 should continue to encourage other countries to do  
7 the same, and share their findings; and

8 (6) the Department of State should continue to  
9 work to encourage adoption by national government  
10 institutions and multilateral institutions of a work-  
11 ing definition of anti-Semitism similar to the one  
12 adopted in the International Holocaust Remem-  
13 brance Alliance context.

14 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORTING ON THE STATE OF ANTI-SEMI-**  
15 **TISM IN EUROPE.**

16 Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the International  
17 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412) is  
18 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-  
19 graph:

20 “(G) ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE.—In ad-  
21 dition to the information required under clause  
22 (iv) of subparagraph (A), with respect to each  
23 European country in which verbal or physical  
24 threats or attacks are particularly significant  
25 against Jewish persons, places of worship,

1 schools, cemeteries, and other religious institu-  
2 tions, a description of—

3 “(i) the security challenges and needs  
4 of European Jewish communities and Eu-  
5 ropean law enforcement agencies in such  
6 countries to better protect such commu-  
7 nities;

8 “(ii) to the extent practicable, the ef-  
9 forts of the United States Government  
10 over the reporting period to partner with  
11 European law enforcement agencies and  
12 civil society groups regarding the sharing  
13 of information and best practices to com-  
14 bat anti-Semitic incidents in Europe;

15 “(iii) European educational program-  
16 ming and public awareness initiatives that  
17 aim to collaborate on educational curricula  
18 and campaigns that impart shared values  
19 of pluralism and tolerance, and showcase  
20 the positive contributions of Jews in cul-  
21 ture, scholarship, science, and art, with  
22 special attention to those segments of the  
23 population that exhibit a high degree of  
24 anti-Semitic animus; and

1                   “(iv) efforts by European govern-  
2                   ments to adopt and apply a working defini-  
3                   tion of anti-Semitism.”.

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