

**Responding to Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israel Bias  
in the UN, Palestinian Authority, and NGO Community**

**Rep. Chris Smith, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights,  
and International Organizations  
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The rising tide of anti-Semitism worldwide is cause for serious alarm.

With no sign of abating anywhere, Jewish men, women and children continue to suffer bias, cruelty, hate and violence simply because they are Jewish.

This pernicious manifestation of evil needs to be exposed and more effectively combatted.

The purveyors of anti-Semitism never take a holiday—nor should we.

Silence is not an option.

A few days ago, a jury found Robert Bowers guilty of dozens of federal hate crimes for murdering 11 people at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue in 2018, the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history.

In April of 2022, Dion Marsh from my hometown of Manchester attacked a Jewish man waiting at a stop sign in Lakewood, New Jersey, stole his car and ran over two other Jewish men and stabbed another. He awaits trial on numerous [charges](#) including [anti-Semitic hate crimes](#).

Just two weeks ago, as reported in the Asbury Park Press, Lakewood Scoop and Lakewood Shopper, [Ron Carr](#), also of Manchester, painted swastikas on fifteen houses and burnt a house to the ground. The perpetrator has been arrested and charged with 36 criminal counts.

Today's hearing focuses on rampant anti-Semitism, anti-Israel bias in the United Nations, Palestinian Authority and the NGO community.

More hearings will follow.

One of our witnesses today Dr. Sharon Nazarian of ADL notes that “antisemitic hate and prejudice is deeply entrenched” globally—including throughout Europe and the United States and that Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) countries have “by far the highest levels of antisemitic attitudes.”

Israel faces an ongoing existential threat due in large part to anti-Semitism.

America—and the free world—must continually strengthen the bond of friendship and tangible support for Israel.

Among a distinguished panel of expert witnesses, we welcome the legendary human rights leader and former Soviet political prisoner Natan Sharansky.

As part of a delegation led by NCSJ that included my good friend Mark Levin, we met with Natan Sharansky’s mother forty years ago in Moscow—in 1983—who asked us to not only press for her son’s release from the gulag but to insist that he get desperately needed medicine.

A few years later, Congressman Frank Wolf and I travelled to Perm Camp 35—the infamous concentration camp where Natan Sharansky bravely resisted every Soviet attempt to break his indomitable will. Pushing Gorbachev’s “glasnost” to the limits, we videotaped every conversation with political prisoners and shared that with Natan, who had recently been released.

At a [hearing that I chaired in June of 2004](#) and at the OSCE Berlin Conference, Natan Sharansky powerfully articulated his incisive “3-D” test for identifying anti-Semitism and said it often tries to ‘hide behind the veneer of legitimate criticism of Israel.’

He said: “Of course, if you want to be successful in the struggle against anti-Semitism, as against any other evil, there must be moral clarity of the issue: what we are talking about. It is important to define the line between legitimate criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism. Israel is a strong democracy, and the only democracy in the Middle East, and it is built on the criticism from within and without. Of

course, we support all forms of legitimate criticism, but it is very important to see the difference, draw the line between this legitimate criticism and anti-Semitism.

According to his “3-D” test, criticism of Israel is nothing less than anti-Semitic when it passes over into a **demonization** of Jews and Israel, **delegitimizes** the Jewish state, or applies **double standards**, that is one standard for Israel, another for every other country.

Another witness today, Hillel Neuer, Executive Director of UN Watch has been a mighty force for good in exposing and fighting an unconscionable UN bias against Israel, including at the UN Human Rights Council.

He underscored the bias late last year when he pointed out the UN General Assembly condemned Israel for a total of 15 resolutions targeting the Jewish state in 2022—compared to 13 on the rest of the world combined.

He said: “The UN’s latest assault on Israel with a torrent of one-sided resolutions is surreal,” he said despite the fact that “Israel is the Middle East’s only democracy, yet instead the UN is empowering the region’s despots.”

Itamar Marcus, Director of Palestinian Media Watch exposes the PA’s unrelenting anti-Semitic attacks and notes that the “combination of political and religious anti-Semitism with hatred of Israel, all in the name of Allah directly leads to the PA’s policy to see murdering Israelis as heroic and Allah’s will, and as a result: 100% of the murderers of Israelis are honored; 100% of terrorists in jail for murdering Jews receive PA salaries; 100% of terrorists killed while murdering Jews are declared “Shahids—meaning “Martyrs” who “died for Allah.”

Each of our witnesses are uniquely qualified and well informed and are making a significant difference in this human rights struggle.

As the author of the [original provisions](#) of the *Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004* that created the Office to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism within the State Department, and the [Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act](#) in 2021—which upgraded and strengthened the Special Envoy to the rank of Ambassador, reporting directly to the Secretary of State, I—like many on this panel—interact regularly with Ambassador Lipstadt and her staff and are grateful for her leadership.