

**Statement of the Anti-Defamation League
by Mindy Reinstein
OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Working Session 14
October 3, 2012**

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) was established in 1913 with its core mission to combat the then-pervasive anti-Semitism experienced by Jews in many facets of American life. For nearly a century, we have been at the forefront of the campaign for civil rights, pioneered the development of model hate crimes laws, and developed anti-bias education models to address all forms of prejudice and to prepare each succeeding generation to live in an increasingly diverse society. Our experience has taught us: where anti-Semitism flourishes, no minority group is safe. That is the core of ADL's mission: to secure justice and fair treatment for Jews in tandem with safeguarding the rights of all oppressed groups.

This year, Anti-Semitism and bigotry have been given growing legitimacy in cities across the OSCE region through the desecration of Jewish monuments, synagogues, and cemeteries; soccer matches marred by anti-Semitic slogans; the rise of extremist anti-Semitic political parties; and violent hate crimes against Jews. Here are just three examples that reflect the types of incidents being reported across the region:

- Four Jews were shot and killed at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish School. A Rabbi and his two children and another student were shot by an armed terrorist on a motorcycle as they were entering the school premises. March, 19, Toulouse, France
- Swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti were painted on a building that houses the Jewish Agency for Israel office. The words "All of you – to Buchenwald" were found on the side of a neighboring building. July 5 – St. Petersburg, Russia
- A chant of "dirty Jews" ("mocskos zsidók") was heard on the TV broadcast of a soccer match between the Hungarian and Israeli national teams. August 15 – Budapest, Hungary

In the United States, where the ADL does most of its work, the reality is that, even after so many policy and legislative successes, anti-Jewish discourse and incidents still remain a disturbing, although diminished, part of the American Jewish experience. Last month, we saw a hate-filled graffiti spree in New Jersey which included the words "kill the Jews" and red swastikas painted on a vehicle, mailboxes, and fences surrounding private homes, street signs and sidewalks. The *2010 ADL Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents in the United States* reported the first increase since 2004, an indication that anti-Semitism in the U.S. still remains unacceptably high.

We have spoken in these rooms many times about the imperative for resolve by governments to monitor this societal disease and the importance of having a special representative that serves as a focal point for spotlighting and combatting anti-Semitism.

In the U.S., the appointment of a special envoy by Presidents Bush and Obama, and focused directives from Congress and the Executive Branch to monitor anti-Semitism have produced

results. In addition to two State Department reports on global anti-Semitism issued in 2005 and 2008, documenting anti-Semitism has become a fixture of U.S. human rights and international religious freedom monitoring.

This summer, the U.S. State Department released its annual International Religious Freedom Report that, for the first time, noted in its introduction a “rising tide of global anti-Semitism.” The report described key incidents and major trends that it documented across 68 countries: Holocaust denial, glorification, and relativism; conflating opposition to certain policies of Israel with blatant anti-Semitism; growing nationalistic movements that target “the other;” and traditional forms of anti-Semitism, such as conspiracy theories, acts of desecration and assault, “blood libel,” and cartoons demonizing Jews.

In the State Department’s annual Country Reports on Human Rights, the central human rights monitoring vehicle of the United States, we have seen attention to trends in anti-Semitism in U.S. Embassies grow, with American diplomats attentive to the problem in double the number of countries over the past decade.

Country Reports on Human Rights Year	Countries Where Anti-Semitism is Documented	OSCE States Where anti-Semitism is Documented
2002	30	20
2010	62	36
2011	71	37

In 2003, when the OSCE convened its first dedicated meeting to respond to the reemergence of anti-Semitism, the State Department’s annual human rights report documented anti-Semitism in 30 countries. Today, the State Department documented anti-Semitism in 71 countries and virtually doubled the number of OSCE participating States where the US is exposing anti-Semitism.

The growth of reporting by the U.S. State Department is about more than finding anti-Semitism in more places. It reflects a broad systemic understanding of the nature of anti-Semitism as a human rights violation that is a function of the institutionalizing of training and other efforts that flow from a conscious choice to do better and to fight. The improved spotlighting of anti-Semitism is a direct result of the bipartisan efforts in Congress to call for such reporting and the political will demonstrated across the Bush and Obama administrations to elevate the issue by appointing a special envoy to ensure that the issue is on the U.S. agenda.

My colleagues and partners here from Human Rights First and the Council on Global Equality would note a similar upward trend in reporting on hate crimes and discrimination against LGBT individuals and communities.

In the OSCE system, we have seen a similar contribution made by the Personal Representatives of the Chair in Office on Combating Anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance and their reappointment by the incoming Chair-in-Office will be critical. These representatives focus on distinct and specific forms of intolerance and can mobilize a targeted response at the political level as specific problems arise.

In many OSCE participating States, there are laws prohibiting hate violence or discrimination, but a law is not enough if the political and civic leaders do not lay down a marker affirming that anti-Semitism and bigotry have no place in a country that respects Jewish rights, minority rights, human rights.

The backdrop of the recent violent protests in the Middle East in response to a hateful film underscores the need for leadership against bigotry and hateful speech that also respects freedom of expression. ADL supports meaningful and robust efforts to combat violent hate crime and discrimination and encourages leaders to condemn and marginalize hate and promote respect for all faiths. We understand that hate speech has varying degrees of legal protection in different participating States. Many NGOs represented at this conference have found common cause with partners all over the world working in different legal contexts to focus on practical strategies to confront hatred without limiting speech.

Here are the Anti-Defamation League's recommendations for governments to institutionalize a systemic, comprehensive strategy:

1. Political and civic leaders must condemn the rise of anti-Semitism and hate violence.

Political leaders have the most immediate and significant opportunity to set a national tone against racist incitement and to promote values of respect for diversity. Indeed, nothing gives a greater sense of security to vulnerable communities than seeing the unequivocal public rejection of racism. This signals that the government takes seriously all people's right to live free of harassment. There is little political cost to condemning a marginal hate site. That is no substitute for the courage it takes to call out the legitimizing of anti-Semitism and hate among colleagues and leadership.

2. Fulfill pledges to collect data and enact laws that provide a policy response. Hate crime laws are the jumping off point for a whole range of political, policy education, prevention and response measures. Even the mere collection of disaggregated hate crime data is a powerful tool to confront anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry because it highlights the issue of hate violence for policymakers and the public -- and prompts government outreach and police training to identify, report, and respond to hate violence.

3. Support the reappointment by the incoming Chair in Office of the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Anti-Semitism and Intolerance.

4. Support the specialized work of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Tolerance, and non-Discrimination Department and promote its reporting, education and training programs and other tools to combat anti-Semitism and hate crime.

5. Utilize ODIHR tools, like *Hate Crime Laws: A Practical Guide*, which ADL is proud to

have played a role in drafting, as well as the forthcoming training guide to help governments institute hate crime data collection. These tools are designed to help improve hate crime response with models for lawmakers, community organizations and law enforcement. States should enlist the help of ODIHR expertise to seek ways to utilize the guide.

6. Engage Communities: Governments can do a lot to bring communities together around these efforts, not just to dialogue but to work together implementing policies. Especially for those states that have utilized ODIHR tools and assistance, a key to sustaining those efforts is the establishment of a framework for regular communication between communities and relevant. States should support ODIHR efforts to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations to serve as a bridge between officials and law enforcement and communities to ensure an effective response.

We talk a great deal in these rooms about commitments.

Here, from my seat at the NGO microphone, is my commitment to you.

We stand ready to be a resource to your governments. We will offer recommendations, policy models and best practices. We know well that progress is hard won and we take seriously our own obligation to praise your success, and to expect the best of all who are committed to this process. We will use our bully pulpit to convince the public of the stake we share in our mutual success and to expose the failure of those who don't care or even worse.

We need your political will and your partnership in this effort.

It all starts with a shared decision by all of us in this room to dedicate or re-dedicate – ourselves to making that success happen. I urge you to make that decision today.