



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Counterterrorism & Intelligence Subcommittee Ranking Member Seth Magaziner (D-RI)

The Rise of Anti-Israel Extremist Groups and Their Threat to U.S. National Security

June 11, 2025

I want to begin by honoring the memories of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, who were senselessly killed last month following the American Jewish Committee's annual Young Diplomats Reception here in Washington. Yaron and Sarah were a young couple who had their whole lives ahead of them, including a planned engagement. I know that every Member of this Subcommittee extends our deepest condolences to their families and friends. I also grieve for the victims of the horrific attack in Boulder, Colorado, who had Molotov cocktails thrown at them while walking in support of the hostages held by Hamas.

Both of these incidents were antisemitic terrorism – we must clearly call them out for what they are, and we must condemn them. The same is also true in the arson attack on Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's home.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, in 2024, there were 9,354 reported antisemitic incidents across the United States, a 5% increase from 2023 and the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents 46 years ago. Antisemitism exists throughout our society. Antisemitism can be found on the left, the right and the middle and must be called out everywhere. But while it is true that Jews in America face the threat of antisemitic violence throughout our society, it is also true that the Jewish people have friends and supporters throughout our society.

In the year 1790, President George Washington visited the Touro Synagogue in my home state of Rhode Island, and prayed with the local congregation to demonstrate his wish that America would be a country welcoming of all faiths, including specifically the Jewish faith. I am concerned about our government's ability to counter the rise of antisemitic violence we are seeing.

President Trump has fired staff across the federal government who were tasked with that investigating cases of violent antisemitism and other forms of hate, including: 131 employees at the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Some 250 attorneys or around 70% of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. At least 240 staff at the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

President Trump recently installed Thomas Fugate to serve as the Director of DHS's Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships - this is the office tasked with partnering with local law enforcement and the private sector to prevent hate-driven violence. Mr. Fugate is a 22-year-old who just graduated college with no counterterrorism or national security experience. If the administration takes combating violent antisemitism seriously - why put him in charge of the office tasked with preventing domestic violent extremism.

The administration has also transferred FBI agents and FBI intelligence analysts out of the Domestic Terrorism Section and cancelled the development of a national domestic terrorism incident database. We should be increasing the federal government's focus on preventing violent extremism, not cutting funds and shifting personnel away from those efforts. Decreasing government personnel dedicated to preventing violent extremism including antisemitic violence, undermines efforts to counter antisemitism.

I hope that in light of the terrible events in Washington and in Boulder, that the administration will reconsider, and shift resources back into combatting antisemitism. I hope to discuss how we can disrupt this surge in violent antisemitic extremism, stop the normalization of antisemitism, and enhance the safety of the Jewish community and other targeted groups.

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