



## COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Hearing Statement of Intelligence and Counterterrorism Subcommittee Chairman Max Rose (D-NY)**

#### ***Confronting the Rise in Anti-Semitic Domestic Terrorism, Part II***

**February 26, 2020**

Anti-Semitic domestic terrorism is an issue that has deeply affected my district, my community, and the whole New York City area. As we all know, in recent months, anti-Semitic violence has terrorized Jewish communities across the country. In the past few months, Jews in New York and New Jersey have been subjected to dozens of anti-Semitic incidents and attacks.

We saw the brutal stabbing attack at a rabbi's home in Monsey, New York, on December 28th, and the mass shooting in Jersey City on December 10th. Just in the past few months, we've seen over 40 anti-Semitic incidents in the New York area. And it hasn't stopped. Earlier this week, bomb threats were sent to 18 Jewish Community Centers across New York State.

The simple truth is that we are under assault by extremists, many of whom are emboldened to act and often encouraged by content on social media platforms. The time for thoughts and prayers has passed—the time now is for action. Let me be clear: I will not lose sight or focus on this issue which has hit far too close to home.

Last month, this Subcommittee heard from experts on anti-Semitic violence and homeland security. Thanks to their expert testimony, we heard a description of the problem—the violence gripping the Jewish community across the country—and we heard their recommendations for Congress and the Executive Branch.

Today, we have representatives from the FBI and DHS to discuss the federal government's response to the rise in anti-Semitic domestic terrorism. I'm glad to see two representatives from DHS who briefed this Committee earlier this month on the Department's approach to targeted violence and terrorism.

I'm also glad to have FBI at the table. Their work countering all forms of terrorism is crucial—and I am looking forward to hearing how they are approaching the issue of anti-Semitic domestic terrorism.

For the past year, Democrats on this Committee have led on this issue. Last month, the President signed H.R. 2479, a bill led by Chairman Thompson that I cosponsored, which authorizes and funds the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to help secure synagogues and other houses of worship. I fought for funding for this program to be increased to \$90 million. It was increased, thanks to strong bipartisan support.

But we also need to consider what measures lawmakers and law enforcement can implement to make sure that anti-Semites and racists can't carry out acts of violence, and that domestic terrorism is seen as the crime that it is. Government officials, at all levels, have a duty to protect Jewish individuals, communities, and institutions from anti-Semitic violence, and must put forth comprehensive strategies to address it. That includes meaningful and respectful outreach and partnerships with Jewish community institutions. In doing so, these strategies should protect and uplift the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans.

We cannot forget that Anti-Semitic violence in the United States is often linked to transnational networks of terror and hate, including global networks of white supremacist extremists in Europe and elsewhere. The

government must prioritize understanding and combating these networks in order to prevent anti-Semitic and racist violence. When these foreign white supremacist groups meet the definition of a Foreign Terrorist Organization, they should be designated as such.

I look forward to hearing testimony from our witnesses today on the work that is being done to combat anti-Semitic domestic terrorism. More importantly, I want to hear about the work that we still need to do to address this rising threat—and how Congress can help. We can all see that this problem isn't going away. And I will not lose focus on this issue.

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