



HOUSE RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 4, 2024

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8
CONDEMNING ISLAMOPHOBIA, ANTI-PALESTINIAN HATE, AND ANTISEMITISM
OPPOSE

Agudath Israel of Maryland, the Mid-Atlantic regional office for Agudath Israel of America – a renowned national Jewish advocacy organization with chapters across the country, speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland. We submit this testimony today, on their behalf, in opposition to House Joint Resolution 8.

House Joint Resolution 8 condemns bigotry against members of the Jewish and the Islamic faiths and traditions. Yet, when it comes to nationality and political identity, HJ0008 inexplicably condemns only anti-Palestinian hate, yet fails to mention and condemn anti-Israel hate, despite the fact that anti-Israel bigotry has also risen to alarming levels in the wake of the October 7 massacre and the subsequent military response.

For instance, in November in the Dagestan region of Russia a violent mob rampaged for hours seeking to kill Israeli civilians who had taken an airplane flight there.¹ In December in London, England, a group of Israelis hanging posters calling for the release of Israeli civilian hostages were attacked twice.² In our own great state of Maryland, many students report hateful anti-Israeli encounters.³ And, of course, one should mention as well the fact that Palestinians who publicly voice support of Israel receive numerous death threats,⁴ and that Gazans who are suspected of supporting Israel are brutally executed by Hamas as a matter of routine.

One can, of course, criticize Israel without being bigoted, just as one can criticize Palestinian authorities and political groups without being bigoted. Yet the resolution's one-sided condemnation of the latter without mentioning the former unfairly implies that it is only anti-Palestinian sentiments that need to be combatted.

As long as the resolution condemns only anti-Palestinian bigotry while ignoring anti-Israeli bigotry, it is one-sided, unfair, and unjust, and we therefore urge you to reject HJ0008. Thank you.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/anti-semitic-riot-russias-dagestan-leaves-some-local-jews-shaken-2023-11-02/>

² <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israelis-verbally-physically-attacked-in-london-while-hanging-hamas-hostage-posters/#:~:text=A%20group%20of%20Israelis%20hanging,published%20by%20Channel%2012%20news.>

³ For instance, see <https://www.jewishtimes.com/jewish-students-at-the-university-of-maryland-watching-our-backs-a-lot/> and <https://forward.com/news/461720/johns-hopkins-teaching-assistant-suspected-of-lowering-jewish-students/>.

⁴ E.g. <https://www.algemeiner.com/2016/02/21/palestinian-human-rights-activists-receives-death-threats-from-anti-israel-protesters-during-u-of-chicago-lecture-video/>