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6 Tammuz 5781
June 16, 2021

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
1235 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

In early 2019, when you placed Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, [we wrote](#) that this appointment was “tantamount to saying that antisemitism is acceptable to the United States House of Representatives.” When you condemned her antisemitic rhetoric a month later, we welcomed your words, but [further said](#) that they were “far too mild a response.” We warned that failure to both declare Rep. Omar’s statements “beyond the realm of civil discourse” and reverse her committee appointment would send the message to the world that you were “tolerating this hatred in the Democratic party.”

We commend you for your [condemnation](#) of Hamas’s rocket attacks, as well as your [affirmation](#) of Israel’s right to defend itself. In this, you stand in the tradition of [your father](#), a staunch advocate for the safety of Jews in Europe and the Holy Land. But recent events involving Rep. Omar have demonstrated that our apprehension was in no way exaggerated. Failure to act at this juncture would allow antisemitism to not only fester in Congress, but also inflame it in cities across America.

Rep. Omar’s unfounded assertion that Israel committed “[unthinkable atrocities](#)” by defending lives against an openly genocidal terror organization is not merely offensive, it is pernicious—for it is grounded in the blood libel and the calumny that Jews poisoned wells during the Black Death. Throughout the generations, rivers of blood have been shed by mobs motivated by the incendiary myth of the murderous Jew.

Without anything resembling a forceful response from the Democratic Party, tolerance of anti-Jewish hatred has proliferated. When 12 Jewish Democrats in the House rightfully denounced Rep. Omar’s abhorrent bigotry, the Congressional Progressive Caucus [stooped](#) to playing identity politics, cravenly insinuating that the motivation for the condemnation was opposition to Rep. Omar as a “Black, Muslim woman” rather than her antisemitic animus.

Jews are being attacked day and night on American streets by mobs incited by Rep. Omar's rhetoric. Yet the Congressional Progressive Caucus claims that it is Rep. Omar who is facing "threats." We are appalled.

Rep. Omar has stated that you and your Congressional colleagues are incapable of objectively adjudicating her claims of "unthinkable atrocities" committed by the U.S. military; that is the basis for her demand that the International Criminal Court (ICC) intervene. Her later "[clarification](#)" contradicts what she said in committee, for she indeed equated democracies with terror organizations, and, importantly, the ICC's purview does not extend to "democratic countries with well-established judicial systems." If her "clarification" is to be taken at face value, it is an admission that her statements were baseless. Thus your reply that Rep. Omar "has a point that she wanted to make, and she has a right to make that point" is both acceptance of bigotry and an abdication of leadership.

Our organization has demonstrated bipartisan concern about anti-Jewish animus, twice condemning [insensitive statements](#) made by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA). Yet we also [emphasized](#) that "action against Rep. Greene, coupled with the elevation of Rep. Omar, signals that Congress is now willing to tolerate Anti-Semitism when it is politically advantageous to do so."

We reiterate that the mob attacks on American Jews today are directly attributable to the rhetoric of Rep. Omar and those who stand with her within and beyond Congress. Rep. Omar's words are far more dangerous in nature than those of Rep. Greene, and, therefore, the vehement desire to combat antisemitism requires that they be met with at least equal consequence. To protect Jewish Americans and, moreover, safeguard the integrity of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, we thus insist upon the removal of Rep. Omar from her appointment.

Sincerely yours,

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