

**Rep. Henry A. Waxman**  
**Extension of Remarks**  
**Holocaust Remembrance Day**  
**April 27, 2006**

Mr. Speaker. This week we commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. With events in Israel, the United States and around the world, communities have gathered to memorialize the six million Jews murdered during World War II.

This year, by a coincidence of the calendar, Yom Hashoah comes just days after the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and days before a rally planned in Washington to protest the genocide in Sudan. Each of these observances is a somber reminder that world inaction in the face of injustice leaves a tragic precedent for other acts of senseless bloodshed.

The road from Armenia to Auschwitz was direct. If more attention had been paid to the innocent victims and those who perpetrated the atrocities against the Armenian people, the Holocaust might have been prevented. Perhaps if 60 years hadn't passed before the U.N. formally commemorated the Holocaust, international consciousness of other genocides like the massacres in Darfur could have been awakened sooner.

While the U.N. General Assembly has finally committed to observing Holocaust commemoration annually, there is still tremendous complacency about modern day anti-Semitism. Many nations have stood idly by while Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attacks the Holocaust as fiction and aggressively calls for Israel's destruction.

For example, Ukraine this year will mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nazi massacre of more than 100,000 Jews at Babi Yar. Yet it took fierce pressure from the United States and Israel to urge the Ukrainian government to take a stand against MAUP, a local university that openly praises Ahmadinejad's anti-Israel statements, hosts anti-Zionism conferences, and actively distributes anti-Semitic propaganda across Europe.

Memorials become relics if they do not stir our modern conscience. One of the reasons that Yom Hashoah was chosen to be commemorated on the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising is to inspire in all of us a drive to fight back against injustice and intolerance.

Today, let us not only pay tribute to those who perished. Let us pledge to stand up against governments that persecute their own people. Let us bear witness to the crimes against humanity that are occurring in our midst. And let us declare our commitment to fight the reemergence of anti-Semitism so that the cry "Never Again" rings true.