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A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM RABBI KOHN REGARDING ANTI-SEMITISM

February 6, 2024

Dear Friends,

This evening, Tuesday, February 6, 2024, a letter from a few, key rabbinic leaders across America, with myself included, is being sent by HIAS to key elected officials decrying the anti-Semitic dog-whistles and ugly rhetoric in the impeachment efforts aimed at Secretary Mayorkas, who identifies with his Jewish ancestry.

The same vile language has been heard in the escalating antisemitism of recent years, and is now being heard by legislators in the halls of Congress.

Like you, I am deeply bothered by the xenophobic, polemicized climate in which we are living. I spend many hours a week working on these issues, especially collaborating with our wonderful local partners in the Community Relations Council, which I co-chair, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, as well as with our amazing regional and national organizations.

Here is a link through which you can send your own message, via HIAS, expressing your opinions on this upsetting development: **Act Now - HIAS**

Yes, America needs to address our broken asylum system. But, no, it is unacceptable that political machinations are making legitimate refugees – in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and Latin America – into pawns of power polemics. Let's express the Jewish value – that we understand the heart of the stranger because we were strangers in the land of Egypt – and that we will not accept our own Jewish community being denigrated in this Land of Liberty.

Rabbi Doug Kohn