

I am writing to express my deep concern over the escalating threats to the Jewish community in Toronto. Our city has unfortunately seen a dramatic rise in hate crimes, violence, and antisemitic incidents, making it increasingly unsafe for our community.

It is crucial to acknowledge that many of these incidents involve individuals motivated by extremist ideologies. The radicalization of some individuals within the community is a growing concern that cannot be overlooked. This radicalization poses a direct threat not only to the Jewish community but also to the broader fabric of our society.

The frequent street protests, often centered around Palestinian issues, are increasingly fueling antisemitic sentiment and inciting further hatred. These protests have, at times, become a breeding ground for extremist views, which are spreading unchecked. Law enforcement must take a firmer stance against these displays of hate, which are contributing to the deteriorating safety of our community.

While I understand the complexities involved in addressing such sensitive issues, I believe that the current approach is insufficient. By not tackling these threats with the urgency and seriousness they deserve, there is a risk of exacerbating tensions further. The rise in hate, violence, terrorism, and vandalism must be met with a comprehensive and decisive response from our city's leadership.

This is not just about isolated incidents; this is about the overall safety and security of the Jewish community in Toronto, which is rapidly deteriorating. We need strong, visible actions to prevent further hate, violence, or terrorist attacks from taking place. Without immediate and significant measures, the situation will only worsen, and the consequences could be devastating.

**Specific events that have occurred this year, underscoring the gravity of the situation:**

1. January 2024: A bomb threat was called into a synagogue in Toronto during Shabbat services.
2. March 2024: In Montreal, several Jewish schools received bomb threats on the same day.
3. April 2024: A Jewish community center in Vancouver was vandalized with antisemitic graffiti.
4. May 2024: A bomb threat was made against a Jewish cultural event in Winnipeg.
5. July 2024: A Jewish cemetery in Calgary was desecrated with swastikas and messages threatening violence.
6. August 2024: Multiple bomb threats were sent to Jewish organizations in Ottawa.

**To address these urgent concerns, I respectfully urge the following actions:**

1. Address Radicalization and Extremism: Implement programs that counteract the radicalization of individuals within the community.
2. Shut Down Institutions Promoting Extremism: Any institution found to be promoting extremist ideologies or inciting violence should be shut down immediately.
3. Enforce the Law at Protests: Ensure that law enforcement strictly enforces existing laws during street protests, particularly those that incite hatred or violence.
4. Increase Security at Jewish Institutions: Increase security measures at synagogues, Jewish community centers, schools, and other institutions.
5. Implement Stronger Hate Crime Legislation: Strengthen the current legal framework to ensure that hate crimes are met with severe penalties.

6. Promote Interfaith Dialogue: Enhance efforts to promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation
7. Hold Public Officials Accountable: Ensure that any public official who participates in or endorses events where terrorist symbols or hate speech are present is held accountable

The rise in antisemitic incidents, hate crimes, and the presence of extremist ideologies in our city cannot be overlooked. This is a serious and growing concern for the Jewish community and all residents of Toronto. I urge you to take decisive action to address these challenges and ensure the safety and security of everyone in our city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and to seeing the actions the city will take to address these urgent concerns.

Sincerely,

Laurence Price

[Personal information redacted - Board Office]