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As a Member of Congress and as a co-chair of the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus, I wish to express my deepest solidarity with Iraqi and the Arab world's Jews - who were the victims of brutal anti-Jewish hatred and violence - along with the organizations and individuals assembled and representing their cause today at the United Nations in New York City.

The tragedy and injustice that befell the Jewish communities of the Arab and Islamic world, starting with the Farhud, has yet to be recognized by the international community. Jews expelled from the Arab world lost not only their property and social status when they were torn from their home countries. Immeasurable harm was also done to their unique and beautiful millennia-old cultural, social and religious traditions.

The Farhud was an insidious pogrom carried out by Nazi-allied Iraqis, resembling in many ways its European counterpart: the infamous *Kristallnacht*. Lasting from June 1-2, 1941 in Baghdad, hundreds of innocent Iraqi Jews were murdered and injured, and tremendous damage was inflicted upon their property and homes. History reminds us that the bloody violence unleashed against Iraq's Jews was not spontaneous. The rioters and murderers were instigated by some of the top leadership in the Arab world, including the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin Al-Hosseini, along with Iraqi Prime Minister Rashid Ali al-Gailani and the Golden Square coup plotters.

The Farhud was also the first step in a violent process that resulted in the forced exodus and dispossession of 850,000-900,000 Jews from their homes in Arab and Islamic countries. The Farhud was not caused by the conflict with Israel; the State of Israel had not yet proclaimed its independence. And even after Israel's establishment, let no one be fooled into thinking that anti-Zionism was the cause of anti-Jewish violence across the Arab world. The hundreds of thousands of Jews forcibly and violently expelled from their homes in Arab countries were loyal, law-abiding and peaceful citizens. The motivation for the harm done to the Jews of the Arab world is clear: hatred of the Jewish People.

74 years ago, the events of this day precipitated one of the largest humanitarian tragedies in history, and one of the largest cultural losses not only to the Jewish people, but to the entire human family. Today we will change the first of June from a day of a near-forgotten tragedy into International Farhud Day - a day of commemoration - when we call on the entire world to remember the disaster that befell the Arab world's Jews, and to do justice by them and their descendants.

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Member of Congress