Mr. President, I rise

today to register my outrage against a

series of vehemently anti-Semitic comments

made by Iranian President

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. These remarks,

all of them vile and baseless,

should be condemned by the Senate.

Let me describe some of these remarks

for the RECORD.

At a conference in Tehran on October

26, President Ahmadinejad said, ‘‘Israel

must be wiped off the map . . . The Islamic

world will not let its historic

enemy live in its heartland.’’

Then, on December 8, he continued

his assault, saying ‘‘Some European

countries insist on saying that Hitler

killed millions of innocent Jews in furnaces

. . . Although we don’t accept

this claim . . . If the Europeans are

honest they should give some of their

provinces in Europe—like in Germany,

Austria or other countries—to the Zionists

and the Zionists can establish

their state in Europe.’’

And, just yesterday, President

Ahmadinejad claimed that ‘‘They have

fabricated a legend under the name

‘Massacre of the Jews’, and they hold it

higher than God himself, religion itself

and the prophets themselves’’

Mr. President, I do not even know

where to begin. Insidious rhetoric such

as this is designed to do nothing other

than stir hatred and incite hostility.

I have walked the grounds at Auschwitz.

I have seen the crematoria. To

claim that one of the greatest tragedies

in the history of humanity is

merely a fabrication to advance a political

agenda is simply beyond the

pale. But what is worse is that these

comments are not isolated. They are a

part of persistent, state-sponsored

anti-Semitism that is now commonplace

in the administration of President

Ahmadinejad.

On the eve of the elections in Iraq,

one of the greatest democratic milestones

in the history of the modern

Middle East, I hope that we can work

to move past this gross intolerance on

the part of the Iranian President.