

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 202

Condemning the Palestinian Authority and various Palestinian organizations for using children as soldiers and inciting children to acts of violence and war.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2001

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. WEINER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. PLATTS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the Palestinian Authority and various Palestinian organizations for using children as soldiers and inciting children to acts of violence and war.

Whereas the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) provides that persons who have not attained the age of fifteen years shall not take a direct part in hostilities;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority and various Palestinian organizations have interspersed children with fighting units during hostilities;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority established and trained units, called the Fatah Youth cadres, or “Shabiba”, to fight in the current “Intifada”;

Whereas the Palestinian national media have encouraged the children to become martyrs;

Whereas the Palestinian educational system uses an anti-Israeli curriculum which endorses fighting against Israel and promotes the martyrdom of children;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority has incited and continues to incite its children to acts of violence against the State of Israel;

Whereas Yasir Arafat has called Palestinian children “generals of the Intifada” and those “who throw the stones to defend Jerusalem, the Muslims, and the holy places”;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Information has commended the Palestinian children’s “unique example for resistance” stating that it forms “the first defense line against the Israeli military arsenal”;

Whereas Sheik Ikrima Sabri, the Mufti of Jerusalem appointed by Yasir Arafat, stated that “the younger the martyr, the greater and the more I respect him”;

Whereas during the summer of 2000, approximately 25,000 Palestinian children attended military-style summer camps run by Yasir Arafat’s Palestine Liberation Organization Fatah Movement to indoctrinate them in anti-Israeli militancy;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics states that “governments that encourage or permit children to participate in violence, to further political aims, are practicing a form of societal abuse”;

Whereas Doctors Opposed to Child Sacrifice, an organization of American pediatricians, has strongly condemned the use and encouragement of child soldiers by Palestinian families and community leaders;

Whereas the Tulkarm Women's Union has urged Yasir Arafat "to issue instructions to your police force to stop sending innocent children to their death"; and

Whereas Carol Bellamy, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has called on the Palestinian Authority "to take energetic measures to discourage those underage from participating in any violent action because such action places them at risk": Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) considers the Palestinian Authority in viola-
4 tion of the principles embodied in the United Na-
5 tions Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
6 for its use of children as soldiers and inciting chil-
7 dren to acts of violence and war;

8 (2) strongly urges the Palestinian Council to
9 immediately declare its commitment to the United
10 Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and
11 to adopt legislation to implement the Convention as
12 soon as possible;

13 (3) while reaffirming the continued applicability
14 of all existing prohibitions, restrictions, limitations,

1 and directives that otherwise apply to the Pales-
2 tinian Authority—

3 (A) urges the President to withhold any
4 future United States assistance to the Pales-
5 tinian Authority until the Authority stops the
6 use of children in armed conflict; and

7 (B) urges the Secretary of the Treasury to
8 instruct the United States executive director of
9 each international financial institution to use
10 the voice and vote of the United States to op-
11 pose any assistance from that financial institu-
12 tion to the Palestinian Authority until the Pal-
13 estinian Authority discontinues its use of chil-
14 dren as soldiers;

15 (4) requests the Secretary of State to submit to
16 the Committee on International Relations of the
17 House of Representatives and the Committee on
18 Foreign Relations of the Senate—

19 (A) a report on the degree to which Pales-
20 tinian children are encouraged by the Pales-
21 tinian Authority to participate in organized acts
22 of violence and acts of terror, and the degree to
23 which the Palestinian education system, reli-
24 gious structures, and media play a role in the

1 participation of Palestinian children in violence;
2 and

3 (B) periodic reports every 6 months on ef-
4 forts by the Palestinian Authority to discour-
5 age, prevent, and halt the involvement of chil-
6 dren in organized Palestinian violence and acts
7 of terror; and

8 (5) requests the Secretary of State to transmit
9 a copy of this concurrent resolution to the Pales-
10 tinian Authority.

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