

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1605

To seek the establishment of and contributions to an International Fund
for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To seek the establishment of and contributions to an Inter-
national Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, and for
other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited at as the “International Fund
5 for Israeli-Palestinian Peace Authorization Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

9 (1) The persistence of decades-old violence, con-
10 flict, and instability in the Middle East gravely af-

1 fects the national security of the United States and
2 peace and stability throughout the world.

3 (2) The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian and broader
4 Arab-Israeli conflicts strengthen extremists and op-
5 ponents of peace throughout the region.

6 (3) The establishment of peace between Israelis
7 and Palestinians, Muslims, Christians, and Jews, in
8 the Middle East is in the vital interests of the
9 United States, Israelis, Palestinians, the region, and
10 the world.

11 (4) While the United States and its inter-
12 national allies continue to support diplomatic and
13 political negotiations between the national govern-
14 ment representatives of the parties to the conflict,
15 such efforts require broad popular support among
16 the Israeli, Palestinian, Muslim, Christian, and Jew-
17 ish peoples in order to succeed. Indeed, political
18 agreements may never arrive or endure without sub-
19 stantial public support.

20 (5) Through many independent nongovern-
21 mental activities, tens of thousands of Israelis and
22 Palestinians, and Muslims, Christians, and Jews, al-
23 ready work together to build better relations between
24 peoples, through people-to-people coexistence and
25 reconciliation activities and other cooperative efforts.

1 (6) Such civil society initiatives promote con-
2 tact, cooperation, dialogue, shared community build-
3 ing, peaceful coexistence, joint economic develop-
4 ment, and reconciliation between Israelis and Pal-
5 estinians, and Muslims, Christians, and Jews, in the
6 Middle East and thereby constitute a key means for
7 building grassroots support for a peaceful resolution
8 to the conflict.

9 (7) By working together, building positive rela-
10 tionships, learning about each other, and interacting
11 regularly in their daily lives, participants in such ac-
12 tivities come to recognize the human face of people
13 across conflict lines, understand that people of good
14 will seek peaceful coexistence, and support efforts to
15 marginalize extremists and build peace. The impact
16 of these programs spreads from participants to their
17 families and communities.

18 (8) These tangible initiatives also provide much-
19 needed services to individuals and communities in
20 their everyday lives, helping Israelis and Palestin-
21 ians, and Muslims, Christians, and Jews, in the re-
22 gion work, learn, and play together; solve shared
23 problems; and build socially and economically
24 stronger societies. These efforts extend into every
25 sphere of everyday life, promoting cooperation in

1 business, education, healthcare, community building,
2 sports, the environment, and the arts.

3 (9) While such efforts have demonstrated in-
4 spiring success and touched tens of thousands of
5 people, severely limited funding has heretofore pre-
6 vented them from reaching millions of Israelis, Pal-
7 estinians, Muslims, Christians, and Jews and thus
8 having a truly widespread impact on popular support
9 for peace.

10 (10) Majorities of Israelis and Palestinians pri-
11 vately indicate their support for peace and a final
12 settlement of the conflict, but extensive, direct grass-
13 roots efforts are needed to mobilize these silent ma-
14 jorities into active and vocal constituents for peace.

15 (11) Dramatically increased funding, coordina-
16 tion, and support for people-to-people coexistence,
17 reconciliation, and joint economic initiatives can en-
18 gage millions of ordinary citizens affected by this
19 conflict in building support for peace.

20 (12) Working together, the United States, na-
21 tions around the world, and the private sector can
22 catalyze widespread support for peace with the es-
23 tablishment and funding of an independent Inter-
24 national Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, to pro-
25 mote contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared commu-

1 nity building, peaceful coexistence, joint economic
2 development, and reconciliation between Israelis and
3 Palestinians, and Muslims, Christians and Jews, in
4 the Middle East.

5 (13) Such a Fund will be an expert coordi-
6 nating body, adhering to best practices for govern-
7 ance, transparency, and accountability. It will ensure
8 that the United States and the international commu-
9 nity stand fully behind the brave Israelis and Pal-
10 estinians and Muslims, Christians, and Jews willing
11 to work together for peace and a better future. It
12 will be an ongoing presence and catalyst, building
13 broad public support for a lasting peace in the re-
14 gion. The Fund is not intended to be a political
15 forum, but a grant-making body.

16 (b) PURPOSES.—Therefore, the purposes of this Act
17 are as follows:

18 (1) To urge the President to make every effort,
19 in conjunction with the Government of Israel, the
20 Palestinian Authority, and the international commu-
21 nity to establish a non-political International Fund
22 for Israeli-Palestinian Peace to promote and support
23 contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared community
24 building, peaceful coexistence, joint economic devel-

(2) To provide for United States contributions to consist of Economic Support Fund assistance for payment to the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace to carry out the activities described in paragraph (1).

9 Congress urges the President to make every effort,
10 in conjunction with the Government of Israel, the Pales-
11 tinian Authority, and the international community, to es-
12 tablish an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian
13 Peace (in this Act referred to as the “International
14 Fund”) to carry out the purposes described in section
15 2(b).

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2010.—Of the amounts made available for the fiscal year 2010 to carry out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq. (relating to the Economic Support Fund)), \$50,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for United States contributions to the International Fund. Pending the formal establishment of the International Fund, such amounts may, pursuant to an agreement with the Govern-

1 ment of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, or other nations
2 be disbursed into and maintained in a separate account.

3 (b) FISCAL YEARS 2011, 2012, 2013, AND 2014.—

4 Of the amounts made available for each of the fiscal years
5 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 to carry out chapter 4 of
6 part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, 50,000,000
7 is authorized to be appropriated for United States con-
8 tributions to the International Fund.

9 (c) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Amounts appro-
10 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
11 under subsections (a) and (b)—

12 (1) are in addition to amounts otherwise au-
13 thorized to be appropriated for such purposes;

14 (2) are authorized to remain available until ex-
15 pended; and

16 (3) may be provided notwithstanding any other
17 provision of law.

18 **SEC. 5. CONDITIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS RELATING TO**

19 **UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS.**

20 (a) PROMOTING PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COEXISTENCE,
21 RECONCILIATION, AND JOINT ECONOMIC EFFORTS.—The
22 United States contributions provided for in this Act may
23 be used only to support and promote the purposes de-
24 scribed in section 2(b).

1 (b) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—The restrictions
2 contained in section 531(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act
3 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346a) apply with respect to United
4 States contributions provided for in this Act.

5 (c) **UNITED STATES REPRESENTATION ON THE**
6 **BOARD OF THE FUND.**—The President shall make every
7 effort to ensure that there is United States representation
8 on the Board of the International Fund.

9 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

10 At the end of each fiscal year in which the United
11 States Government makes any contribution to the Inter-
12 national Fund, the President shall transmit to the Con-
13 gress a report on the degree to which the International
14 Fund, and the United States contribution to it, have con-
15 tributed to promoting contact, cooperation, dialogue,
16 shared community building, peaceful coexistence, joint
17 economic development, and reconciliation between Israelis
18 and Palestinians, and Muslims, Christians, and Jews, in
19 the Middle East.

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