

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 709

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran, by failing to adhere to international maritime law, ignoring United Nations resolutions, and conducting military operations in a manner that raises tensions within the Arabian Gulf, has undermined stability in the Arabian Gulf, raised the danger of inadvertent escalation, and increased the risk to members of the United States Armed Forces overseas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2016

Mr. FORBES submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran, by failing to adhere to international maritime law, ignoring United Nations resolutions, and conducting military operations in a manner that raises tensions within the Arabian Gulf, has undermined stability in the Arabian Gulf, raised the danger of inadvertent escalation, and increased the risk to members of the United States Armed Forces overseas.

Whereas Iranian military and paramilitary vessels have repeatedly behaved in a dangerous and unprofessional manner in close proximity to naval vessels and commercial shipping operating in internationally recognized maritime traffic lanes;

Whereas Iranian forces did conduct live firing exercises within 1500 yards of the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman in December 2015;

Whereas Iranian military aircraft flew over the Harry S. Truman and the French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle in January 2016;

Whereas, on January 12, 2016, Iranian forces illegally boarded and detained at gunpoint the crews of two U.S. Navy riverine combat boats that were in distress;

Whereas Iranian actions on January 12 violated international maritime law and practice regarding the right of innocent passage and the sovereign immunity of naval vessels; and

Whereas United States Armed Forces in the Arabian Gulf have continuously acted in accordance with international law and maritime practice, to include assisting Iranian mariners in distress: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) believes that the actions of Iranian military
3 and paramilitary forces in the Arabian Gulf under-
4 mined stability in the Arabian Gulf, raised the dan-
5 ger of inadvertent escalation and increased the risk
6 to members of the United States Armed Forces
7 overseas;

8 (2) calls on the military and paramilitary forces
9 of Iran to act in accordance with international law
10 and standards for conduct at sea;

1 (3) urges the Administration to strongly re-
2 spond to past and future instances of dangerous and
3 unprofessional behavior by Iranian forces; and

4 (4) pledges to consider the behavior of Iranian
5 military and paramilitary forces, along with other
6 relevant considerations, when considering or debat-
7 ing any legislation that pertains to Iran, including
8 sanctions and arms control agreements.

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