

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1164

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## AN ACT

To condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Taylor Force Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The Palestinian Authority’s practice of pay-  
6 ing salaries to terrorists serving in Israeli prisons, as  
7 well as to the families of deceased terrorists, is an  
8 incentive to commit acts of terror.

9 (2) The United States does not provide direct  
10 budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority. The  
11 United States does pay certain debts held by the  
12 Palestinian Authority and funds programs for which  
13 the Palestinian Authority would otherwise be respon-  
14 sible.

15 (3) The United States Government supports  
16 community-based programs in the West Bank and  
17 Gaza that provide for basic human needs, such as  
18 food, water, health, shelter, protection, education,  
19 and livelihoods, and that promote peace and develop-  
20 ment.

21 (4) Since fiscal year 2015, annual appropria-  
22 tions legislation has mandated the reduction of Eco-  
23 nomic Support Fund aid for the Palestinian Author-  
24 ity as a result of their payments for acts of ter-  
25 rorism including, in fiscal year 2017, a reduction  
26 “by an amount the Secretary determines is equiva-

1       lent to the amount expended by the Palestinian Au-  
2       thority, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and  
3       any successor or affiliated organizations with such  
4       entities as payments for acts of terrorism by individ-  
5       uals who are imprisoned after being fairly tried and  
6       convicted for acts of terrorism and by individuals  
7       who died committing acts of terrorism during the  
8       previous calendar year”.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10      Congress—

11           (1) calls on the Palestinian Authority, the Pal-  
12       estine Liberation Organization, and any successor or  
13       affiliated organizations to stop payments for acts of  
14       terrorism by individuals who are imprisoned after  
15       being fairly tried and convicted for acts of terrorism  
16       and by individuals who died committing acts of ter-  
17       rorism and to repeal the laws authorizing such pay-  
18       ments;

19           (2) calls on all donor countries providing budg-  
20       etary assistance to the Palestinian Authority to  
21       cease direct budgetary support until the Palestinian  
22       Authority stops all payments incentivizing terror;

23           (3) urges the Palestinian Authority to develop  
24       programs to provide essential public services and  
25       support to any individual in need within its jurisdic-

1       tional control, rather than to provide payments con-  
2       tingent on perpetrating acts of violence;

20 SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE WEST BANK

21 AND GAZA.

## 22 (a) LIMITATION.—

1 able for assistance under chapter 4 of part II of the  
2 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et  
3 seq.; relating to Economic Support Fund) and avail-  
4 able for assistance for the West Bank and Gaza that  
5 directly benefits the Palestinian Authority may only  
6 be made available for such purpose if, except as pro-  
7 vided in subsection (d), not later than 30 days after  
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180  
9 days thereafter, the Secretary of State certifies in  
10 writing to the appropriate congressional committees  
11 that the Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Libera-  
12 tion Organization, and any successor or affiliated or-  
13 ganizations—

14 (A) are taking credible steps to end acts of  
15 violence against Israeli citizens and United  
16 States citizens that are perpetrated or materi-  
17 ally assisted by individuals under their jurisdic-  
18 tional control, such as the March 2016 attack  
19 that killed former United States Army officer  
20 Taylor Force, a veteran of the wars in Iraq and  
21 Afghanistan;

22 (B) have terminated payments for acts of  
23 terrorism against Israeli citizens and United  
24 States citizens to any individual, after being  
25 fairly tried, who has been imprisoned for such

1           acts of terrorism and to any individual who died  
2           committing such acts of terrorism, including to  
3           a family member of such individuals;

4                         (C) have revoked any law, decree, regulation,  
5                         or document authorizing or implementing  
6                         a system of compensation for imprisoned indi-  
7                         viduals that uses the sentence or period of in-  
8                         carceration of an individual imprisoned for an  
9                         act of terrorism to determine the level of com-  
10                         pensation paid, or have taken comparable ac-  
11                         tion that has the effect of invalidating any such  
12                         law, decree, regulation, or document; and

13                         (D) are publicly condemning such acts of  
14                         violence and are taking steps to investigate or  
15                         are cooperating in investigations of such acts to  
16                         bring the perpetrators to justice.

17                         (2) ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION REQUIRE-  
18                         MENT.—The Secretary of State shall include in the  
19                         certification required under paragraph (1) the defi-  
20                         nition of “acts of terrorism” that the Secretary used  
21                         for purposes of making the determination in sub-  
22                         paragraph (B) of such paragraph.

23                         (b) EXCEPTION.—

1                         (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
2                         the limitation on assistance under subsection (a)  
3                         shall not apply to—

4                             (A) payments made to the East Jerusalem  
5                         Hospital Network;

6                             (B) assistance for wastewater projects; and

7                             (C) assistance for any other program,  
8                         project, or activity that provides vaccinations to  
9                         children.

10                         (2) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State  
11                         shall notify in writing the appropriate congressional  
12                         committees not later than 15 days prior to making  
13                         funds available for assistance under subparagraph  
14                         (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1).

15                         (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Funds withheld pur-  
16                         suant to this section—

17                         (1) shall be deemed to satisfy any similar with-  
18                         holding or reduction required under any other provi-  
19                         sion of law relating to the Palestinian Authority's  
20                         payments for acts of terrorism; and

21                         (2) shall be in an amount that is not less than  
22                         the total amount required by such other provision of  
23                         law.

24                         (d) INITIAL USE AND DISPOSITION OF WITHHELD  
25                         FUNDS.—

1                             (1) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Funds withheld  
2 pursuant to this section are authorized to remain  
3 available for an additional 2 years from the date on  
4 which the availability of such funds would otherwise  
5 have expired.

6                             (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds withheld pursuant  
7 to this section may be made available for assistance  
8 for the West Bank and Gaza that directly benefits  
9 the Palestinian Authority upon a certification by the  
10 Secretary of State that the Palestinian Authority,  
11 the Palestine Liberation Organization, and any suc-  
12 cessor or affiliated organizations have met the condi-  
13 tions set forth in subsection (a). Except as provided  
14 in paragraph (3), such funds may not be made avail-  
15 able for any purpose other than for assistance for  
16 the West Bank and Gaza that directly benefits the  
17 Palestinian Authority.

18                             (3) DISPOSITION OF UNUSED FUNDS.—Begin-  
19 ning on the date that is 180 days after the last day  
20 on which the initial availability of funds withheld  
21 pursuant to this section would otherwise have ex-  
22 pired, such funds are authorized to be made avail-  
23 able to the Department of State for assistance under  
24 chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act  
25 of 1961 (22 U.S.C.2346 et seq.; relating to Eco-

1 nomic Support Fund) for purposes other than assist-  
2 ance for the West Bank and Gaza.

3 (e) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of State is  
5 unable to certify in writing to the appropriate con-  
6 gressional committees that the Palestinian Author-  
7 ity, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and any  
8 successor or affiliated organizations have met the  
9 conditions described in subsection (a), the Secretary  
10 shall, not later than 15 days after the date on which  
11 the Secretary is unable to make such certification,  
12 submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
13 a report that contains the following:

14 (A) The reasons why the Secretary was  
15 unable to certify in writing that such organiza-  
16 tions have met such requirements.

17 (B) The definition of “acts of terrorism”  
18 that the Secretary used for purposes of making  
19 the determination in subparagraph (B) of sub-  
20 section (a)(1).

21 (C) The total amount of funds to be with-  
22 held.

23 (2) FORM.—The report required by this sub-  
24 section shall be submitted in unclassified form but  
25 may include a classified annex.

## 1       (f) LIST OF CRITERIA.—

2                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after  
3                 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
4                 of State shall submit to the appropriate congres-  
5                 sional committees a list of the criteria that the Sec-  
6                 retary uses to determine whether assistance for the  
7                 West Bank and Gaza is assistance that directly ben-  
8                 efits the Palestinian Authority for purposes of car-  
9                 rying out this section.

10                 (2) UPDATE.—The Secretary of State shall  
11                 submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
12                 an updated list under paragraph (1) not later than  
13                 15 days after the date on which the Secretary makes  
14                 any modification to the list.

15 **SEC. 5. INITIAL REPORT.**

16                 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
17                 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State  
18                 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
19                 a report describing those programs, projects, and activities  
20                 funded by the United States Government that have been  
21                 or will be suspended by reason of withholding of funds  
22                 under section 4.

23                 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)  
24                 shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include  
25                 a classified annex.

1   **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT.**

2                 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
3   date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter  
4   for 6 years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the ap-  
5   propriate congressional committees a report including at  
6   a minimum the following elements:

7                     (1) An estimate of the amount expended by the  
8   Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Liberation Or-  
9   ganization, and any successor or affiliated organiza-  
10   tions during the previous calendar year as payments  
11   for acts of terrorism by individuals who are impris-  
12   oned for such acts.

13                   (2) An estimate of the amount expended by the  
14   Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Liberation Or-  
15   ganization, and any successor or affiliated organiza-  
16   tions during the previous calendar year as payments  
17   to the families of deceased individuals who com-  
18   mitted an act of terrorism.

19                   (3) An overview of Palestinian laws, decrees,  
20   regulations, or documents in effect the previous cal-  
21   endar year that authorize or implement any pay-  
22   ments reported under paragraphs (1) and (2).

23                   (4) A description of United States Government  
24   policy, efforts, and engagement with the Palestinian  
25   Authority in order to confirm the revocation of any  
26   law, decree, regulation, or document in effect the

1 previous calendar year that authorizes or implements  
2 any payments reported under paragraphs (1) and  
3 (2).

4 (5) A description of United States Government  
5 policy, efforts, and engagement with other govern-  
6 ments, and at the United Nations, to highlight the  
7 issue of Palestinian payments for acts of terrorism  
8 and to urge other nations to join the United States  
9 in calling on the Palestinian Authority to imme-  
10 diately cease such payments.

11 (b) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by sub-  
12 section (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may  
13 include a classified annex.

14 **SEC. 7. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**  
15 **FINED.**

16 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
17 mittees” means—

18 (1) the Committee on Appropriations and the  
19 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-  
20 resentatives; and

1                   (2) the Committee on Appropriations and the  
2                   Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

Passed the House of Representatives December 5,  
2017.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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