

**URGING THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ADD
HEZBOLLAH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION'S WIDE-
RANGING LIST OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS**

MARKUP

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND
NONPROLIFERATION
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. Res. 101

MARCH 3, 2005

Serial No. 109-8

Printed for the use of the Committee on International Relations



Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.house.gov/international_relations

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

99-596PDF

WASHINGTON : 2005

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512-1800; DC area (202) 512-1800
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**URGING THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ADD
HEZBOLLAH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION'S
WIDE-RANGING LIST OF TERRORIST
ORGANIZATIONS**

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2005

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
AND NONPROLIFERATION,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 2:28 p.m. in room 2200, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ed Royce (Chairman of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. ROYCE. Pursuant to notice, we are going to call up House Resolution 101, Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations, for purposes of markup. Without objection this resolution is going to be considered as read and will be open for amendment at any point.

[H. Res. 101 follows:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 101

Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CANTOR, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. ACKERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations.

Whereas Hezbollah is a Lebanon-based radical organization with terrorist cells based in Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Asia, and elsewhere, receiving financial, training, weapons, and political and organizational aid from Iran and Syria;

Whereas Hezbollah has led a 23-year global campaign of terror targeting American, German, French, British, Italian, Israeli, Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian, Argentinean, Thai, Singaporean, and Russian civilians, among others;

Whereas former Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet called Hezbollah "an organization with the capa-

bility and worldwide presence [equal to] al Qaeda, equal if not far more [of a] capable organization . . . [t]hey're a notch above in many respects . . . which puts them in a state sponsored category with a potential for lethality that's quite great";

Whereas Hezbollah has been suspected of numerous terrorist acts against Americans, including the suicide truck bombing of the United States Embassy and Marine Barracks in Beirut in October 1983 and the Embassy annex in Beirut in September 1984;

Whereas the French unit of the Multinational Force in Beirut was also targeted in the October 1983 attack, in which 241 United States soldiers and 58 French paratroopers were killed;

Whereas Hezbollah has attacked Israeli and Jewish targets in South America in the mid-1990s, including the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 1992 and the AMIA Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires in July 1994;

Whereas Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for kidnappings of United States and Israeli civilians and French, British, German, and Russian diplomats, among others;

Whereas even after the adherence of Israel to United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 (1978) by withdrawing from Lebanon, Hezbollah has continued to carry out attacks against Israel and its citizens;

Whereas Hezbollah has expanded its operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, providing training, financing and weapons to Palestinian terrorist organizations on the European Union terrorist list, including the Al Aqsa Mar-

tyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine;

Whereas in 2004 Hezbollah instigated, financed, or played a role in implementing nearly 80 percent of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israeli targets, resulting in over 20 percent of Israeli casualties in terrorist attacks for that year;

Whereas the European Union agreed by consensus to classify Hamas, another Palestinian terrorist organization, as a terrorist organization for purposes of prohibiting funding from the European Union to Hamas;

Whereas the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–175) urges the Government of Lebanon to assert the sovereignty of the Lebanese state over all of its territory and to evict all terrorist and foreign forces from southern Lebanon, including Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards;

Whereas, although the European Union has included Imad Fayiz Mughniyah, a key operations and intelligence officer of Hezbollah, on its terrorist list, it has not included his organization on the list;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia have all classified Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and the United Kingdom has placed the Hezbollah External Security Organization on its terrorist list;

Whereas leaders of Hezbollah have made statements denouncing any distinction between its “political and military” operations, such as Hezbollah’s representative in the Lebanese Parliament, Mohammad Raad, who stated in 2001 that “Hezbollah is a military resistance party, and it is

our task to fight the occupation of our land. . . . There is no separation between politics and resistance.”;

Whereas in a book recently published by the deputy secretary-general of Hezbollah, Sheikh Naim Qassem, entitled “Hezbollah -- the Approach, the Experience, the Future”, Qassem writes “Hezbollah is a jihad organization whose aim, first and foremost, is jihad against the Zionist enemy, while the political, pure and sensible effort can serve as a prop and a means of support for jihad”;

Whereas United Nations Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), jointly sponsored by the United States and France, calls upon all remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon and for the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, among other things;

Whereas in December 2004 the Department of State placed Al-Manar, Hezbollah’s satellite television network, on the Terrorist Exclusion List, and in December 2004 the French Council of State banned the broadcasting of Al-Manar in France

Whereas France, Germany, and Great Britain, with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, have created a working group with Iran to discuss regional security concerns, including the influence of terror stemming from Hezbollah and other extremist organizations; and

Whereas cooperation between the United States and the European Union regarding combating international terrorism is essential to the promotion of global security and peace: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) urges the European Union to classify
2 Hezbollah as a terrorist organization for purposes of
3 prohibiting funding from the European Union to
4 Hezbollah and recognizing it as a threat to inter-
5 national security;

6 (2) condemns the continuous terrorist attacks
7 perpetrated by Hezbollah; and

8 (3) condemns Hezbollah's continuous support of
9 Palestinian terrorist organizations on the European
10 Union terrorist list, such as the Al Aqsa Martyrs
11 Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and
12 the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

○

Mr. ROYCE. I am going to recognize myself for an opening statement, and then I will go to Mr. Sherman for any statement he might want to make.

Last month this Subcommittee met jointly with the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia to hold a hearing on Iran: A Quarter Century of State-Sponsored Terror. Appropriately, there was a large focus on Iranian governmental sponsorship of the Hezbollah terrorist organization.

A few years ago, Deputy Secretary of State Armitage said, "Hezbollah may be the A team of terrorists, and maybe al-Qaeda is actually the B team." Our former Director of Central Intelligence shared this assessment in 2003, calling Hezbollah a notch above al-Qaeda organizationally in part of its deadly ties with Iran.

Before September 11, Hezbollah was responsible for killing more Americans than any other terrorist organization, including al-Qaeda. Of course, after 9/11, al-Qaeda holds that record.

To combat the grave threat posed by Hezbollah, the United States will need to employ a variety of tools. Importantly, we will need the help of our allies. This resolution encourages the European Union to classify Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and to recognize that organization as a threat to international security.

I would also like to recognize our Ranking Member, Mr. Sherman from California, from Sherman Oaks, the best named city, as you say, in California, for purposes of any statement he might want to make. Brad?

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution. I thank you for bringing it up before our Subcommittee. It is high time that our friends in Europe join us in proscribing Hezbollah, which is, after all, responsible for the deaths of more Americans than any terrorist organization other than al-Qaeda.

We heard 2 weeks ago in our joint hearing on Iran how Hezbollah is really the A team of terrorism. Quite often, know-how and assistance has flowed from Hezbollah to al-Qaeda and to other terrorist groups. There is a tendency not only in Europe, but the United States, to compartmentalize organizations in a way that makes no sense; to say, "Oh, that is the political wing or that is the press spokesman or that is the fundraiser for the terrorist organization, and hence they are not involved in terrorism." This is, of course, absurd.

Terrorist organizations are just political organizations which use abhorrent methods. Some have central committees, conventions, press offices, propaganda operations. They run newspapers, radio and television stations. Some, like Hezbollah, participate in parliamentary democracy. Some have lobbyists. That does not mean they are not terrorist organizations.

We passed legislation last year, originating in this Subcommittee, which recognized this basic fact. Terrorists have aliases. They have front groups, and sometimes they run legitimate operations. Hezbollah may run a daycare center. Nazi Germany had hospitals, but just because a terrorist organization is engaged in some non-violent or even beneficial activity does not mean that it and all of its constituent parts are not one terrorist organization.

This is particularly important because Hezbollah and her patron State, Iran, are expert at using front business groups and aliases to conduct operations and gather intelligence.

Now, I mention all this in connection with Al Manar Television, which is Hezbollah's television station. It has a bureau here in Washington. It is a critical component of Hezbollah. We must examine why this Administration fails to take any legal action against the employees of Hezbollah working here in our Nation's capital.

A number of us joined Gary Ackerman and wrote the Administration, urging that it add Al Manar to the State Department and Treasury lists as an alias or affiliate of Hezbollah and to take all appropriate legal action not only to prevent this terrorist organization from conducting operations openly here in Washington, DC, but to make sure that the full force—well, the letter does not go one step further, but it should have, and that is to urge that the full force of our criminal law be applied to anyone who aids, participates or is an employee of a terrorist organization, even if they can say, "Well, I am not in the terrorist department of the terrorist organization."

This is not contrary to the First Amendment. There is no difference between Al Manar and a hypothetical al-Qaeda newspaper. Neither are legitimate press operations.

I thank Congressmen Wexler and Saxton for this resolution and for their work on this issue. I urge this Committee to pass this resolution and to further press Europeans at every stage and in every joint legislative meeting to add Hezbollah to their terrorist list. This is particularly important as Lebanon struggles to free itself from Syrian occupation.

I also urge the Bush Administration, as I have earlier in this statement, to take all legal action against Al Manar and other Hezbollah fronts in the United States and the individuals who are employees/supporters of Hezbollah in its front organizations.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Saxton is the author of this particular measure, but an original co-sponsor is Mr. Wexler, who is with us, and so we will allow Mr. Wexler to make any statement he might want to make at this time.

Mr. WEXLER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I join in with the Chairman and Mr. Sherman in urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list, as well as you did, Mr. Chairman, acknowledging the authorship of Congressman Saxton and Congressman Engel, in the principal parts of this resolution.

For 23 years, Hezbollah had led a global campaign of terror aided by Syria and Iran that has targeted American, Israeli, European, South American, Asian and Arab citizens alike.

Since its inception in 1982, Hezbollah has carried out the bombings of the American Embassy in Lebanon, the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, the United States and French Marine bases in Beirut, the hijacking of two Kuwaiti airliners, numerous attacks on Israel and the kidnapping and murder of dozens of westerners in Lebanon.

For the past two decades, Hezbollah has also had a presence in Europe where its operatives have planned and carried out kidnappings and attacks. In past years, Hezbollah has increasingly supported groups designated by the EU as terrorist organizations, including the al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Moreover, EU member states such as France and Germany have taken recent legal action against Hezbollah, including the German deportation of Hezbollah agents and the French banning of Hezbollah television, Al Manar.

The EU has also included several officials affiliated with Hezbollah on its terrorist list, thereby precluding the transfer of funds to these individuals from EU member states. It defies logic that the EU would take such action and at the same time omit Hezbollah from its terrorist list.

In fact, an EU representative recently affirmed that the Palestinian officials are increasingly concerned about the enhanced presence of Hezbollah in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Palestinians fear that Hezbollah will undermine a negotiated cease-fire and target Abu Mazen, who has faced severe criticism for Hezbollah in addition to assassination threats.

A Palestinian official recently cited an intercepted e-mail and bank transaction indicating that Hezbollah has increased its payments to Palestinian terrorists from \$20,000 to \$100,000 per attack. Failing to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list, the EU may be enabling the transaction of such funds.

In past years, EU states have sought to distinguish between the political and military wings of Hezbollah. However, Hezbollah officials themselves do not believe this distinction, proving the futility of such claims.

This was reiterated by Muhammad Raad, one of Hezbollah's representatives in the Lebanese Parliament, who stated that, "Hezbollah is a military resistance party, and it is our task to fight the occupation of our land. There is no separation between politics and resistance."

Hezbollah does not discriminate in the targeting of innocent civilians, and the EU should not discriminate in the categorizing of terror. As such, the EU must join the ranks of America, Canada, Israel and Australia in imposing a financial block on Hezbollah and adding them to its terrorist list.

Thank you very much for your courtesy, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

Is there any other further discussion on this measure?

[No response.]

Mr. ROYCE. If not, are there any amendments?

[No response.]

Mr. ROYCE. Hearing no amendments, the question occurs on the motion to report the resolution, House Resolution 101, favorably. All in favor say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Mr. ROYCE. All opposed, no.

[No response.]

Mr. ROYCE. The motion is approved, and the resolution is reported favorably.

The staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

That completes our work on the markup. We are now going to move to our hearing.

[Whereupon, at 2:39 p.m. the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

