

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 676

To locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a citizen of the United States, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 1999

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. SANTORUM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a citizen of the United States, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

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. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Zachary Baumel, a citizen of the United
6 States serving in the Israeli military forces, has been
7 missing in action since June 1982 when he was cap-
8 tured by forces affiliated with the Palestinian Lib-

1 eration Organization (PLO) following a tank battle
2 with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon.

3 (2) Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman, Israeli citi-
4 zens serving in the Israeli military forces, have been
5 missing in action since June 1982 when they were
6 also captured by these same forces in a tank battle
7 with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon.

8 (3) These three soldiers were last known to be
9 in the hands of a Palestinian faction splintered from
10 the PLO and operating in Syrian-controlled terri-
11 tory, thus making this a matter within the responsi-
12 bility of the Government of Syria.

13 (4) Diplomatic efforts to secure their release
14 have been unsuccessful, although PLO Chairman
15 Yasir Arafat delivered one-half of Zachary Baumel's
16 dog tag to Israeli government authorities.

17 (5) In the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the
18 Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel
19 of May 4, 1994, Palestinian officials agreed to co-
20 operate with Israel in locating and working for the
21 return of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

22 **SEC. 2. ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.**

23 (a) RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—
24 The Secretary of State shall raise the matter of Zachary
25 Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman on an urgent

1 basis with appropriate government officials of Syria, Leb-
2 anon, the Palestinian Authority, and with other govern-
3 ments in the region and other governments elsewhere
4 which in the Secretary's view may be helpful in locating
5 and securing the return of these soldiers.

6 (b) COOPERATION AS A FACTOR IN DETERMINA-
7 TIONS OF ASSISTANCE.—Decisions with regard to United
8 States economic and other forms of assistance to Syria,
9 Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other govern-
10 ments in the region, and United States policy towards
11 these governments and authorities, should take into con-
12 sideration the willingness of these governments and au-
13 thorities to assist in locating and securing the return of
14 these soldiers.

15 **SEC. 3. REPORTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

16 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Ninety days after the date of
17 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit
18 a report in writing to Congress detailing the Secretary's
19 consultations with governments pursuant to section 2(a)
20 and the changes in United States policies made pursuant
21 to section 2(b). The report shall be a public document and
22 may include a classified annex.

23 (b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—After the initial report
24 to Congress, the Secretary of State shall submit a report
25 in writing to Congress within 15 days whenever any addi-

1 tional information from any source relating to these indi-
2 viduals arises. The report shall be a public document and
3 may include a classified annex.

4 (c) CONGRESSIONAL RECIPIENTS OF REPORTS.—The
5 reports to Congress identified in subsections (a) and (b)
6 shall be made to the Committee on International Relations
7 of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on
8 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

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