

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 238

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to promote Israeli–Palestinian peace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2013

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. CONYERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to promote Israeli–Palestinian peace.

Whereas United States support for a two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict is based on the recognition that this solution can both best serve Israel’s security and permanence as a Jewish homeland while helping the Palestinian people achieve a future of independence and national self-determination;

Whereas a true and lasting two-state solution is essential to the resolution of Israeli–Arab disputes and to the achievement of long-term peace and stability in the broader Middle East;

Whereas a true and lasting two-state solution is in the national security interests of the United States and to ensure the safety and security of Israel;

Whereas a true and lasting two-state solution will only be established through resolution of outstanding issues between Israel and the recognized leadership of the Palestinian people;

Whereas successive United States Presidents and successive United States Congresses have recognized that promoting Israeli–Palestinian and Israeli–Arab peace is an integral element of the United States commitment to Israel’s security and its survival, as well as to the stability of the entire Middle East region;

Whereas successive United States administrations, led by Presidents from both parties, have invested substantial diplomatic resources in support of peace efforts, including under—

(1) President Ronald Reagan, the 1982 Reagan Plan for Middle East Peace;

(2) President George H.W. Bush, the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference;

(3) President Bill Clinton, the 1993 Oslo Accords, the 1995 Wye River Memorandum, the 2000 Camp David Summit, and the 2000 Clinton Parameters;

(4) President George W. Bush, the 2001 “Sharm El-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee Report”, also known as the Mitchell Report, the 2003 “Roadmap for Peace in the Middle East”, the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access, and the 2007 Annapolis Conference; and

(5) under President Barack Obama, the 2009 appointment of Senator George Mitchell as the United

States Special Envoy for Middle East peace, and the efforts since then to restart Israeli–Palestinian peace talks;

Whereas Hamas does not recognize Israel’s right to exist, continues to launch rocket and missile attacks against Israel, has not disavowed violence, and does not recognize or abide by existing binding agreements;

Whereas the State of Israel is subject to existential threats from those seeking to deny the deep historical, cultural, and spiritual connection of the Jewish people to their homeland;

Whereas on March 21, 2013, while speaking in both Ramallah and Jerusalem, President Obama stated that the Palestinian people deserve “an end to occupation and the daily indignities that come with it.”;

Whereas President Obama added, “It is not right to prevent Palestinians from farming their lands; to restrict a student’s ability to move around the West Bank; or to displace Palestinian families from their home. Neither occupation nor expulsion is the answer. Just as Israelis built a state in their homeland, Palestinians have a right to be a free people in their own land.”;

Whereas successive United States administrations have opposed Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, recognizing them to be a political and security liability for Israel and an impediment to efforts to achieve a negotiated resolution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, among other reasons; and

Whereas the United States goal of helping to secure Israel’s security and safety as a democratic homeland for the Jewish people well into the future is best served through

achievement of an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians to resolve their conflict: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms its commitment to supporting
3 United States actions that promote peace between
4 Israel and the Palestinians and are designed to en-
5 sure the safety and security of Israel and its people;

6 (2) reaffirms its support for previous agree-
7 ments reached between Israel and the Palestinians
8 and adopted by third parties that recognize Israel's
9 right to exist and promote a Palestinian state to
10 meet the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian
11 people for self-determination within their own na-
12 tion;

13 (3) commends the Obama administration and
14 its predecessors for their resolute commitment to
15 Israel's survival and security and for their efforts to
16 demonstrate this commitment through the promotion
17 of Israeli–Palestinian negotiations to achieve a reso-
18 lution of their conflict and the establishment of a
19 long-term peace in the region;

20 (4) calls on Hamas to recognize Israel's right to
21 exist, denounce violence, abide by existing agree-
22 ments, and to prevent rocket and missile attacks
23 against Israel;

1 (5) calls upon states, international organiza-
2 tions, and individuals to oppose efforts to deny the
3 deep historical, cultural, and spiritual connection of
4 the Jewish people to Israel;

5 (6) calls upon Arab and Muslim-majority states
6 to build upon efforts such as the Arab Peace Initia-
7 tive, combat anti-Israel extremism, and otherwise
8 work towards full normalization of state-to-state re-
9 lations with the State of Israel;

10 (7) calls on the Israeli Government to cease
11 support for and to prevent further settlement expan-
12 sion in the Occupied Territories;

13 (8) commends the Obama administration for
14 supporting Israel's Iron Dome Missile Defense Sys-
15 tem to help intercept rocket attacks and prevent
16 them from devastating civilian populations in Israel;

17 (9) calls on Israel and Hamas to uphold the ex-
18 isting ceasefire agreement and exercise strong cau-
19 tion so as to avoid an escalation that would only lead
20 to further violence, destruction, and loss of life;

21 (10) applauds President Obama's recent efforts
22 at the beginning of his second term to initiate a
23 new, diplomatic effort with the mandate for negotia-
24 tions to achieve a peace agreement between Israel

1 and the Palestinian people and urges continued ro-
2 bust efforts towards a peaceful resolution; and

3 (11) calls on President Obama to establish an
4 achievable timeline for negotiations backed by a
5 strong international coalition of stakeholders includ-
6 ing “The Quartet” to provide assurance to the nego-
7 tiating parties that their agreement will be enduring
8 and enforceable.

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