

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 526

Supporting Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2014

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Supporting Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas,
and for other purposes.

Whereas Hamas, an organization designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States Department of State since 1997, has fired over 2,500 rockets indiscriminately from Gaza into Israel;

Whereas Israel has a right to defend itself from Hamas's constant barrage of rockets and to destroy the matrix of tunnels Hamas uses to smuggle weapons and Hamas fighters into Israel to carry out terrorist attacks;

Whereas the Government of Israel has taken significant steps to protect civilians in Gaza, including dropping leaflets in Gaza neighborhoods in advance of Israeli military attacks, calling Palestinians on the phone urging them to

evacuate certain areas before the military strikes targets, and issuing warnings to civilians in advance of firing on buildings;

Whereas Israel's attacks have focused on terrorist targets such as Hamas's munitions storage sites, areas sheltering Hamas's rocket systems, Hamas's weapons manufacturing sites, the homes of militant leaders, and on the vast labyrinth of tunnels Hamas's fighters use to penetrate Israel's territory and attack Israelis;

Whereas Hamas uses rockets to indiscriminately target civilians in Israel;

Whereas Israel has accepted and implemented numerous ceasefire agreements that Hamas has rejected;

Whereas Hamas continued to fire rockets into Israel during a 24-hour truce that Hamas had itself proposed;

Whereas Israel embraced the Egyptian-proposed ceasefire agreement, which Hamas resoundingly rejected on July 27, 2014;

Whereas Hamas intentionally uses civilians as human shields;

Whereas Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist;

Whereas Israel's Iron Dome has protected Israel's civilian population from the over 2,500 rockets that Hamas has indiscriminately fired into Israel since July 7, 2014;

Whereas, without Iron Dome's ability to intercept and destroy Hamas's missiles, Israeli neighborhoods would have been significantly damaged and Israeli casualties would have been much higher;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council voted to accept a biased resolution establishing a Commission of Inquiry to determine if Israel violated human rights and

humanitarian law during the ongoing conflict with Gaza;
and

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution makes no mention of investigating Hamas's indiscriminate rocket attacks against Israel, nor Hamas's policy of using Palestinian civilians as human shields: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) laments all loss of innocent civilian life;

3 (2) condemns the United Nations Human
4 Rights Council's resolution on July 23, 2014, which
5 calls for yet another prejudged investigation of Israel
6 while making no mention of Hamas's continued assault
7 against Israel, and also calls for an investigation
8 into potential human rights violations by Israel
9 in the current Gaza conflict without mentioning
10 Hamas's assault against innocent civilians and its
11 use of civilian shields;

12 (3) supports Israel's right to defend itself
13 against Hamas's unrelenting and indiscriminate
14 rocket assault into Israel and Israel's right to destroy
15 Hamas's elaborate tunnel system into Israel's
16 territory;

17 (4) condemns Hamas's terrorist actions and use
18 of civilians as human shields;

19 (5) supports United States mediation efforts for
20 a durable ceasefire agreement that immediately ends

1 Hamas's rocket assault and leads to the demili-
2 tarization of Gaza; and

3 (6) supports additional funding the Government
4 of Israel needs to replenish Iron Dome missiles and
5 enhance Israel's defensive capabilities.

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