

Whereas Saleh Al-Azraq, a journalist who was aboard the ship, recounted that, "The moment the ship set sail, the cries of 'Allahu Akbar' began . . . It made you feel as if you were going on an Islamic conquest or raid," according to an interview recorded on Al-Hiwar TV on June 4, 2010;

Whereas Hussein Orush, a Humanitarian Relief Foundation official, read from the diary of a dead Mavi Marmara passenger: "The last lines he wrote before the attack were: 'Only a short time left before martyrdom. This is the most important stage of my life. Nothing is more beautiful than martyrdom, except for one's love for one's mother. But I don't know what is sweeter—my mother or martyrdom.'", and also stated, "All the passengers on board the ship were ready for this outcome. Everybody wanted and was ready to become a martyr. . . . Our goal was to reach Gaza or to die trying. All the ship's passengers were ready for this. IHH was ready for this too.", according to an interview recorded on Al-Jazeera TV on June 5, 2010;

Whereas Ali Haider Banjinin, another dead Mavi Marmara passenger, told his family before departing on the flotilla, "I am going to be a martyr, I dreamed about it," according to news reports in Turkey;

Whereas Ali Ekber Yaratilmis, another dead Mavi Marmara passenger, "always wanted to become a Martyr," one of his friends told Al-Hayat Al-Jadida newspaper in an interview on June 3, 2010;

Whereas one female passenger on the deck of the Mavi Marmara stated, "Right now we face one of two happy endings: either martyrdom or reaching Gaza," according to Al Jazeera footage taken prior to the incident;

Whereas the Government of Israel had extended a reasonable offer to transfer the flotilla's humanitarian cargo to Gaza;

Whereas the Mavi Marmara and the other ships of the flotilla ignored repeated Israeli calls to turn around or be peacefully escorted to an Israeli port outside of Gaza;

Whereas, on May 31, 2010, the Israeli Navy intercepted the Mavi Marmara 75 miles west of Haifa, Israel, in an effort to maintain the integrity of the blockade and prevent potential smuggling of arms and other materiel into the hands of Hamas;

Whereas upon the boarding of the Mavi Marmara by the Israeli Navy, the Mavi Marmara's passengers brutally and violently attacked the members of the Israeli Navy with knives, clubs, pipes, and other weapons, injuring several of them;

Whereas the members of the Israeli Navy, under attack and in grave danger, reacted in self-defense and used lethal force against their attackers on the Mavi Marmara, shooting and killing 9 of them;

Whereas the incident has fomented unwarranted international criticism of Israel and its blockade of Gaza;

Whereas in the time since the attack, the United Nations has unjustly criticized the actions of the Government of Israel and called for an investigation of such actions; and

Whereas the actions of the United Nations are undermining Israel's inherent right to self-defense, compromising its sovereignty, and helping to legitimize Hamas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) that Israel has an inherent and undeniable right to defend itself against any threat to the safety of its citizens;

(2) to reaffirm that the United States stands with Israel in pursuit of shared security goals, including the security of Israel;

(3) to condemn the violent attack and provocation by extremists aboard the Mavi Marmara, who created a highly destabilizing

incident in a region that cannot afford further instability;

(4) to condemn any future such attempts to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza for the purpose of creating or provoking violent confrontation or otherwise undermining the security of Israel;

(5) to condemn Hamas for its failure to recognize the right of Israel to exist, its human rights abuses against the residents of Gaza, and its continued rejection of a constructive path to peace for the Israeli and Palestinian people;

(6) to condemn the Government of Iran for its role, past and present, in directly supporting Hamas and undermining the security of Israel;

(7) to encourage the Government of Turkey to recognize the importance of continued strong relations with Israel and the necessity of closely scrutinizing organizations with potential ties to terrorist groups.

PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 440, S. 3249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3249) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster hazard mitigation program and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment.

S. 3249

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON EARMARKS.

Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(n) PROHIBITION ON EARMARKS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to carry out this section may be used for congressionally directed spending, as defined under rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

"(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If grants are awarded under this section using procedures other than competitive procedures, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to Congress a report explaining why competitive procedures were not used."

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table without intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3249), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE 235TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary

Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 286 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 286) recognizing the 235th birthday of the United States Army.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that a Leahy-Levin amendment to the resolution, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that a Leahy-Levin amendment to the preamble, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and any statements related to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4399) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4399

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: That Congress—

(1) expresses its appreciation to the members of the United States Army for 235 years of dedicated service; and

(2) honors the valor, commitment, and sacrifice that members of the United States Army, their families, and Army civilians have displayed throughout the history of the Army.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4400) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4400

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, representing the citizens of 13 American colonies, authorized the establishment of the Continental Army;

Whereas for the past 235 years, the United States Army's central mission has been to fight and win wars;

Whereas the 183 campaign streamers from Lexington to Iraqi Surge carried on the Army flag are a testament to the valor, commitment, and sacrifice of the brave members of the United States Army;

Whereas members of the United States Army have won extraordinary distinction and respect for the Nation and its Army stemming from engagements around the globe;

Whereas in 2010, the United States will reflect on the contributions of members of the United States Army on the Korean peninsula in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War;

Whereas the motto on the United States Army seal, "This We'll Defend", is the creed by which the members of the Army live and serve;

Whereas the United States Army is an all-volunteer force that is trained and ready for any adversary that might threaten our Nation or its national security interests; and

Whereas no matter what the cause, location, or magnitude of future conflicts, the

United States can rely on its well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated members of the United States Army to successfully carry out the missions entrusted to them: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

AMMONIUM NITRATE FERTILIZER

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 570, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 570) calling for continued support for and an increased effort by the Governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other Central Asian countries to effectively monitor and regulate the manufacture, sale, transport, and use of ammonium nitrate fertilizer in order to prevent the transport of ammonium nitrate into Afghanistan where the ammonium nitrate is used in improvised explosive devices.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 570) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 570

Whereas it is illegal to manufacture, own, or use ammonium nitrate fertilizer in Afghanistan since a ban was instituted by Afghan President Hamid Karzai in January 2010;

Whereas ammonium nitrate fertilizer has historically been and continues to be 1 of the primary explosive ingredients used in improvised explosive devices (referred to in this preamble as "IEDs") by Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan against the United States and coalition forces;

Whereas 275 United States troops were killed by IEDs in Afghanistan in 2009;

Whereas large amounts of ammonium nitrate are shipped into Afghanistan from Pakistan, Iran, and other Central Asian countries;

Whereas the Government of Pakistan has indicated a willingness to work collaboratively with the Governments of the United States and Afghanistan to address the regulation and interdiction of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and other IED precursors; and

Whereas the United States government currently provides assistance to Pakistan for agricultural development and capacity building: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other Central Asian countries to fully commit to regulating the sale, transport, and use of ammonium nitrate in the region;

(2) calls on the Secretary of State—

(A) to continue to diplomatically engage with the Governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other Central Asian countries to address the proliferation and transportation of ammonium nitrate and other improvised explosive device ("IED") precursors in the region; and

(B) to work with the World Customs Organization and other international bodies, as the Secretary of State determines to be appropriate, on initiatives to improve controls globally on IED components; and

(3) urges the Secretary of State to work with the Governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other Central Asian countries to encourage and support improvements in infrastructure and procedures at border crossings to prevent the flow of ammonium nitrate and other IED precursors or components into the region.

RELEASE OF GILAD SHALIT

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 571, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 571) calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit held captive by Hamas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 571) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 571

Whereas Congress previously expressed its concern for missing Israeli soldiers in the Act entitled "An Act to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a United States citizen, and other soldiers missing in action", approved November 8, 1999 (Public Law 106-89; 113 Stat. 1305), which required the Secretary of State to raise the status of missing Israeli soldiers with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other governments in the region, and to submit to Congress reports on those efforts and any subsequent discovery of relevant information;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 107 on March 13, 2007, regarding Gilad Shalit and other Israeli soldiers illegally attacked and captured by terrorists;

Whereas Israel completed its withdrawal from Gaza on September 12, 2005;

Whereas, on June 25, 2006, Hamas together with allied terrorists crossed into Israel to attack a military post, killing two soldiers and wounding and kidnapping Gilad Shalit in a blatantly illegal and extortionate effort to coerce the Government of Israel;

Whereas Hamas has prevented access to Gilad Shalit by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

Whereas Hamas has refused to provide Gilad Shalit with regular contact with his family or any other party, or to allow his family to know where he is being held;

Whereas Hamas has compelled Gilad Shalit to appear in video and voice recordings intended to illegally and extortionately coerce the Government of Israel; and

Whereas Gilad Shalit has been held in captivity by Hamas for almost four years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) demands that—

(A) Hamas immediately and unconditionally release Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit; and

(B) Hamas—

(i) allow prompt access to the Israeli captives by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

(ii) facilitate regular communication by Gilad Shalit with his family and allow his family to know where he is being held; and

(iii) cease compelling Gilad Shalit to appear in video and voice recordings intended to illegally and extortionately coerce the Government of Israel;

(2) expresses—

(A) its vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state within recognized and secure borders;

(B) its strong support and deep interest in achieving a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a democratic, viable, and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside of the State of Israel;

(C) its ongoing concern and sympathy for the family of Gilad Shalit; and

(D) its full commitment to continue to seek the immediate and unconditional release of Gilad Shalit and other missing Israeli soldiers;

(3) recalls—

(A) the illegal and barbaric attack on and kidnapping of the bodies of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev on July 12, 2006, by the Iran-supported terrorist group Hezbollah; and

(B) the missing Israeli soldiers Zecharia Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz, missing since June 11, 1982, Ron Arad, who was captured on October 16, 1986, Guy Hever, last seen on August 17, 1997, and Majdy Halabi, last seen on May 24, 2005; and

(4) condemns—

(A) Hamas for the grossly illegal and immoral cross border attack and kidnapping of Gilad Shalit; and

(B) the Governments of Iran and Syria, the primary state sponsors and patrons of Hamas, for their ongoing support for international terrorism.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINESE CURRENCY MANIPULATION

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, over the last few days, we have watched President Obama's Cabinet Members and leaders of the G20 nations in Toronto for an economic summit.