

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 56

Commending the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Commending the Palestinian people for conducting a free and fair presidential election on January 9, 2005, and for other purposes.

Whereas on January 9, 2005, the Palestinian people elected Mahmoud Abbas as the second President of the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas this election has been hailed as free and fair and is an important and noteworthy step in advancing democracy in the Arab world;

Whereas Israel should be commended for facilitating the Palestinian election proceedings;

Whereas the United States is hopeful that a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be achieved;

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to the security of Israel and its well-being as a Jewish state; and

Whereas on June 24, 2002, President George W. Bush expressed his vision of two states living side by side in peace and security and that vision can only be fully realized when terrorism is defeated, so that a new state may be created based on the rule of law and respect for human rights: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the Palestinian people for con-
3 ducting a free and fair presidential election on Janu-
4 ary 9, 2005;

5 (2) congratulates the new Palestinian Presi-
6 dent, Mahmoud Abbas;

7 (3) urges the new Palestinian leadership to con-
8 tinue to advance democratic ideals by reforming the
9 Palestinian political structure, advancing human
10 rights, and ending corruption;

11 (4) strongly condemns terrorism and urges
12 President Mahmoud Abbas, who has previously dis-
13 avowed terrorism, to immediately take steps to dis-
14 mantle the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure, con-
15 fiscate unauthorized weapons, arrest and bring ter-
16 rorists to justice, consolidate and control the many
17 Palestinian security organizations, and end the in-
18 citement to violence and hatred in the Palestinian

1 media, educational institutions, mosques, and other
2 institutions;

3 (5) urges Arab states to take active steps to en-
4 courage and assist the Palestinian Authority in
5 bringing an end to terrorism and an end to anti-
6 Israel incitement in their own media; and

7 (6) encourages all interested parties to take ad-
8 vantage of this historic opportunity to remove obsta-
9 cles to achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East.

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