

H.RES. 951

Condemning the ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations, and for other purposes.

HRES 951

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GARRETT (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mrs. BERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Condemning the ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations, and for other purposes.

Whereas more than 4,000 rockets and mortar shells have been fired at Israel from the Gaza Strip by Hamas and other terrorist organizations since Israeli forces withdrew from there in 2005;

Whereas since January 1, 2008, terrorists have fired hundreds of rockets and mortar shells into Israel;

Whereas the near-daily rocket fire has been targeted primarily and intentionally at civilian communities in Israel, such as Sderot and Ashkelon, making life in such areas agonizing;

Whereas the terrorist rockets have hit homes, schools, buildings, roads, power lines, and other such infrastructure in Israel;

Whereas these rocket attacks have forced Israel to suffer dozens of casualties, hundreds of shock victims, thousands of traumatized children, and severe disruption of daily life;

Whereas these deliberate cross-border rocket and mortar attacks on civilian populations constitute a blatant violation of human rights and international law;

Whereas those responsible for launching rocket attacks against Israel routinely embed their production facilities and launch sites amongst the Palestinian civilian population utilizing them as human shields;

Whereas intentionally targeting civilian populations and the use of human shields violates international humanitarian and human rights law;

Whereas numerous reports have cited the copious amounts of sophisticated weapons, small arms, and weapons manufacturing materials that were smuggled into Gaza through Egypt in 2007 alone;

Whereas public reports have cited the role of Iran and Syrian in providing material support and training to those carrying out rocket and other terrorist attacks from Gaza;

Whereas public reports have referenced the increased flow of ammunition, explosives, higher-grade weapons into the Gaza Strip as a result of Hamas' breach of the 12-kilometer security fence separating Gaza from Egyptian Sinai on January 23, 2008;

Whereas it was reported that after the breach of the Egyptian-Gaza border, many Palestinian terrorists trained in Syria and Iran returned to Gaza;

Whereas the situation in the Gaza Strip remains a threat to international security and regional stability;

Now therefore be it resolved that the House of Representatives:

1. Strongly condemns—

(A) Hamas, which controls Gaza, and other Palestinian terrorist organizations for the ongoing rocket attacks on Israeli civilians and continued human rights violations;

(B) state-sponsors of terror, such as Iran and Syria, for enabling Palestinian terrorist organizations to carry out attacks against innocent Israeli civilians;

and

(C) the use of innocent Palestinian civilians as human shields by those who carry out rocket and other attacks;

2. Supports the sovereign right of the Government of Israel to defend its territory against attacks;

3. Expresses sympathy and support for innocent Palestinian civilians who reject all forms of terrorism and desire to live in peace with their Israeli neighbors but who continue to be utilized as human shields by terrorist organizations;

Considers rocket attacks against Israel and the fostering of terrorism in the Palestinian territories as direct and serious impediments to the achievement of Israeli-Palestinian peace;

5. Calls on the President to—

(A) Direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to introduce a resolution within the United Nations Security Council condemning Palestinian rocket and other attacks against innocent Israeli civilians; and

(B) Direct the Secretary of State to raise this issue in all applicable bilateral and international fora;

6. Calls on responsible nations and U.S. allies in the Middle East officially and publicly to condemn Palestinian rocket attacks and other terrorist actions against Israel; and

7. Reaffirms the strong and unyielding friendship between the governments and the people of Israel and the United States.