

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 268

Reaffirming the United States commitment to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2011

Mr. CANTOR (for himself and Mr. HOYER) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the United States commitment to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and for other purposes.

Whereas the policy of the United States since 2002 has been to support a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict;

Whereas a true and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians can only be achieved through direct negotiations between the parties and acceptance of each other's right to exist;

Whereas Palestine Liberation Organization Chair Yassir Arafat pledged in a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on September 9, 1993, that “all out-

standing issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations” a pledge that served as a critical basis for the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles signed 4 days later;

Whereas the unity agreement signed by Fatah and Hamas on May 4, 2011, was reached without Hamas being required to renounce violence, accept Israel’s right to exist, and accept prior agreements made by the Palestinians (the “Quartet conditions”);

Whereas Hamas, an organization responsible for the death of more than 500 innocent civilians, including 24 United States citizens, has been designated by the United States Government as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and a specially designated terrorist organization;

Whereas Hamas kidnapped and has held Israeli sergeant Gilad Shalit in captivity in violation of international norms since June 25, 2006;

Whereas Hamas continues to forcefully reject the possibility of peace with Israel;

Whereas Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accepted a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has consistently advocated for immediate direct negotiations with the Palestinians, who, in turn, have prevented negotiations by insisting on unprecedented pre-conditions;

Whereas, on April 22, 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton stated, “We will not deal with nor in any way fund a Palestinian government that includes Hamas unless and until Hamas has renounced violence, recognized Israel and agreed to follow the previous obligations of the Palestinian Authority”;

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, stated on February 18, 2011, that it was “unwise” for the United Nations to attempt to resolve key issues between the Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas Palestinian leaders are pursuing a coordinated strategy to seek recognition of a Palestinian state within the United Nations and directly from foreign governments;

Whereas, on December 15, 2010, the House adopted House Resolution 1765, which reaffirmed that the House of Representatives supports a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states, a democratic, Jewish state of Israel and a viable, democratic Palestinian state, living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition and opposes any attempt to establish or seek recognition of a Palestinian state outside of an agreement negotiated between Israel and the Palestinians;

Whereas current United States law precludes assistance to a Palestinian Authority which shares power with Hamas unless that Authority publicly accepts Israel’s right to exist and adheres to all prior agreements and understandings with the United States and Israel;

Whereas the United States annually provides more than \$550 million annually and has provided more than \$3.5 billion cumulatively in direct bilateral assistance to the Palestinians, who are among the world’s largest recipients of foreign aid per capita;

Whereas United States aid to the Palestinians is predicated on a good faith commitment from the Palestinians to the peace process including direct negotiations with Israel;

Whereas Palestinian abandonment of the Quartet conditions and inclusion of Hamas in a government would jeopardize the positive steps the Palestinian Authority has taken in building institutions and improving security in the West Bank in recent years; and

Whereas efforts to form a unity government without accepting the Quartet conditions, to bypass negotiations and unilaterally declare a Palestinian state, or to appeal to the United Nations or other international forums, or directly to foreign governments for recognition of a Palestinian state, violate the underlying principles of the Oslo Accords, the Road Map, and other relevant Middle East peace process agreements, all of which require resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct negotiations only: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms its strong support for a negotiated
3 solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting
4 in two states, a democratic, Jewish state of Israel
5 and a viable, democratic Palestinian state, living
6 side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recogni-
7 tion;

8 (2) states its firm belief that any Palestinian
9 unity government must publicly and formally for-
10 swear terrorism, accept Israel's right to exist, and
11 reaffirm previous agreements made with Israel;

12 (3) reiterates its strong opposition to any at-
13 tempt to establish or seek recognition of a Pales-

1 tinian state outside of an agreement negotiated be-
2 tween Israel and the Palestinians;

3 (4) urges Palestinian leaders to—

4 (A) ensure that any Palestinian govern-
5 ment will seek peace with Israel;

6 (B) cease all efforts at circumventing the
7 negotiation process, including through a unilat-
8 eral declaration of statehood or by seeking rec-
9 ognition of a Palestinian state from other na-
10 tions or the United Nations;

11 (C) resume direct negotiations with Israel
12 immediately and without preconditions; and

13 (D) take appropriate measures to counter
14 incitement to violence and fulfill all prior Pales-
15 tinian commitments, including dismantling the
16 terrorist infrastructure embodied in Hamas;

17 (5) supports the Administration's opposition to
18 a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and its
19 use of the veto at the United Nations Security Coun-
20 cil on February 18, 2011, the most recent example
21 of a longstanding United States policy of vetoing un-
22 balanced United Nations Security Council resolu-
23 tions regarding Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian
24 peace process;

1 (6) calls upon the Administration to announce
2 that it will veto any resolution on Palestinian state-
3 hood that comes before the United Nations Security
4 Council which is not a result of agreements reached
5 between Israel and the Palestinians;

6 (7) calls upon the Administration to lead a dip-
7 lomatic effort to oppose a unilateral declaration of a
8 Palestinian state and to oppose recognition of a Pal-
9 estinian state by other nations, within the United
10 Nations, and in other international forums prior to
11 achievement of a final agreement between Israel and
12 the Palestinians;

13 (8) affirms that Palestinian efforts to cir-
14 cumvent direct negotiations and pursue recognition
15 of statehood prior to agreement with Israel will
16 harm United States-Palestinian relations and will
17 have serious implications for the United States as-
18 sistance programs for the Palestinians and the Pal-
19 estinians Authority;

20 (9) supports the position taken by Secretary of
21 State Hillary Rodham Clinton on April 22, 2009,
22 that the United States “will not deal with or in any
23 way fund a Palestinian government that includes
24 Hamas unless and until Hamas has renounced vio-

1 lence, recognized Israel and agreed to follow the pre-
2 vious obligations of the Palestinian Authority.”;

3 (10) urges the administration to consider sus-
4 pending assistance to the Palestinian Authority
5 pending a review of the unity agreement; and

6 (11) reaffirms the United States statutory re-
7 quirement precluding assistance to a Palestinian Au-
8 thority that includes Hamas unless that Authority
9 and all its ministers publicly accept Israel’s right to
10 exist and all prior agreements and understandings
11 with the United States and Israel.

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