

# MEMMO

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August 4, 2014

## Congress Voices Robust Support for Israel's Right to Self-Defense

**Congress has exhibited extraordinary leadership by strongly supporting Israel's battle against Hamas' terrorism and condemning Hamas' indiscriminate rocket attacks. In addition to resolutions and statements by individual members, Congress on Friday approved \$225 million in funding for the Iron Dome missile defense system, which has saved countless Israeli lives by intercepting Hamas rockets.**

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Congress has passed four resolutions supporting Israel's right to self-defense and condemning Hamas' rocket attacks.

- On July 11, the House passed [H. Res. 657](#), which supports Israel's right to self-defense against Hamas. The bipartisan resolution was led by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY) and Tom Cole (R-OK).
- On July 17, the Senate passed [S. Res. 498](#), which expresses support for Israel as it defends itself against Hamas. The bipartisan resolution was introduced by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Charles Schumer (D-NY).
- On July 29, the Senate adopted [S. Res. 526](#), which states that a durable ceasefire should lead to a demilitarization of Gaza. The bipartisan resolution was authored by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN).
- On July 30, the House passed [H. Con. Res. 107](#), which condemns the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas, supports efforts to demilitarize Gaza, and condemns the U.N. Human Rights Council's biased commission of inquiry into Israel's Gaza operations. The bipartisan resolution was led by Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL).
- On August 1, the House and Senate overwhelmingly passed [H. J. Res. 76](#), which appropriates \$225 million for Iron Dome, a vital missile defense system responsible for intercepting hundreds of rockets aimed at Israeli civilians. The legislation passed thanks to the bipartisan leadership of the Obama administration, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Sens. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), John McCain (R-AZ), Dick Durbin (D-IL) Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Mark Kirk (R-IL).

### SENATE LEADERSHIP STATEMENTS DEFENDING ISRAEL

#### [Majority Leader Harry Reid \(D-NV\)](#)

"I condemn Hamas' terrorism. We should. Their terrorism is not only against Israel; it is against their own people. ... In this resolution [[S. Res. 526](#)], we as a country support in this conflict a lasting peace which can only be realized through the demilitarization of Gaza."

[Majority Whip Dick Durbin \(D-IL\)](#)

“I am deeply troubled by Hamas’ continued rocket fire against Israeli civilians and its refusal to accept an Egyptian cease fire proposal. I am further shocked by Hamas’ barbaric use of its own civilians as human shields to protect its violent actions.”

[Republican Leader Mitch McConnell \(R-KY\)](#)

“... I strongly support Israel’s recent efforts through Operation Protective Edge to defend itself — and to end the threat of additional rocket and infiltration attacks by Hamas.”

[Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez \(D-NJ\)](#)

“The United States firmly and resolutely stands with Israel as it defends its citizens from an onslaught of unprovoked rocket fire launched by Hamas terrorists.”

HOUSE LEADERSHIP STATEMENTS DEFENDING ISRAEL

[Speaker John Boehner \(R-OH\)](#)

“At times like this, people try to isolate Israel — but we are here to stand with Israel. Not just as a broker or observer — but as a strong partner and a trusted ally.”

[Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi \(D-CA\)](#)

“With Israel’s citizens once again under assault, our bipartisan resolve to stand by Israel is firm and unwavering.”

[Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy \(R-CA\)](#)

“You can tell this isn’t a partisan issue. This is about the morals of the world. We are united. ... If there is a rocket on Israel, there is a rocket on America and we will not stand for it.”

[Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer \(D-MD\)](#)

“Today, all of us are standing together in concern and support ... for a nation whose survival and security is absolutely essential to the survival and security of the United States of America.”

[Former Majority Leader Eric Cantor \(R-VA\)](#)

“Israel is one of our nation’s strongest democratic allies and its security is directly tied to our own. Hamas’ outrageous and unprovoked war against Israel must end.”

[Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce \(R-CA\)](#)

“I vigorously condemn Hamas’ continued attacks against Israel, and support Israel’s use of all appropriate measures to protect its citizens.”

[Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Eliot Engel \(D-NY\)](#)

“This war started because Hamas keeps attacking Israel through the years ... with its missiles. ... So for Hamas to now fret over civilian casualties — which is the fault of them, in both Gaza and Israel — really just rings hollow.”