

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 294

Condemning the terrorism inflicted on Israel since the Aqaba Summit and expressing solidarity with the Israeli people in their fight against terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2003

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. DELAY, Ms. PELOSI, and Mr. HYDE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the terrorism inflicted on Israel since the Aqaba Summit and expressing solidarity with the Israeli people in their fight against terrorism.

Whereas Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) announced at the June 4, 2003, Aqaba Summit, “Our goal is clear, and we will implement it firmly and without compromise: a complete end to violence and terrorism”;

Whereas Prime Minister Abbas also pledged at the Aqaba Summit to establish a system based on “rule of law, [a] single political authority, [and] weapons only in the hands of those who are in charge of upholding the law and order . . .”;

Whereas the Middle East roadmap begins with the assertion that “A two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will only be achieved through an end to violence and terrorism (when the Palestinian people have a leadership acting decisively against terror and willing and able to build a practicing democracy based on tolerance and liberty)”;

Whereas 22 innocent Israelis nevertheless were murdered and scores wounded in three separate suicide bombings within less than a week after the Aqaba Summit, and the death toll from these terrorist actions is the equivalent of 1,100 on the basis of the United States population, nearly ten times the number of battle deaths the United States suffered in the recent Iraq War;

Whereas Palestinians are also victims of these terrorists, who undermine prospects for a just and lasting peace;

Whereas Islamic fundamentalist Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad consistently make clear their opposition to Israel’s existence in any form and within any borders and their determination to use violence and terrorism to achieve their anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic goals, and Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi vowed “not to leave one Jew in Palestine”;

Whereas experience with terrorism demonstrates that there can be no productive negotiations or dialogue with terrorists and that a policy based on compromise with terrorists can only be doomed to failure;

Whereas the concept of “cycle of violence”, which implies moral equivalence between terrorists and their victims, should be rejected as a description of Israeli-Palestinian dynamics, since Palestinian terrorism justifies Israeli

counterterrorist operations as the response of a legitimate government defending its citizens;

Whereas Israeli counterterrorist operations would cease entirely were Palestinian terrorism to cease; and

Whereas Israel has no choice but to use its own measures to fight terrorism if the Palestinians are unwilling to do so: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns in the harshest terms the recent
3 terrorist actions that victimized innocent Israelis;

4 (2) expresses solidarity with the Israeli people
5 as they respond to ongoing terrorist attacks;

6 (3) expresses sympathy to the families of inno-
7 cent Israelis and Palestinians who have lost their
8 lives;

9 (4) commends the President of the United
10 States for his vision of two states, Israel and Pal-
11 estine, living side by side in peace and security;

12 (5) affirms that this vision can be fully realized
13 only once terrorism is defeated, so that a new state
14 may be created based on rule of law and respect for
15 human rights;

16 (6) recognizes and respects Israel's right to
17 fight terrorism and acknowledges Israel's fight
18 against terrorism as part of the global war against
19 terrorism;

1 (7) calls on all states to cease recognition of
2 and political and material support for any Pales-
3 tinian and other terrorist groups;

4 (8) calls on all states immediately to establish
5 effective mechanisms to ensure that funding from
6 private citizens cannot be directed to terrorist
7 groups for any purpose whatsoever, including osten-
8 sible humanitarian purposes;

9 (9) calls on all states to provide support to the
10 Palestinian Authority in its effort to confront and
11 fight terror; and

12 (10) calls on all states to assist the Palestinian
13 people in creating the institutions of a democratic
14 state that will respect the rule of law and live in
15 peace with its neighbors.

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