



Legislative Bulletin.....May 2, 2002

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H.Res. 392—Expressing solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism

H.Res. 392—Expressing solidarity with Israel in its fight against terrorism (DeLay)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, May 2nd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (which itself is subject to a rule allowing for the consideration of a suspension bill on a day besides Monday or Tuesday).

Summary: H.Res. 392 would resolve that the House:

- “stands in solidarity with Israel as it takes necessary steps to provide security to its people by dismantling the terrorist infrastructure in the Palestinian areas;
- “remains committed to Israel's right to self-defense and supports additional United States assistance to help Israel defend itself;
- “condemns the recent wave of Palestinian suicide bombings;
- “condemns the ongoing support of terror by Yasir Arafat and other members of the Palestinian leadership;
- “demands that the Palestinian Authority at last fulfill its commitment to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in the Palestinian areas, including any such infrastructure associated with PLO and Palestinian Authority entities tied directly to Yasir Arafat;
- “is gravely concerned that Arafat's actions are not those of a viable partner for peace;
- “urges all Arab states to declare their unqualified opposition to all forms of terrorism, particularly suicide bombing;
- “commends the President for his leadership in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly the efforts of the Administration to engage countries throughout the region to condemn and prevent terrorism and to prevent a widening of the conflict;
- “urges all parties in the region to pursue vigorously efforts to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East; and
- “encourages the international community to take action to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people.”

The resolution states that “forces directly under Yasir Arafat's control--particularly, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which is part of Arafat's Fatah organization and has been designated a ‘Foreign Terrorist Organization’ by the United States government--have murdered scores of innocent Israelis.” Documents seized by Israel from offices of the Palestinian Authority

demonstrate the enabling financial support the Palestinian Authority continues to provide for terrorist acts, including suicide bombers, according to the resolution.

More broadly, H.Res. 392 accuses Palestinian organizations of conducting an “organized, systematic, and deliberate campaign of terror aimed at inflicting as many casualties as possible on the Israeli population.”

The resolution also points out that the number of Israelis killed since September 2000 by suicide terrorist attacks alone, on a basis proportional to the United States population, is approximately 9,000—three times the number killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The resolution asserts that Israel's military operations are in defense of the “unspeakable horrors of ongoing terrorism” and are designed only for disassembling terrorist networks in Palestinian areas.

H.Res. 392 condemns specific terrorist attacks and accuses Yasir Arafat and Palestinian leaders of taking pleasure in such attacks and in doing nothing to stop them.

Additional Background: To read an RSC document about the tactics used by Palestinian terrorists, go to this web address:

<http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/PalestinianTerrorismTactics.PDF>

To read an RSC document about American citizens injured or killed by Palestinian terrorism, go to this web address: <http://www.house.gov/burton/RSC/PalestinianTerrorismFacts.PDF>

Bush Administration Position: According to press reports, the White House has signed off on the language in this resolution.

Cost to Taxpayers: Though H.Res. 392 authorizes no expenditure, it “supports additional United States assistance to help Israel defend itself.”

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

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