



H.Res. 951 - Condemning the ongoing Palestinian rocket attacks on Israeli civilians, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 951 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Scott Garrett (R-NJ) on January 29, 2008. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs approved the resolution on February 27, 2008.

H.Res. 951 is expected to be considered on the floor on March 5, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 951 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the ongoing Iranian-enabled rocket attacks on Israeli civilians;
- Supports the sovereign right of the Government of Israel to defend its territory and stop the rocket attacks on its citizens;
- Recognizes the difficult balance Israel faces as the competing pressures of being the primary supplier of numerous necessities for Palestinian civilians, such as fuel, electricity, and medicine, even while rockets are being fired at Israel from Palestinian areas;
- Supports Palestinian civilians who reject Hamas and all forms of terrorism, desiring to live in peace with their Israeli neighbors;
- Places responsibility for launching the rocket attacks on Hamas and other terrorist organizations, such as Islamic Jihad, in Gaza;
- Regards these rocket attacks and the fostering of terrorism in the Palestinian territories as direct hindrances to the peace process in the region;
- Recognizes that the rocket attacks against Israel would not be possible without the material support of the Governments of Iran and Syria;
- Calls on all nations, including Egypt, to take affirmative, transparent, verifiable steps to stop the flow of rockets and other terrorism-enabling materials (including human resources) to the Palestinian territories; and
- Reaffirms the strong and unyielding friendship between the governments and the people of Israel and the United States.

BACKGROUND

Hamas and other terrorist organizations continue to launch rocket attacks against Israel from areas of the Gaza Strip. Over the last several weeks, violence between the sides has escalated.



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE | CHAIRMAN ADAM PUTNAM

1420 LONGWORTH HOB, WASHINGTON, DC 20515

www.GOP.gov

PHONE 202.225.5107

FAX 202.226.0154

In order to defend itself against intensifying rocket attacks, including long range rockets that hit the large Israeli city of Ashkelon, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has increased troop and air operations against Hamas. According to Washington Post reports, there were 240 rocket and mortar strikes against Israel over a five-day period last week.

On March 2, 2008, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas suspended peace talks with Israel due to the spike in violence. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is currently traveling in the region to discuss the peace process and the ongoing situation in Gaza.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Shea Loper at (202) 226-2302.