



H.R. 2293 - To require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on efforts to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde

Floor Situation

H.R. 2293 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 Gary Ackerman (D-NY) on May 14, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Services, considered under suspension of the rules and passed by unanimous consent.

The bill is expected to be considered on the floor on July 16, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 2293 requires the Secretary of State to submit a report on the efforts by the United States to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde as well as an assessment of the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to bring justice to the terrorists involved in the death of the men. Additionally, the report is to include an assessment by the Secretary of whether the Palestinian efforts constituted the best possible effort by the Palestinian Authority and recommend any further steps that the United States might take to investigate the deaths.

This report is to be submitted no later than 30 days (then every 120 days after the initial report) after enactment of this bill to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

The report will not be required if the Secretary of State certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde have been identified, arrested, and brought to justice.

Background

On October 15, 2003, a convoy of clearly identified United States diplomatic vehicles was attacked by Palestinian terrorists in Gaza resulting in the deaths of John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde, and the injury of a fourth American.

The men killed were contract employees providing security to United States diplomatic personnel, who were visiting Gaza in order to identify potential Palestinian candidates for scholarships under the Fulbright Program.

Senior officials of the Palestinian Authority have stated that they were aware of the identities of the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde.

Following her visit to Israel and the West Bank on February 7, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced that she had been, “assured by President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority's intention to bring justice to those who murdered three American personnel in the Gaza in 2003”.

The United States Rewards for Justice Program is offering a reward of up to \$5,000,000 for information leading to the arrest or conviction of any persons involved in the murders of John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde.

At the time of publication, the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde have still not been brought to justice.

Cost

This bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.