

**H.Res. 435 - Expressing concern relating to the threatening behavior of the Iranian regime and its leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and the activities of terrorist organizations sponsored by that regime in Latin America**

**FLOOR SITUATION**

H.Res. 435 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 Ron Klein (D-FL) on May 23, 2007. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs marked up the resolution, as amended, on October 23, 2007.

H.Res. 435 is expected to be considered on the floor on November 5, 2007.

**SUMMARY**

H.Res. 435 resolves that:

- Expresses concern over the emerging national security implications of the Iranian regime's efforts to expand its influence in Latin America;
- Supports the existing counterterrorism efforts of Latin American countries, including the successful counterterrorism efforts of the 3+1 Group (consisting of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and the United States);
- Emphasizes the importance of eliminating Hizbollah's financial network in the tri-border region of South America where Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina meet and throughout the Western Hemisphere;
- Commends and supports the efforts of individual countries and regional bodies in the Western Hemisphere that have led efforts to eliminate terrorist financing and other terrorist operations;
- Calls on the United States Government to work with governments in the Western Hemisphere to pursue an antiterrorism campaign based on cooperation and constant vigilance;
- Urges the United States Government to work bilaterally and multilaterally with countries in the Western Hemisphere to help them create antiterrorism legislation that would give governmental authorities new tools to take action against terrorist networks; and

- Recommends that the President of the United States create more mechanisms for joint counterterrorism operations and intraregional information sharing among supportive countries in the Western Hemisphere, especially in light of Iran's increased involvement in the region.

## **BACKGROUND**

Despite current U.S. sanctions and repeated UN resolutions, Iran continues its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It is also a state sponsor of terror. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has threatened to “wipe Israel off the map.”

President Ahmadinejad has made numerous trips to Venezuela and to Latin America. Venezuela and Iran have announced a joint \$1 billion oil venture intended to challenge rival some of the world's leading oil companies. This venture represents just a portion of the economic and energy agreements signed between the two countries. Iran awarded Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez its highest state medal in 2006.

The U.S. continues its counterterrorism efforts with partners throughout the world, including nations in Latin America. The Tri-Border Area (TBA), a region along the border of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, remains a significant concern for arms and drug smuggling, money laundering, and other illicit activities. The U.S. State Department also expressed concern in its [2006 Country Reports on Terrorism](#) “that Hizballah and HAMAS were raising funds in the TBA.”

## **STAFF CONTACT**

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