

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. J. RES. 135

Supporting Israel's right to defend its borders, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2018

Mr. ZELDIN (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

JOINT RESOLUTION

Supporting Israel's right to defend its borders, and for other purposes.

Whereas Hamas is an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Department of State since 1997;

Whereas Hamas, which has controlled Gaza since 2007, bears responsibility for the humanitarian situation there;

Whereas, on March 30, 2018, Hamas declared a 6-week campaign called the "March of Return" to reclaim Jerusalem and incite violence on the Gaza border against the State of Israel;

Whereas demonstrators in Gaza were armed and threw hand grenades, stones, and firebombs at Israeli troops using violence under the guise of a protest;

Whereas Hamas distributes payments to demonstrators and their families for deaths and wounded participants during the “March of Return” protests;

Whereas Hamas has jeopardized the lives of innocent civilians living in Gaza and has targeted those in Israel;

Whereas Hamas uses civilians as human shields;

Whereas Hamas has been explicit in its desire to instigate violence as a media tool in the international court of public opinion;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) publicly called for yet another investigation of Israel while making no mention of Hamas’ continued assault against Israel;

Whereas, on December 21, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES–10/19, which rejects United States recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel;

Whereas the Government of Israel has taken important steps to show restraint in Gaza;

Whereas the Government of Israel has accepted and implemented numerous ceasefire agreements that Hamas has rejected;

Whereas Hamas refuses to recognize Israel’s right to exist;

Whereas Israel, like every other sovereign nation, has a responsibility to protect its citizens and defend its borders;

Whereas, on May 29, 2018, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad launched the largest mortar attack against Israel since the 2014 Israel-Gaza war; and

Whereas Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad announced these attacks in retaliation for Israel’s actions

during the Marches of Return protests: Now, therefore,
be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That Congress—

4 (1) condemns the actions taken by Hamas in
5 Gaza;

6 (2) supports Israel’s right to defend itself
7 against Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization;

8 (3) urges the United Nations and United States
9 allies to support Israel in its self-defense against
10 Hamas and condemn all those who condemn Israel’s
11 right to safeguard its citizens against violence;

12 (4) condemns all who support the goals of
13 Hamas by condemning Israel’s right to safeguard its
14 citizens against violence; and

15 (5) reaffirms the United States strong concern
16 with the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza caused
17 by Hamas.

○