

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1697

To condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States Citizens.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2017

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. CRUZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States Citizens.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Taylor Force Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The Palestinian Authority’s practice of pay-
2 ing salaries to terrorists serving in Israeli prisons, as
3 well as to the families of deceased terrorists, is an
4 incentive to commit acts of terror.

5 (2) The United States does not provide direct
6 budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority. The
7 United States does pay certain debts held by the
8 Palestinian Authority and fund programs which the
9 Palestinian Authority would otherwise be responsible
10 for.

11 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12 Congress—

13 (1) calls on the Palestinian Authority to stop
14 these payments and repeal the laws authorizing
15 them;

16 (2) calls on all donor countries providing budg-
17 etary assistance to the Palestinian Authority to
18 cease direct budgetary support until the Palestinian
19 Authority stops all payments incentivizing terror;

20 (3) supports the creation of a general welfare
21 system, available to all Palestinian citizens within
22 the jurisdictional control of the Palestinian Author-
23 ity;

24 (4) urges the United States Permanent Rep-
25 resentative to the United Nations to use that posi-

1 tion to highlight the issue of Palestinian Authority
 2 payments for acts of terrorism and to urge other
 3 member nations of the Security Council and the
 4 General Assembly to join the United States in call-
 5 ing on the Palestinian Authority to end this system
 6 immediately; and

7 (5) urges the Department of State to use its bi-
 8 lateral and multilateral engagements with all govern-
 9 ments and organizations committed to the cause of
 10 peace to highlight the issue of Palestinian Authority
 11 payments for acts of terrorism and join the United
 12 States in calling on the Palestinian Authority to end
 13 this system immediately.

14 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE WEST BANK**
 15 **AND GAZA.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated or otherwise
 17 made available for assistance under chapter 4 of part II
 18 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346
 19 et seq.; relating to Economic Support Fund) and available
 20 for assistance for the West Bank and Gaza that directly
 21 benefit the Palestinian Authority may only be made avail-
 22 able for such purpose if the Secretary of State certifies
 23 in writing to the appropriate congressional committees
 24 that the Palestinian Authority—

1 (1) is taking credible steps to end acts of vio-
2 lence against Israeli citizens and United States citi-
3 zens that are perpetrated by individuals under its ju-
4 risdictional control, such as the March 2016 attack
5 that killed former United States Army officer Taylor
6 Force, a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghani-
7 stan;

8 (2) has terminated payments for acts of ter-
9 rorism against Israeli citizens and United States
10 citizens to any individual, after being fairly tried,
11 who has been imprisoned for such acts of terrorism
12 and to any individual who died committing such acts
13 of terrorism, including to a family member of such
14 individuals; and

15 (3) has revoked any law, decree, regulation, or
16 document authorizing or implementing a system of
17 compensation for imprisoned individuals that uses
18 the sentence or period of incarceration of an indi-
19 vidual to determine the level of compensation paid.

20 (b) EXCEPTION.—The limitation on assistance under
21 subsection (a) shall not apply to payments made to the
22 East Jerusalem Hospital Network.

23 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Amounts withheld
24 pursuant to this section shall be deemed to satisfy any

1 similar withholding or reduction required under any other
2 provision of law.

3 **SEC. 5. CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATION.**

4 Funds appropriated or otherwise made available for
5 assistance under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign As-
6 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.; relating to
7 Economic Support Fund) and available for assistance for
8 the West Bank and Gaza may only be made available for
9 such purpose if, not later than 180 days after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days there-
11 after, the Secretary of State certifies in writing to the ap-
12 propriate congressional committees that the Palestinian
13 Authority is taking credible and verifiable steps to end
14 acts of violence against Israeli citizens and United States
15 citizens that are perpetrated by individuals under its juris-
16 dictional control.

17 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
20 the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate con-
21 gressional committees a report including at a minimum
22 the following elements:

23 (1) An estimate of the amount expended by the
24 Palestinian Authority during the previous calendar

1 year as payments for acts of terrorism by individuals
2 who are imprisoned for such acts.

3 (2) An estimate of the amount expended by the
4 Palestinian Authority during the previous calendar
5 year as payments to the families of deceased individ-
6 uals who committed an act of terrorism.

7 (3) An overview of Palestinian laws, decrees,
8 regulations, or documents in effect the previous cal-
9 endar year that authorize or implement any pay-
10 ments reported under paragraphs (1) and (2).

11 (4) A description of United States Government
12 policy, efforts, and engagement with the Palestinian
13 Authority in order to confirm the revocation of any
14 law, decree, regulation, or document in effect the
15 previous calendar year that authorizes or implements
16 any payments reported under paragraphs (1) and
17 (2).

18 (5) A description of United States Government
19 policy, efforts, and engagement with other govern-
20 ments, and at the United Nations, to highlight the
21 issue of Palestinian payments for acts of terrorism
22 and to urge other nations to join the United States
23 in calling on the Palestinian Authority to end this
24 system immediately.

1 (b) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by sub-
2 section (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
3 include a classified annex.

4 **SEC. 7. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
5 **FINED.**

6 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

- 8 (1) the Committee on Appropriations and the
9 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and
10 (2) the Committee on Appropriations and the
11 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives.

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