

Congressional Monitor

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Published annually, the Congressional Monitor summarizes the bills and resolutions pertinent to Palestine, Israel, or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict that were introduced during the previous session of Congress. The Monitor identifies major legislative themes related to the Palestine issue as well as initiators of specific legislation, their priorities, the range of their concerns, and their attitudes toward regional actors. It is part of a wider project of the Institute for Palestine Studies that includes the Congressional Monitor Database at congressionalmonitor.org. The database contains all relevant legislation from 2001 to the present (the 107th through the 114th Congresses) and is updated on an ongoing basis. Material in this compilation is drawn from thomas.loc.gov, the official legislative site of the Library of Congress, which includes a detailed primer on the U.S. legislative process titled "How Our Laws Are Made."

The second session of the 113th Congress opened on 1/3/14 and closed almost a full year later, on 12/31/14. As in the first session, the Democratic Party controlled the Senate with 55 seats, including 2 Independents who caucused with them, and the Republican Party controlled the House, with 234 seats. Collectively, the House of Representatives and the Senate spent 270 days in session and considered 3,932 new measures. Eighty-seven of these were relevant to Palestinian affairs and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, down from 124 in the first session (see Congressional Monitor in *JPS* 171 for more). The measures under discussion here also include 17 that were introduced during the first session but on which Congress took no action until the second session.

The number of measures dealing directly with the Palestinians rose almost threefold between the 2 sessions, from 8 to 27. This sharp increase reflected legislators' efforts to counter moves toward Palestinian national reconciliation in the first half of 2014 and to condemn Hamas during Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip in 7–8/2014.

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION

There are 2 broad categories of congressional measures: those that, if passed, carry the force of law (bills and joint resolutions) and are therefore considered binding; and nonbinding measures that state the views of Congress (simple and concurrent resolutions). While the bills and joint

resolutions are more consequential because they have the potential to become law, the nonbinding measures are important indicators of congressional preferences and policy goals as they “urge,” “affirm,” “recognize,” or “support” people, events, and positions. Of the 104 measures under discussion, 71 were bills or joint resolutions, 10 of which passed into law, and the remaining 33 were simple or concurrent resolutions, of which 16 passed.

Not all of these measures were principally concerned with Palestinian affairs or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict. In 26 such cases, the issues of relevance to this Monitor were mentioned in the debates surrounding the measures or they featured prominently in amendments that were proposed but not considered or attached.

Of the 26 tangential measures, half, or 13, were authorizations or appropriations bills. Authorizations bills set annual funding goals and provide the legal authority for all U.S. government programs and agencies, while appropriations bills approve the funding and transfer of monies to those authorized bodies. The most relevant portions of the 6 appropriations and authorizations measures that passed in 2014 authorized national defense spending for the fiscal year (FY) 2015, including U.S.-Israel joint missile defense programs (*H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14); appropriated funds for FY 2014 and FY 2015, including military and economic support for Israel and the Palestinians (*H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13, *H. J. Res. 124 of 9/9/14, and *H.R. 83 of 1/3/13); provided supplemental funding for the Iron Dome missile defense system in the midst of Operation Protective Edge in 7–8/2014 (*H. J. Res. 76 of 10/3/13); and established a new oversight procedure regarding chemical weapons in Syria (*H.R. 4681 of 5/20/14).

The remaining 13 tangential measures were bills focused on a diverse array of issues: veterans’ benefits (S. 1982 of 2/3/14), religious freedom (S. 653 of 3/22/13), the Muslim Brotherhood (H.R. 5149 of 7/24/14), Russia’s foreign policy (H.R. 4278 of 3/21/14 and S. 2352 of 5/15/14), labor and employment (S. 2223 of 4/8/14 and S. 2569 of 7/8/14), energy savings (S. 2262 of 4/28/14), and gun ownership (S. 2363 of 6/20/14). There were also 4 tangential simple resolutions and each of them passed. Their pertinent provisions recognized Greece’s good relations with both Israel and Muslim nations (*S. Res. 377 of 3/10/14); cited the Holocaust Memorial Museum as a model for expanded efforts to prevent genocide and other atrocities (*S. Res. 413 of 4/7/14); condemned anti-Semitism in the Middle East (*H. Res. 707 of 7/31/14); and noted Iran, Syria, and Egypt as being among the most dangerous countries for journalists in 2013 (*S. Res. 447 of 5/15/14).

MAJOR TRENDS

During its second session, the 113th Congress maintained its priorities regarding Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict; therefore, the 104 relevant measures it considered fall into the same 3 broad thematic categories as in previous sessions: (1) those directly or indirectly benefiting Israel; (2) those serving Israel’s interests by undermining its adversaries; (3) those buttressing Israel’s position in the Middle East by way of influencing U.S. regional policy, particularly in Egypt and Syria.

* Asterisks denote resolutions that passed and bills that were enacted into law.

BENEFITING ISRAEL

Almost half, or 46, of the 104 measures considered here included provisions benefiting Israel directly or indirectly, representing a greater proportion of the total than in the previous session. The 27 binding measures and 11 simple or concurrent resolutions can be further broken down into 4 subcategories to reflect legislative priorities.

Maintaining or Increasing Military Support: Each of the 12 measures in this subcategory carried provisions authorizing or appropriating transfers of military aid to Israel, including 9 larger bills with numerous unrelated provisions and 3 that were introduced in direct response to the Israeli government's request for supplementary support for the Iron Dome missile defense system. A total of 5 passed into law, including the supplemental Iron Dome appropriation (*H.R. 83 of 1/3/13, *H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13, *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14, *H. J. Res. 124 of 9/9/14, and *H. J. Res. 76 of 10/3/13).

Strengthening the U.S.-Israeli Alliance: all 7 measures in this subcategory were bills or joint resolutions to reinforce the U.S.-Israeli alliance. Four of them would have increased research cooperation (H.R. 3683 of 12/10/13, H.R. 4472 of 4/10/14, and H.R. 5666 of 9/18/14) or relaxed trade restrictions (H.R. 3961 of 1/29/14). The remaining 3 were different versions of a bill called U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, each of which comprised various alliance-strengthening measures. The act eventually passed into law as *S. 2673 of 7/28/14. No other measures in this category passed.

Providing Ceremonial or Nonmilitary Support: There were 8 binding measures and 11 simple or concurrent resolutions considered that would have provided Israel ceremonial or other nonmilitary support; a total of 6 passed.

In this subcategory, the measures can be further broken down as follows: 2 measures awarding Israeli politician Shimon Peres the Congressional Gold Medal (S. 1456 of 8/1/13 and *H.R. 2939 of 8/1/13); 5 measures relating to the 6/12/14 kidnapping of the 3 Israeli settler teenagers in the West Bank on 6/12/14 (H. Res. 642 of 6/25/14, H. Res. 665 of 7/10/14, S. 2577 of 7/9/14, S. 2579 of 7/9/14, and H.R. 5041 of 7/9/14); 2 measures to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital (*S. Res. 504 of 7/16/14 and H.R. 3629 of 12/2/13); 1 bill would have funded new efforts to promote "dialogue" and "peaceful coexistence" between Israelis and Palestinians (H.R. 5795 of 12/4/14); and finally, 1 bill buttressing Israel's position with regard to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC, H.R. 5649 of 9/18/14). There were also 8 simple or concurrent resolutions introduced during Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip in 7-8/2014 recognizing Israel's right to self-defense.

Commemorating Jewish and Israeli History: Of the 8 measures commemorating Jewish or Israeli history, 6 passed. The 2 bills in this subcategory would have denied Social Security benefits to individuals complicit in Nazi crimes (S. 2944 of 11/19/14 and *H.R. 5739 of 11/19/14). The remaining 6 nonbinding measures urged the Obama administration to keep the Iraqi Jewish Archive housed in the U.S. (*S. Res. 333 of 1/16/14 and H. Res. 505 of 3/6/14); commended the Holocaust Memorial Museum (*S. Res. 413 of 4/7/14); recognized May as Jewish American Heritage Month (*S. Res. 458 of 5/22/14); and approved the use of government facilities for Holocaust commemoration ceremonies (*S. Con. Res. 36 of 5/22/14 and *H. Con. Res. 90 of 3/6/14).

UNDERMINING ISRAEL'S ADVERSARIES

More than half, or 55, of the 104 measures under discussion carried provisions that would, in some way, undermine Israel's adversaries. Chief among these was Iran, which was the subject of provisions in 31 measures, followed by the Palestinians with 27. Additionally, there were 4 measures designed specifically to counter the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, with this new legislative priority illustrating the movement's growing impact in the U.S. Overall, 9 measures from this category passed.

Iran

Generally speaking, most of the 31 measures targeting Iran—21 bills and 10 simple and concurrent resolutions—sought to influence or undermine the international negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program. In almost all cases, Israel's security was offered as justification. During the second session of the 113th Congress, U.S. legislators sought to manipulate sanctions relief to Iran, a high-stakes issue in the talks underway since 1/2014 with the P5+1 (the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany). Congress also kept up its condemnations of Iran's human rights and diplomatic record.

Influencing Diplomacy: The 21 measures—18 bills and 3 simple and concurrent resolutions—in this subcategory were efforts to assert congressional authority over the talks by: altering the sanctions regime credited with bringing Iran to the negotiations table; expressing congressional preferences on the U.S. negotiating positions; establishing procedures to give Congress a direct oversight role; combinations of the above. Neither of the 2 measures that garnered the most momentum passed (S. 1881 of 12/19/13 and S. 2650 of 7/23/14), in part due to President Obama's repeated promise to veto any such legislation. These measures did, however, recapitulate the legislature's basic position in its ongoing struggle with the White House, which carried over from the first session of 113th Congress (See Quarterly Update in *JPS* 171–75 for more). In total, 2 of the bills in this subcategory passed; they established requirements for the administration to report to Congress on Iran's nuclear program, expressed the sense of Congress on relevant U.S. policies, and authorized certain Defense Dept. procedures in order to prepare for a possible military conflict with Iran (*H.R. 83 of 1/3/13 and *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14).

Human Rights and Diplomacy: The 10 measures—4 bills and 6 simple resolutions—focused on Iran's human rights record and its conduct in foreign affairs. With respect to human rights, 2 bills called for appropriating funds to State Dept. programs promoting human rights and democracy (S. 2585 of 7/10/14 and S. 2499 of 6/19/14); 2 resolutions broadly condemned the Iranian government (H. Res. 109 of 3/12/13 and *H. Res. 754 of 11/14/14); 2 called for the release of a high-profile U.S. political prisoner (H. Res. 435 of 12/10/13 and *S. Res. 312 of 12/9/13); and 1 resolution recognized Iran as a dangerous country for journalists (*S. Res. 447 of 5/15/14). In terms of diplomacy, 1 resolution described Iran as a cause of regional instability (*H. Res. 657 of 7/8/14) and 2 bills introduced in response to the nomination of Iran's new ambassador to the UN set forth new rules regulating U.S. visas to UN reps. (*S. 2195 of 4/1/14 and H.R. 4357 of 4/1/14). In total, 4 of the simple resolutions and 1 of the bills passed.

Palestinians

The U.S. has a contradictory relationship with the Palestinians, providing hundreds of millions of dollars in annual economic and security support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and programs benefiting Palestinian civil society while opposing any Palestinian efforts to deviate from the U.S. vision for a 2-state solution. During the period under review, 27 measures were considered with provisions along these lines—17 bills or joint resolutions and 10 simple or concurrent resolutions.

Restricting Aid: Over half, or 17, of the total included provisions that called for, created, or maintained restrictions on aid either in response to Palestinian political developments or to reflect long-standing congressional priorities. Palestinian national reconciliation, in particular, was the focus of provisions in 10 of these measures, with many legislators opposing the Obama administration's decision to maintain aid to the PA despite its formation of a unity government with Hamas. The remaining 7 measures mandated restrictions to curtail what was described as Palestinian incitement and the PA's policy of paying salaries to Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. These measures passed alongside the annual restrictions and aid provisions in the omnibus appropriations bill for 2015 (*H. R. 83 of 1/3/13). Of the remaining 2 measures that passed, one extended FY 2014's restrictions on aid for an additional 3 months (*H. J. Res. 124 of 9/9/14) and the other had a relevant amendment proposed to it, which was not attached (S.A. 4018 on *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14).

Condemning Hamas: From a total of 8 simple or concurrent resolutions recognizing Israel's right to self-defense during its assault on the Gaza Strip that also condemned Hamas's rocket attacks and/or its alleged use of civilians as human shields, 3 passed. But a bill on the Muslim Brotherhood reaffirming Hamas's designation as a foreign terrorist organization (H.R. 5194 of 7/24/14) did not.

There was 1 other bill relevant to the Palestinians introduced during this session. Falling outside any of the above subcategories, it would have radically altered the U.S. stance on the 2-state solution. The bill, which did not pass, called for a "plan for peace" comprising, inter alia, Israel's annexation of the West Bank and Gaza (H.R. 5734 of 11/18/14).

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement

As noted above, BDS drew Congress's increasing attention this session, particularly after the American Studies Association voted in favor of boycott in 12/2013 (see *JPS* 171). There were 4 measures introduced with the explicit goal of countering the movement's growing influence by: denying participating higher education institutions federal funding (H.R. 4009 of 2/6/14); blocking U.S. funds to international organizations that boycott Israeli settlements (H.R. 4519 of 4/19/14 and H.R. 4581 of 5/6/14); and, in effect, barring government contractors from joining the movement (H.R. 5727 of 11/18/14). None of the measures passed. (See Special Document File in *JPS* 171 for more on the legislative backlash against the BDS movement.)

BUTTRESSING ISRAEL VIA U.S. REGIONAL POLICY

Syria

With the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) emerging as a principal actor in the Syrian conflict, and the Obama administration's decision to step up U.S. involvement in the crisis,

Congress maintained its own efforts to manage the U.S. response in Syria. Nevertheless, the 24 measures in this category—17 bills or joint resolutions and 7 simple or concurrent resolutions—represented a drop from the previous year’s 33.

By far the most significant debate of the session was over the nature of U.S. military involvement; 10 measures dealt with this question, including 3 that authorized military support for “vetted” Syrian rebel groups (*H. J. Res. 124 of 9/9/14, *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14, and *H.R. 83 of 1/3/13). Of the total: 2 resolutions, neither of which passed, called for a Syrian war crimes tribunal; 7 measures shaped the U.S. humanitarian response but only 1 passed (*S. Res. 384 of 3/13/14); 5 bills carried provisions to curb Russian influence in the conflict, with 3 passing (*H.R. 83 of 1/3/13, *H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13, and *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14); 2 bills would have established congressional oversight procedures, with only 1 passing (*H.R. 4681 of 5/20/14); 1 resolution passed condemning “mass atrocities” in Syria and elsewhere (*S. Res. 413 of 4/7/14); and 1 resolution passed recognizing Syria as among the most dangerous countries for journalists in 2013 (*S. Res. 447 of 5/15/14).

Egypt

Following the military overthrow of Pres. Mohamed Morsi in 7/2013 and Field Marshal Abdel Fattah al-Sisi’s accession to the presidency in June 2014, the U.S. government’s relationship with Egypt was temporarily guarded. While U.S. military support and cooperation with Egypt continued to be seen as essential to regional stability and a guarantor of Egypt’s adherence to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the U.S. expressed growing concern with the country’s human rights situation and its record on democracy. Of the 8 measures in this category, 3 bills passed from a total of 5 that authorized military and economic support according to specific disbursement mechanisms linked to human rights and democracy-related benchmarks (*H. J. Res. 124 of 9/9/14, *H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13, and *H.R. 83 of 1/3/13). The remaining 2 bills, which did not pass, called for suspending all aid to Egypt (S. 2477 of 6/17/14) and for the U.S. not to recognize the 6/2013 convictions described as “politically motivated” of 43 nongovernmental organization (NGO) workers by the Cairo Criminal Court, (S. 2649 of 7/23/14). The final measure, a simple resolution that passed, recognized Egypt as a dangerous country for journalists in 2013 (*S. Res. 447 of 5/15/14).

NOTES ON LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

For a bill to become a law, it must be agreed to in identical form by both chambers of Congress and signed by the president. The president may refuse to sign a bill, and thus veto it, but the veto can be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber. If Congress is not in session, the president can veto a bill simply by not taking action on it for 10 days after its presentation (“pocket veto”). Simple or concurrent resolutions have no legal force if passed. Simple resolutions (designated H./S. Res.) are only debated in the chamber where they are introduced while concurrent resolutions (H./S. Con. Res.) are debated in both; resolutions require a simple majority to pass. After a bill or resolution is introduced, it is automatically referred to the appropriate committee; in many cases (42 of 104 this year), it goes no further.

UNDERSTANDING THE CONGRESSIONAL MONITOR

Measures are listed in the order in which they are first introduced, with a brief title provided after the date. The second line of each entry provides the bill or resolution number, the name and affiliation of the original sponsor, and the number of cosponsors.

For many bills and resolutions, a “see also” entry has been added to refer readers to similar or related measures.

The “last major action” entry indicates where the bill or resolution stood at the end of the second session of the 113th Congress in 12/2014.

Due to the large number of bills and resolutions introduced this session and also due to space limitations, summaries are provided only for the large authorizations and appropriations bills that were passed into law. In-depth summaries of all bills and resolutions are available at congressionalmonitor.org.

Key:

- H.A House Amendment
 - H. Con. Res House Concurrent Resolution
 - H. J. Res. House Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
 - H.R House Bill (having the force of law)
 - H. Res Simple House Resolution
 - S. Senate Bill (having the force of law)
 - S.A. Senate Amendment
 - S. Con. Res Senate Concurrent Resolution
 - S. J. Res Senate Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
 - S. Res. Simple Senate Resolution
 - * Denotes resolutions that passed and bills that were enacted into law.
- Voice Vote: Vote taken verbally and therefore not recorded.
Vote Tally: Yea–Nay–Present

*3 JANUARY 2013: CONSOLIDATED AND FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

H.R. 83, Donna Christensen (D-VI), 4 cosponsors.

This omnibus appropriations bill funds most of the government through the end of FY 2015 (9/30/15), including the Defense Dept., the State Dept., and foreign operations. Pertinent to the Congressional Monitor are its budget restrictions, conditions, oversight mechanisms, and appropriations for direct military aid, economic support, and aid provided through U.S. government agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

After President Obama signed a 2-month stopgap spending bill into law on 9/19/14 (*H. J. Res. 124 of 7/30/14), Congress set to work on an omnibus appropriations bill that would fund the government in the next fiscal year, through 9/2015. In early December 2014, just days before the

12/11 deadline was set to expire, Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress agreed on the provisions of this \$1.1 b. spending package, following a general formula maintaining domestic appropriations at comparable levels with previous years and directing increased spending abroad. In order to skirt time-consuming procedural rules, congressional leaders decided to drop the text of the appropriations bill in an earlier, unrelated measure rather than introduce a brand-new bill, hence the January 2013 date of this legislation. Since the Congressional Monitor is organized chronologically by the date of a legislative measure's introduction, the FY 2015 appropriations appear ahead of those for FY 2014 (see *H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13).

The funding totals and justifications listed below are drawn primarily from 2 places: the bill itself and the text of the congressional leaders' compromise agreement in early 12/2014.

Assistance to Israel

In accordance with the 2007 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding, \$3.1 b. was earmarked in foreign military financing (FMF) to Israel, with at least \$815.3 m. available for Israel to purchase Israeli-made weapons and military equipment, as well as for research and development, with the funds to be disbursed no more than 30 days after the bill became law. (This is effectively a U.S. subsidy to Israel's defense industry: in a situation unique among all recipients of U.S. military aid, Israel may spend some 25% of the U.S. aid it receives on its own domestic arms suppliers, and may also have U.S. arms it purchases built with Israeli components.)

The bill earmarked \$619.814 m. for joint U.S.-Israeli cooperative programs, \$2 m. less than the total authorized for FY 2015 (see *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14 for details), of which \$350.972 m. was designated for the Iron Dome missile defense system; \$137.934 m. to the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense (or David's Sling) program, including \$15 m. for production in the U.S.; \$74.707 m. for an upper-tier component of Israeli missile defense (known as Arrow 3); and \$56.201 m. for the Arrow System Improvement Program, including development of long-range, ground, and airborne threat-detection capabilities.

As in previous years, the bill allowed for certain defense items to be leased, rather than sold, to Israel (as well as to Egypt and NATO), at the president's discretion.

An amount of \$26,000, in interest and earnings from the program's endowment, was earmarked to support the Israeli-Arab Scholarship Program's activities, twice as much as in FY 2014.

Down from \$15 m. the previous year, \$10 m. was designated for resettlement in Israel of emigrants from Eastern Europe.

Finally, the bill barred U.S. contributions to the UNHRC unless participation in the council was deemed in the national interest and Israel was removed from the council's permanent agenda.

Funding for the PA and Programs in the West Bank and Gaza

As in FY 2014 and years prior, allocations supporting the PA and programs in the West Bank and in Gaza were allowed but no specific totals provided. However, the State Dept. requested \$440 m. for such programs in FY 2015, and barring the implementation of any conditional restrictions or new legislation, it was expected the amount would be funded. Below is a summary of the expected breakdown of these allocations as well as new and recurring provisions restricting, conditioning, or providing oversight for the funds.

The State Dept. requested \$370 m. in economic support funds (ESF) to help create an “atmosphere that supports negotiations, encourages broad-based economic growth, promotes democratic governance, and improves the everyday lives of Palestinians.” Specifically, the funds would go to direct budget support for the PA and to UN agencies and NGOs providing relief for Palestinians in Gaza, with the purpose of providing a “counterweight to Hamas.” The State Dept. also requested \$70 m. for the PA’s security sector from the funds of the Bureau for International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INL). The budget request designated several specific uses: increasing technical assistance to and replacing old equipment of the PA security forces (PASF), continuing support for the PA Interior Ministry’s oversight of the PASF, and increasing support for the PA’s justice and corrections sectors.

Regarding oversight, prior to any ESF disbursement, the secretary of state is required to certify to Congress that the aid would either advance the cause of Middle East peace, improve regional security, maintain support for transparent and accountable government, promote the private sector, or address urgent humanitarian needs. The secretary of state is also required to submit a budget prior to making any of the above funds available to programs in the West Bank and Gaza (as well as Egypt and Lebanon).

The bill also conditions the ESF to the PA: it prohibits the disbursement of such funds in the event that the Palestinians gain full membership in the UN or any agency thereof outside a negotiated agreement with Israel, or if the Palestinians initiate or sponsor an ICC-authorized investigation into crimes committed by individual Israelis against Palestinians. However, the secretary of state can waive this condition if the secretary certifies that continued aid to the PA is in the U.S. national security interest.

As in previous years, the president can waive the ban on a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) office in the U.S. if the president certifies to Congress that it is in the national interest or in the interest of U.S. national security. However, due to an additional provision introduced in FY 2014, the president would have to further certify that the Palestinians have not become a member of the UN or any agency thereof. In the absence of such certification, the president could only waive the ban 90 days after certifying that the Palestinians have entered into negotiations with Israel.

Finally, in a provision first added as an amendment to the Senate’s version of the State Dept. and foreign operations appropriations bill for FY 2015 (S. 2499 of 6/19/14), the bill stipulates reducing ESF support to the PA by an amount equal to that paid out by the PA to Palestinians incarcerated in Israel for terrorism-related crimes in the previous year.

Military and Economic Assistance to Egypt

In FY 2015, Egypt was designated to receive up to \$1.3 b. in FMF and \$150 m. in ESF, of which at least \$35 m. was earmarked for higher education. In the case that fund disbursement was stalled or blocked by any of the restrictions listed below, transfers would still be permitted at the minimum rate necessary to fulfill existing contracts, except for defense articles and services. Furthermore, in a perennial provision reinstated after being omitted in FY 2014, the secretary of state could waive all restrictions and conditions upon certifying to the Congress that to do so would be in the U.S. national security interest.

In terms of perennial restrictions, all aid is subject to secretary of state certification that Egypt is sustaining its strategic relationship with the U.S. and upholding its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. In addition, the ESF appropriation may not be used for cash transfers or budget support, unless the secretary of state certifies that the Egyptian government is taking steps to implement reforms and stabilize the economy. Funds may be deducted from the ESF appropriation equal to the cost of court fees or bail for U.S. NGO workers involved in democracy-related trials in Egypt, and any convictions in such trials would not be recognized under U.S. law.

As for FY 2014, all aid to Egypt is subject to piecemeal disbursement: a portion of up to \$725.85 m. would be made available if the secretary of state certified that the Egyptian government had held free and fair elections, was implementing democratic laws and policies, enacting reforms that protect minorities and guarantee all citizens' freedoms, providing due process to detainees, conducting credible investigations of its own security forces, and had released U.S. political prisoners. Another certification by the secretary of state that those conditions continued to be met would trigger the disbursement of the remaining \$725.85 m.

The secretary of state must submit a report to Congress for every certification, waiver, or transfer made. The secretary is also required to report to Congress on the withholding of any defense articles to Egypt and to consult with Congress on future plans to restructure military assistance.

American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) activists, as well as reps. of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan, lobbied hard for Congress to give the State Dept. more flexibility with regard to its aid to Egypt, which the bill does by reinstating the national security waiver.

Finally, of the funds appropriated for international peacekeeping operations, \$28 m. was earmarked for the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) mission in the Sinai Peninsula to address "force protection enhancements."

Oversight and Policy on Iran

This bill reiterates existing U.S. policy aimed at preventing Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons technology, including the extension of the current sanctions regime for another year. Specifically, it states that none of the appropriations listed in any part of the legislation may be used to violate the sanctions.

The bill also extends existing congressional oversight measures, including requirements for reports from the secretary of state on: bilateral/multilateral efforts to stop Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons; the status of the sanctions on Iran; and on the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Military and Economic Support for Jordan

The bill only specifies that at least \$1 b. in ESF and FMF would be made available to Jordan in FY 2015. The State Dept. requested \$300 m. in FMF and \$360 m. in ESF to support the government's political, economic, and social reform agendas, which were the amounts appropriated in FY 2014.

Furthermore, the secretary of defense would be permitted to disburse funds to Jordan for security along its border with Syria in amounts determined appropriate, 15 days after delivering a report on

the proposed disbursement to Congress. Also, funds appropriated in ESF would be available to be used for loan guarantees to Jordan.

Responding to the Crisis in Syria

This bill would appropriate funds for both lethal and nonlethal assistance to select groups in Syria. First, and as in FY 2014, an unspecified amount would be made available to programs that: address the needs of civilians affected by the Syrian conflict, specifically those involved in representative, inclusive, and accountable governance; expand the role of women in the political resolution to the conflict; develop democratic, transparent, and legal political processes; legitimize the Syrian opposition; develop civil society and independent media; promote economic development; document, prosecute, and investigate human rights violations; counter extremist ideologies; and assist Syrian refugees. Prior to the transfer of any funds, the secretary of state would have to ensure the existence of effective monitoring and oversight mechanisms as well as report to Congress on the amount and type of assistance being disbursed and the beneficiaries involved.

Second, and in accordance with the administration's request, up to \$500 m. would be made available for training, equipment, supplies, and other support for "appropriately vetted" elements of the Syrian opposition and Syrian rebel groups. For further details on goals, definitions, and oversight procedures, see the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2015 (*H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14), the bill that first authorized this appropriation.

Furthermore, restrictions on dealings with Rosoboronexport, Russia's defense-related import/export state agency, would be extended in light of Russia's stance in Syria, specifically its weapons supplies to the Syrian government. Unless the secretary of defense could certify, inter alia, that the agency had stopped providing lethal weapons to the Syrian government, the Defense Dept. is barred from entering an agreement with Rosoboronexport, or any of its subsidiaries.

Assistance to Lebanon

An unspecified amount in FMF would be made available for Lebanon to "professionalize" the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), strengthen border security, and combat terrorism, including training and equipping the LAF. The bill also provides unspecified amounts in INL funds and FMF to address security requirements related to the Syrian crisis and in ESF, as long as the U.S. president can certify that the LAF has been deployed to the border with Israel and that Lebanon's government is effectively asserting its authority in that area.

Guiding those appropriations, the State Dept. requested \$58 m. in ESF for Lebanon to advance internal and regional stability, combat extremist influence, and promote transparency and economic growth; \$10 m. in INL funds to improve the capacity of the Internal Security Forces (ISF); and, \$80 m. in FMF to help Lebanon uphold international obligations and improve its overall defense capabilities.

The appropriations listed above would be subject to further, perennial conditions, including consultations with Congress and delivery of detailed budgets to the appropriate committees prior to any disbursements. Furthermore, Congress would have to be notified before any funds designated for lethal military equipment were transferred. Finally, all of the above would be withheld if the LAF or ISF were to be controlled by a foreign terrorist organization.

Funding and Restrictions on Relevant Government Entities and International Groups

UNESCO: As in FY 2014, no funds would be appropriated to the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The congressional leaders' early 12/2014 agreement cited existing law (*H.R. 3792 of 2/16/90 and *S. 2307 of 7/21/94) barring contributions to UN agencies of which Palestine is a member.

Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA): U.S. support of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) comes from the MRA program and the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) fund, to which \$3.058 b. and \$50 m. are appropriated respectively. While no specific figure is provided, U.S. contributions to UNRWA have ranged from \$233.3–\$294 m. since 2009 and similar levels of support are expected in FY 2015. Prior to any disbursement of funds to UNRWA, the secretary of state must report to Congress that the agency is fulfilling a series of requirements, including a “no-weapons” policy at its facilities and verifiable oversight of the consistency of UNRWA school curricula with the values of human rights, dignity, and tolerance.

Middle East Partnership Initiative: \$70 m. is appropriated to this program, down \$5 m. from FY 2014.

Reconciliation Programs: Of the \$26 m. in ESF appropriated to support “people-to-people” programs in areas of strife around the world, \$10 m. is designated for such programs in the Middle East, under the 12/2014 agreement.

International Peacekeeping Activities: \$2.12 b. is earmarked to support UN peacekeeping activities worldwide. Though specific totals are not provided, the State Dept. requested \$156 m. for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and \$17.58 m. for the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) operating on the Israel-Syria border.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): In a perennial provision, the secretary of state may halt U.S. funding of the IAEA if the secretary determines that Israel is being denied agency membership.

Complex Crises Fund: \$50 m. is designated for this fund, which has been used to address instability caused by political transitions in the Middle East and the ongoing Syrian conflict.

Center for Middle Eastern–Western Dialogue (The Hollings Center for International Dialogue): Down \$7,000 from FY 2014, the bill appropriates \$83,000 of interest and earnings from the center's trust fund to support its activities, which facilitate communication between the U.S. and Muslim nations through scholarship programming.

Broadcasting Board of Governors: \$726.567 m. is appropriated to this program for international communications activities, including radio and television broadcasts in the Middle East, with the Middle East Broadcasting Networks receiving \$106.258 m. or \$3 m. less than in FY 2014.

Democracy Programs: At least \$2.265 b. is made available to fund what are described as democracy programs in the Middle East and North Africa.

The bill carries over the following restrictions and provisions:

Prohibition against Direct Funding for Certain Countries: As in previous years, loans, credits, insurance, and guarantees to the governments of Cuba, North Korea, Iran, and Syria are banned.

Coups d'état: None of the bill's appropriations may go to any government whose duly-elected leader is deposed by a military coup d'état. However, aid would be allowed to continue in such situations if the secretary of state could subsequently certify that the government that had taken office had submitted to an electoral poll. If the secretary of state cannot provide such certification, support for democracy promotion would be allowed to continue. (Previously, a presidential certification was required for resumption of aid.)

Prohibition on Taxation of Assistance: Foreign governments are forbidden from taxing U.S. aid to grantees, contractors, and subcontractors. The West Bank and Gaza are specifically cited in this otherwise-generic provision owing to the PA's actions in that regard in a previous budget year.

Notification Requirements: No funds may be appropriated to select countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, and Yemen) outside the regular committee of appropriations notification procedures.

Arab League Boycott: This provision conveys the sense of Congress condemning the Arab League boycott of Israel, calls on the president to help end the boycott, and requires the president to report to Congress annually on the steps that are taken to do so.

Palestinian Statehood: Using U.S. assistance for the establishment of a Palestinian state is prohibited unless the secretary of state certifies that certain conditions are met. For example, the PA must be working toward peaceful coexistence with Israel and peace in the Middle East, dismantling terrorist infrastructures, and cooperating with Israeli security organizations.

Business with the PA in Jerusalem: Prohibiting the use of funds by any U.S. diplomatic mission in Jerusalem, except the U.S. consulate, that conducts business with the PA or any successor government.

Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation: This condition prohibits any U.S. funding for the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.

Assistance for the West Bank and Gaza: Prior to committing ESF to the West Bank and Gaza, restrictions and conditions listed here must be met or fulfilled, including a certification that no funds are disbursed to individuals who have committed acts of terrorism and a requirement for the thorough vetting of all grantees in the territories. Likewise, security assistance may not be disbursed without a certification that the PA has met a series of benchmarks. These provisions are subject to audit and investigation, for which a \$500,000 grant is appropriated to USAID.

Limits on Aid to the PA: Barring a presidential waiver in the name of national security, aid to the PA is restricted and conditioned in a number of ways. Specifically, U.S. funds cannot be used to pay the salaries of PA personnel in Gaza or to assist Hamas. Furthermore, they cannot go toward supporting any power-sharing government of which Hamas is a member, or one resulting from an agreement with Hamas, or one over which Hamas exercises "undue influence." The president may waive the above-listed restrictions if he can certify that all ministers in such a power-sharing government have publicly accepted and complied with 2 principles: recognition of the "Jewish state of Israel's right to exist" and acceptance of previous bilateral agreements. If the president cannot provide said certification, aid may still be disbursed, but only to specific agencies and programs, including the office of the PA president.

Prohibition of Assistance to the PLO: This provision forbids any aid transfers in support of the PLO.

See also: H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13.

Last major action: 12/16/14 signed into law by the president (12/13/14 resolving differences, Senate agrees to House amendment by yea/nay vote, 56–40).

4 MARCH 2013: U.S.-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2013

H.R. 938, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 355 cosponsors.

This bill would reaffirm and strengthen the relationship between Israel and the U.S. in a variety of ways. **For a full summary of its status at the end of 2013, see congressionalmonitor.org.**

Over a year after it was introduced, this bill passed the House on the last day of the 2014 AIPAC conference. After key senators compromised on the bill's visa waiver language, the Senate's version of the measure gathered more momentum and was eventually signed into law (see S. 462 of 3/5/13 and *S. 2673 of 7/28/14 for more).

See also: companion measure S. 462 of 3/5/13, S. 266 of 2/7/13, H.R. 300 of 1/15/13, and *S. 2673 of 7/28/14.

Last major action: 3/5/14 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 410–1.

5 MARCH 2013: U.S.-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2013

S. 462, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 63 cosponsors.

As with the House version (H.R. 938 of 3/4/13), this bill would reaffirm and strengthen the relationship between Israel and the U.S. in a variety of ways. **See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary of its status at the end of 2013.**

At the AIPAC conference in 3/2014, the bill was a focal point of the organization's lobbying efforts, which yielded 8 additional cosponsors.

Despite support from pro-Israel groups, no significant action was taken on the bill for almost a year after it was introduced and referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Comm. Then, in early 2014, Boxer made a deal with other key senators, conceding on the most controversial section of the bill in exchange for facilitating its advancement in committee. Reportedly, Boxer agreed to amend her version to align the Visa Waiver Program language with the House version. Specifically, the new language would authorize, but not require, Israel to be admitted to the program with a visa refusal rate as high as 10% so long as it complied with all other provisions. (Israel's visa refusal rate at the time was 9.7% and the program's other members are not allowed a rate above 3%.) Additionally, Boxer's amendment would have removed the controversial language that permitted Israel to be exempt from the program's reciprocity requirement on the grounds that the exemption was required to uphold Israel's security.

Following the deal, the bill was set to pass in a Foreign Relations Comm. meeting scheduled for 5/20—after which, passage in the full Senate was all but assured considering the bill's 63 cosponsors. However, the committee's Democratic chair, Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), cancelled the meeting when it became clear that his Republican colleague, Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN), intended to propose another amendment designed to give Congress increased oversight of the P5+1 negotiations with Iran. Specifically, Corker's amendment would have given Congress the right to hold a "vote of disapproval" on any deal with Iran and to schedule hearings to consider its impact. Boxer reportedly supported Menendez's decision to pull the bill from consideration.

By introducing this key Republican demand, Corker sparked a heated debate over a bill that had until then commanded majority bipartisan support. AIPAC strongly supported the Corker amendment and other similar initiatives aimed at expanding congressional oversight of the Iran deal. The White House opposed Corker's amendment because of fears it would derail the ongoing negotiations. Other Democratic critics of the amendment decried it for being irrelevant to a bill on U.S.-Israel relations and lobbied for it to be proposed as an independent measure instead.

Two days after pulling the bill, Menendez was presented the Defender of Zion award by the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA). At the award ceremony, ZOA's president, Mort Klein, said, "If [Menendez] politically thought the bill won't [*sic*] have a chance with this amendment then he did the right thing even though, of course, we regretted that he had to do it," adding, "[Menendez has] given the most extraordinary speeches on the Senate floor. . . . Speeches that sound like I would [*sic*] have written them."

When Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ) proposed an amendment identical to Corker's to be attached to the House NDAA (H.R. 4435 of 4/9/14), the House Rules Comm. determined the action "out of order." Franks later proposed the same language in an independent bill he introduced on 6/25/14 (H.R. 4967).

After the Menendez debacle, Boxer reintroduced the amendment with updated visa waiver language and it eventually was signed into law. (See *S. 2673 of 7/28/14 for the updated bill.)

See also: H.R. 938 of 3/4/13 and S. 2673 of 7/29/14.

Last major action: 3/5/13 read twice and referred to the Comm. on Foreign Relations.

12 MARCH 2013: CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

H. Res. 109, Michael Grimm (R-NY), 172 cosponsors.

See also: S. Res. 75 of 3/12/13.

Last major action: 6/19/14 forwarded by subcomm. to full comm. by unanimous consent.

22 MARCH 2013: NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 2014

S. 653, Roy Blunt (R-MO), 22 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/25/14 motion to reconsider laid on the table.

1 AUGUST 2013: TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO SHIMON PERES

S. 1456, Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), 81 cosponsors.

See companion measure *H.R. 2939 of 8/1/13 for a full summary.

Last major action: 3/13/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent.

*1 AUGUST 2013: TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO SHIMON PERES

H.R. 2939, Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA), 299 cosponsors.

This bill directs congressional leaders to arrange a ceremony to present then-Israeli president Shimon Peres with a Congressional Gold Medal.

Last major action: 6/9/14 became public law (5/20/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent. 5/19/14 passed in the House by voice vote).

9 SEPTEMBER 2013: IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF SYRIAN WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL RESOLUTION

H. Con. Res. 51, Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), 22 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

In a markup session held on 4/30/14, the House Foreign Affairs Comm. amended this resolution calling on President Obama to submit a strategy for the U.S. humanitarian response to the Syrian conflict. Before sending it to the full House for consideration, the committee added language requiring the president to include national security and regional stability considerations in the strategy document.

Earlier in 4/2014, the Senate Foreign Relations Comm. passed a similar resolution calling on the president to create a humanitarian response strategy. (See S. Res. 384 of 3/13/14.)

See also: H. Res. 520 of 3/14/14, S. Res. 384 of 3/13/14, and S. Con. Res. 32 of 2/25/14.

Last major action: 4/30/14 ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

*3 OCTOBER 2013: EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

H. J. Res. 76, Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), no cosponsors.

This resolution provides \$225 m. in emergency supplemental funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system, in response to a request from the Israeli government and approval from the Defense Dept.

In the midst of Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip, on 8/1/14, the Senate approved an amendment to replace the entire text of an earlier bill with the measure above. This process allowed for the appropriations to be passed outside the normal committee process.

See S. 2648 of 7/23/14 and H.R. 5235 of 7/29/14 for more on the emergency supplemental appropriations.

Last major action: 8/4/14 became public law (8/1/14 agreed to in the House by yea/nay vote, 395-8; 8/1/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent).

*20 NOVEMBER 2013: CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

H.R. 3547, Lamar Smith (R-TX), 3 cosponsors.

This omnibus appropriations bill was passed to fund the government through the end of FY 2014 (9/30/14). With regards to Palestinian affairs and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, it includes budget restrictions and appropriations for direct military aid, economic support, and aid provided by U.S. government agencies.

The bill was developed in a bipartisan reconciliation committee and based largely on an agreement struck between congressional leaders in early 2014, which reflected budget appropriations found in earlier versions of the legislation in both the House (H.R. 2855 of 7/30/13) and the Senate (S. 1372 of 7/25/13).

Assistance to Israel

A total of \$3.1 b. is provided to Israel in FMF grants, a return to presequester levels of aid, including \$815.3 m. for Israel's acquisition of domestically-made weapons and military equipment. (In a situation unique among all the recipients of U.S. military aid, Israel may spend some 25% of U.S. aid it receives on its own domestic arms suppliers, and may even have U.S. weapons purchases built with Israeli components.) Unlike every other FMF recipient, Israel is guaranteed early disbursement, within 30 days of the bill becoming law.

This bill earmarks funding for joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs at the same level as that authorized in the NDAA for 2014 (*H.R. 3304 of 10/22/13).

From the Migration and Refugee Assistance fund, \$15 m. was designated to resettle emigrants from Eastern Europe.

A sum of \$13,000 in interest and earnings from the program's endowment is designated for the activities of the Israeli Arab Scholarship Program.

Furthermore, subject to the president assuring Congress that there are compelling national security reasons to do so, the bill allows for certain defense articles to be leased rather than sold to Israel.

In a perennial provision, the secretary of state is required to report on any U.S. contributions to the UNHRC and on steps taken by the Council to remove Israel as a permanent agenda item.

Funding for the PA and Programs in the West Bank and Gaza

As in years past, no specific funds were earmarked in this category. Instead, the reconciliation committee directed the State Dept. and USAID to comply with the committee reports accompanying the House and Senate versions of this bill (H.R. 2855 of 7/30/13 and S. 1372 of 7/25/13, respectively). The State Dept., however, requested \$440 m. to be appropriated to the PA and to Palestinian programs in the West Bank and Gaza, specifically: \$70 m. for PA security from the INL program budget, including \$54 m. in training programs as well as the provision of nonlethal equipment and garrison assistance to the PASF in the West Bank and \$16 m. for rule-of-law training for prosecutors and police, and human rights training for personnel in charge of PA prisons. Some \$370 m. was designated in ESF for direct transfer to the PA in the form of USAID grants in the West Bank and Gaza, a slight increase from FY 2013, which was subject to a sequester cut. The ESF total breaks down further into the following "key interventions."

- \$40 m. to fund programs designed to increase access to drinking water;
- \$25 m. for capacity-building of PA ministries;
- \$25 m. to increase the competitiveness of businesses (particularly in tourism, marble and stone, agriculture, and information technologies);
- \$20 m. to distribute food to vulnerable nonrefugee Palestinian families;
- \$10 m. to strengthen the Palestinian Ministry of Health, including increased focus on information systems;
- \$9.5 m. to improve education in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, both in terms of access and quality;

- Unspecified totals for improving transportation infrastructure; and
- Unspecified totals for direct budget support to the PA for the purpose of paying off commercial debt.

As in previous years, aid to the Palestinians is designed to meet humanitarian needs, foster stability and self-governance, and prevent terrorism against Israel, and remains subject to vetting and congressional oversight, in addition to the annual restrictions and conditions listed below. USAID spending plans for the occupied Palestinian territories must be reported, and they require Congressional approval, while all funds transferred to individuals or groups in the West Bank or Gaza must be audited and supervised. In addition, the secretary of state must report on the purpose of any of the above-listed aid listed before disbursement and must also submit a detailed budget on assistance to the West Bank and Gaza.

In a new provision, the president's perennial right to waive the ban on a PLO office in Washington, DC, would be further restricted. In addition to certifying that the existence of such a mission is in the U.S. national interest or the interest of national security, the president must further certify that the Palestinians have not become a member of the UN or any agency thereof. If the president cannot make such a certification, the president would be able to exercise a national security or interest waiver after 90 days, but only if simultaneously certifying that the Palestinians have entered into negotiations with Israel.

Military and Economic Assistance to Egypt

A total of \$1.55 b. was appropriated to Egypt in FY 2014, \$1.3 b. in FMF and \$250 m. in ESF. Of the latter, at least \$35 m. was designated for higher education programs, including \$10 m. in financial aid to qualifying Egyptian students. As in the case of Israel (see above), the appropriations allow for certain defense articles to be leased rather than sold to Egypt if the president can assure Congress that there are compelling national security reasons for doing so.

As always, the FY 2014 aid package to Egypt was subject to a series of conditions and limitations, some perennial and some new. The 3 perennial provisions were as follows: First, the \$1.55 b. total would only be disbursed once the secretary of state had certified that Egypt was sustaining its strategic relationship with the U.S. and upholding its 1979 treaty with Israel. Second, funds could be deducted from the ESF appropriation equal to the cost of court fees or bail for U.S. NGO workers involved in democracy-related trials in Egypt. Finally, aid transfers remain forbidden to a country in which a democratically-elected government is overthrown by the military, a limitation/condition invoked by the Obama administration to withhold transfers of select defense articles after the Egyptian military deposed then president Mohamed Morsi in 7/2013.

New restrictions on the disbursement of aid in the FY 2014 package were designed to exert U.S. influence over the ongoing political upheaval in Egypt. The restrictions included the following: up to \$975 m. could be transferred once the secretary of state certified that the government had held a constitutional referendum and that it supported a democratic transition; the balance of \$576.8 m. would be made available upon the secretary's certification that Egypt had held parliamentary and presidential elections, and that the subsequent government was democratically elected. Failing that, the remaining funds would go into an interest-bearing account at the Federal Reserve Bank of

New York and existing contracts would be honored at a minimum rate. The secretary of state would be required to submit corresponding reports along with each certification detailed above.

Finally, at least \$36 m. would be appropriated as the U.S. contribution to the MFO in Sinai.

Military and Economic Support for Jordan

A total of \$1 b. was appropriated to Jordan, \$300 m. in FMF and \$360 m. in ESF to support the Jordanian government's political, economic, and social reform agendas, and \$340 m. in additional aid "for extraordinary costs related to instability in the region, including security requirements along the border with Iraq." Also, an unspecified amount of aid would be available for previously-authorized loan guarantees to Jordan.

Responding to the Crisis in Syria

An unspecified amount would be available to programs addressing the needs of civilians affected by the Syrian conflict and for democratization and economic programs. However, before any transfer of funds was made, the secretary of state would have to certify that necessary monitoring procedures were in place and reporting to the relevant committees would be required. This appropriation was a reinstatement of nonlethal aid to certain groups in Syria.

Unlike in previous versions of this bill, the reconciliation committee did *not* add a provision accommodating the executive funding request for a contribution to a UN peacekeeping mission in Syria. If such a mission were established, the bill would require the secretary to consult with the relevant committees before making a contribution.

Finally, the bill required the secretary of state to report to Congress on Russia's support for the Syrian and Iranian governments.

Assistance to Lebanon

Aside from an unspecified amount of ESF appropriated to Lebanon, the bill earmarks \$12 m. in financial support to Lebanese students pursuing higher education. The bill also approves discretionary aid to the LAF, with such funds to be designated specifically for deterring terrorism and strengthening border security.

Funding (and Restrictions) for Relevant Government Programs and International Agencies

UNESCO: Contrary to the executive request, this bill did not waive the hold on U.S. funds to UNESCO. Legislators barred support for the organization in accordance with an existing law barring all U.S. contributions to UN organizations that admit Palestine, which UNESCO did in 10/2011.

Relatedly, the bill maintains the perennial provision forbidding transfers of aid to the PA if Palestine is recognized as a member by any UN agency or if it pursues legal action in the ICC outside a negotiated settlement with Israel. This annual provision became a source of contention in 4/2014 when PA president Mahmoud Abbas announced that he would apply for membership to 15 UN and other international conventions. As Abbas did not sign the applications for Palestine's membership in any UN "agency" or at the UN itself, this provision did not apply.

However, many U.S. lawmakers advocated for rewording the provision to encompass Abbas's new initiative.

Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA): \$1.3 b. would be appropriated to this program. The reconciliation committee noted that the funds designated could also go to supporting refugees from the ongoing conflict in Syria, particularly those fleeing to Jordan and Lebanon. While the U.S. annual contribution to UNRWA, which is channeled via MRA and ERMA funds, remained unspecified, it was expected to reach \$200 m., the average level of U.S. contributions to UNRWA since 2007; before such funds are made available, the administration is required to deliver a corresponding report to Congress.

Middle East Partnership Initiative: \$75 m. would be designated for this program, which runs projects in the West Bank and Gaza, with at least \$10 m. earmarked for scholarships to students in Muslim countries.

National Endowment for Democracy (NED): \$135 m. appropriated to the NED, up from \$103.4 m. in the executive request. The State Dept. requested this money for, inter alia, women's leadership development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), assisting democratic transition in Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya, building cross-border networks in the MENA regions, and continuing major programs in the West Bank and Gaza. The increased appropriation was initiated in the Senate committee, where the NED was acknowledged as an effective mechanism for promoting human rights. Specifically, \$1.5 m of the increase was designated for programs in Egypt.

International Peacekeeping Activities: \$1.765 b. appropriated to UN peacekeeping operations worldwide. Although the bill does not assign a figure, the executive request specified \$156 m. for UNIFIL in southern Lebanon and \$14 m. for UNDOF on the Israel-Syria border.

International Military Education and Training: In keeping with the executive request, the bill would appropriate \$105.6 m. for this program, including \$20.5 m. for technical training and equipment maintenance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Center for Middle Eastern–Western Dialogue (The Hollings Center): an appropriation of \$90,000 in accordance with the executive request.

Broadcasting Board of Governors: Of the \$721.08 m. appropriated to this program to make and supervise international grants for radio and television, \$109.51 m. was earmarked for the Middle East Broadcasting Networks.

See *H.R. 83 of 1/3/14 for a full list of annual presidential authorities, funding restrictions, and provisions.

See also: H.R. 2855 of 7/30/13, and S. 1372 of 7/25/13.

Last major action: 1/17/14 signed by the president (1/16/14 resolving differences; 12/12/13 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent; 12/2/13 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 376–5).

2 DECEMBER 2013: ISRAEL SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY RECOGNITION ACT

H.R. 3629, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 11 cosponsors.

In addition to conveying the sense of Congress that Israel has a right to the Golan Heights and that Jerusalem is its capital, this bill would eliminate the president's authority to delay the

relocation of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, amending the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995.

Last major action: 1/10/14 referred to the Subcomm. on Middle East and North Africa.

5 DECEMBER 2013: CALLING ON THE U.S. SENATE TO INCREASE SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

H. Res. 431, Steven Scalise (R-LA), 64 cosponsors.

This resolution would declare that it is U.S. policy to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capability. It would also call on the Senate to take action on the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013 (H.R. 850 of 2/27/13).

Last major action: 1/10/14 referred to the Subcomm. on Middle East and North Africa.

*9 DECEMBER 2013: CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO FULFILL THEIR PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, ONE OF THE LONGEST HELD UNITED STATES CIVILIANS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

S. Res. 312, Bill Nelson (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

For a summary of this resolution, see congressionalmonitor.org.

See also: H. Res. 435 of 12/10/13.

Last major action: 1/9/14 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

10 DECEMBER 2013: A BILL TO AMEND THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007 TO IMPROVE U.S.-ISRAEL ENERGY COOPERATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 3683, Fred Upton (R-MI), 7 cosponsors.

Citing Israel's discovery of an estimated 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the Mediterranean Sea in 12/2012, this bill recognizes energy collaboration with Israel as a strategic interest of the U.S. and urges closer governmental, economic, and academic ties between the two.

If passed, the bill would extend authorizations of specific grant-making programs—the Binational Industrial Research and Development program and the Binational Science Foundation—through 2024, limit the federal share of funding for these programs to 50%, and expand the programs' scope to include natural gas, water desalination, and other water treatment technologies. The bill would also authorize the establishment of a joint U.S.-Israeli center for research on energy technologies in connection with the new gas finds. Finally, it would urge the creation of an Energy Cooperation Working Group to improve efforts within the semiannual U.S.-Israel Strategic Dialogue.

See also: S. 1491 of 9/10/13 and H.R. 3677 of 12/9/13.

Last major action: 2/5/14 reported by the Comm. on Energy and Commerce.

10 DECEMBER 2013: CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO FULFILL THEIR PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, ONE OF THE LONGEST HELD UNITED STATES CIVILIANS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

H. Res. 435, Theodore Deutch (R-FL), 29 cosponsors.

See also: *S. Res. 312 of 12/9/13.

Last major action: 6/26/14 ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute by unanimous consent.

12 DECEMBER 2013: URGING THE P5+1 TO ONLY ACCEPT A FINAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN THAT DEFINITELY PREVENTS IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY, CEASES IRAN'S CONSTRUCTION OF ADVANCED MISSILES AND WARHEADS, SUSPENDS IRAN'S SUPPORT FOR TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, AND REDUCES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WITHIN IRAN

H. Res. 445, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 25 cosponsors.

Last major action: 1/10/14 referred to Subcomm. on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

19 DECEMBER 2013: NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE IRAN ACT OF 2013

S. 1881, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 59 cosponsors.

This bill would increase and expand sanctions on Iran should it violate the 6-month interim deal of 11/2013, as well as subsequent extensions, or if Iran allowed the deal to expire without acquiescing to a long-term follow-up agreement. For a full summary of the measure as it stood at the end of the first session of the 113th Congress, [see congressionalmonitor.org](http://www.congressionalmonitor.org).

On 2/4/2014, 42 Republican senators signed a letter to Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) urging him to allow a vote on this bill. Notably, the bill's principal sponsor, Menendez, did not sign onto the letter. In a move widely viewed as a retreat from growing partisanship in the sanctions debate, Menendez gave a one-hour speech on the Senate floor (2/6/14) defending the bill and called for a delay before holding a floor vote. The same day, AIPAC released a statement supporting the delay.

Following the Republican victories in the 11/4 midterm elections and the 7-month extension of the P5+1's negotiations with Iran, Menendez said on 11/24 that he would reintroduce a similar bill in the 114th Congress (see S. 269 of 1/27/15 for more).

Last Major action: 12/20/13 read a second time and placed on Senate calendar.

6 JANUARY 2014: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON STEPS THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN MUST TAKE BEFORE FURTHER BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OCCUR

S. Res. 328, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 3 cosponsors.

Citing, inter alia, the projected \$7 b. in sanctions relief to Iran as a result of the 6-month interim nuclear deal with the P5+1, this resolution would call for the Iranian government to release all detained U.S. citizens in Iran and publicly affirm Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state before the U.S. engages in any further bilateral negotiations with the country.

See also: S. Res. 252 of 9/24/13.

Last major action: 1/6/14 referred to the Comm. on Foreign Relations.

14 JANUARY 2014: PALESTINIAN PEACE PROMOTION AND ANTI-INCITEMENT ACT

H.R. 3868, Edward Royce (R-CA), no cosponsors.

This bill would require presidential certification that the PA is not practicing incitement against Israel and is verifiably preparing the Palestinian people for peace in order for aid to be disbursed.

Once the legislation passes into law, recertification and a report on Palestinian incitement would be required every 6 months.

Last major action: 1/14/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

***16 JANUARY 2014: A RESOLUTION STRONGLY RECOMMENDING THAT THE U.S. RENEGOTIATE THE RETURN OF THE IRAQI JEWISH ARCHIVE TO IRAQ**

S. Res. 333, Pat Toomey (R-PA), 29 cosponsors.

In 2003, the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration signed an agreement with the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), the official body governing Iraq in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion of that country. At issue was the proper administration of an extensive archive of community records, books, and sacred items belonging to Iraqi Jews that had been seized by the state and were found in the basement of the Iraqi intelligence headquarters. According to the 2003 agreement, the archive was to be preserved in the U.S. National Archives temporarily and returned to Iraq in 6/2014.

The resolution urges the secretary of state to renegotiate that agreement with the Iraqi government, which inherited the obligation from the CPA, with the goal of keeping the archive in the U.S. where it would be easily available to many Jews of Iraqi descent.

Many U.S. Jewish groups supported this measure, including the American Jewish Congress, the Orthodox Union, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

On 5/14/2015, Iraq's ambassador to Washington, Lukman Faily, announced that the deal had been renegotiated and that the Iraqi government had agreed to allow the archive to remain in the U.S. for an indefinite period of time.

See also: H. Res. 505 of 3/6/14.

Last major action: 2/6/14 resolution agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

29 JANUARY 2014: A BILL TO PROVIDE ISRAEL A LICENSE EXCEPTION TO THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS CURRENTLY MADE AVAILABLE TO 36 OTHER NATIONS

H.R. 3961, Alan Grayson (D-FL), no cosponsors.

This bill would direct the president to undertake discussions with Israel to facilitate its inclusion on a list of countries with which the U.S. relaxes certain restrictions on the export of certain technology-related goods.

Last major action: 1/29/14 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

***31 JANUARY 2014: CARL LEVIN AND HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) FOR FY 2015**

H.R. 3979, Lou Barletta (R-PA), 106 cosponsors.

This is an annual, must-pass piece of legislation that provides the Defense Dept. legal authority to carry out all its activities, including cooperative U.S.-Israeli military programs, reacting to the threat of Iranian nuclear development, and support for certain Syrian rebel groups.

The House passed its original version of this bill (H.R. 4435 of 4/9/14) earlier in the year, but the Senate's version (S. 2410 of 6/2/14) was never voted on. This new NDAA represents a compromise reached by the House and the Senate in 12/2014.

Israeli Missile Defense

The Defense Dept. was authorized to spend up to \$621.575 m. on joint U.S.-Israeli programs, including \$350.972 m. on the Iron Dome missile defense system. Iron Dome funding is pursuant to the 3/5/14 agreement signed by the U.S. and Israel guaranteeing continued cooperation on the project. The agreement provided for the U.S. production of certain components by major defense contractor Raytheon and full U.S. access to Iron Dome technology, which had been proprietary hitherto. The remaining funds authorized would support 3 other U.S.-Israel cooperative missile defense programs—notably Arrow II, Arrow III, and David’s Sling.

Managing Relations with Iran

Congressional oversight of ongoing negotiations with Iran would be extended and expanded. Specifically, the administration would be required to continue delivering Congress its annual report on Iran’s military power through 2016. (See H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09 on congressionalmonitor.org for the report’s full requirements.) The legislation also requires a report on Iran’s compliance with the terms of the 6-month interim deal and Iran’s nuclear program. Additional reports on the same 2 subjects would be required biannually after Iran and the P5+1 come to a final agreement.

In addition to oversight on the negotiations, the 2015 NDAA also authorizes the U.S. military to continue technical preparations for a possible conflict with Iran. First, it authorizes the Defense Dept. to contract a study on its ground-based midcourse missile defense system, designed to protect the U.S. from medium- to long-range ballistic missiles, specifically against “current and plausible” threats from Iran. Second, it requires the administration to report back on its ongoing defensive efforts, particularly those with regional and international partners, related to the possible threat from Iranian ballistic missiles.

As in previous years, the 2015 NDAA stipulates that it is not tantamount to an authorization for the use of force against Iran.

Support for Syrian Rebels

The 2015 NDAA authorizes “training, equipment, supplies, stipends, construction of training and associated facilities, and sustainment” for certain Syrian rebel groups and elements of the Syrian opposition, extending the 9/2014 authorization through 12/31/16 (*H. J. Res. 124 of 9/9/14). Prior to delivering any of the aforementioned support and, on a quarterly basis thereafter, the administration is required to deliver an unclassified report to Congress describing the goals, costs, concept of operations, roles of partner nations, and number of U.S. personnel involved, as well as any other relevant details. The administration is further required to vet rebel groups designated as beneficiaries, taking into consideration their ties to the Iranian government, groups designated by the U.S. as foreign terrorist organizations, and Shi’i groups aligned with the Syrian regime, in addition to their commitment to human rights and the rule of law. The stated goals of this authorization are threefold: defending the Syrian people from ISIS, protecting the U.S. and its allies, and promoting conditions for a negotiated settlement to the Syrian conflict.

As in previous years, Congress included measures in the NDAA designed to minimize Russia’s involvement in Syria. Specifically, the secretary of defense must deliver a report on the known transfers of lethal military equipment from Rosoboronexport, the Russian agency for defense-related

imports/exports, to the Syrian government since 3/15/11, as well as any contracts between Rosoboronexport and the U.S. Dept. of Defense since that same date.

One relevant amendment was submitted in early 12/2014.

S.A. 4018, submitted by Marco Rubio (R-FL) on 12/10/14, no cosponsors.

This amendment attaches the full text of the Palestinian and UN Anti-Terrorism Act of 2014 to the 2015 NDAA. Specifically, it calls for increased restrictions on aid to the PA and attaches additional conditions to U.S. support for the UNHRC and UNRWA. Rubio had earlier introduced an identical amendment to the Senate's version of the NDAA (see S. 2410 of 6/2/14); neither this amendment, nor Rubio's previous one, were considered.

See also: H.R. 4435 of 4/9/14 and S. 2410 of 6/2/14.

Last major action: 12/19/14 became public law (12/12/14 Senate approved House amendments to Senate amendment by yea/nay vote, 89–11; 4/7/14 passed in the Senate by yea/nay vote, 59–38; 3/11/14 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 410–0).

3 FEBRUARY 2014: COMPREHENSIVE VETERANS HEALTH AND BENEFITS AND MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY RESTORATION ACT OF 2014

S. 1982, Bernard Sanders (I-VT), 29 cosponsors.

This bill proposed expanding medical services and other benefits for veterans. However, a controversial amendment related to Iran's nuclear program scotched the measure's prospects.

S.A. 2752, submitted by Richard Burr (R-NC) on 2/25/14, 8 cosponsors.

This amendment would have replaced the entire text of the above bill with a Republican-designed proposal for veterans' benefits, adding a provision, titled "Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2014," reproducing the text of an earlier piece of legislation designed to apply pressure on Iran. (See S. 1881 of 12/19/13 on congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.) The amendment stalled in the Senate because majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV)—heeding the president's warning—refused to schedule a vote on any sanctions-related measures for fear of undermining the ongoing diplomatic efforts.

Republican senators filibustered the bill after Reid refused to hold a vote on the amendment. Because the Democrats did not have enough support to end the filibuster, a final vote on this bill was delayed.

See also: S. 1881 of 12/19/13.

Last major action: Cloture motion to proceed to the measure invoked in Senate by yea/nay vote, 99–0.

6 FEBRUARY 2014: PROTECT ACADEMIC FREEDOM ACT

H.R. 4009, Pete Roskam (R-IL), 1 cosponsor.

In 12/2013, the American Studies Association (ASA) voted to boycott Israeli academic institutions. In response, Israel's former U.S. ambassador, Michael Oren, called on Congress to target the ASA and any other higher education institution involved in Israel boycott activities. Introduced largely in response to Oren's call, the bill barred any higher education institution or parts thereof participating in said boycott from receiving federal funding. This included organizations funded by such institutions of higher learning. The bill also required the secretary of education to publicize a list of all institutions denied funding on this basis.

In 12/2013, 135 members of Congress, led by Rep. Roskam, signed a letter to the ASA condemning the boycott vote.

See the Special Document File in JPS 171 for more on the ASA boycott and its legislative response.

Last major action: 2/6/14 referred to the House Comm. on Education and the Workforce.

25 FEBRUARY 2014: IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF SYRIAN WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL RESOLUTION

S. Con. Res. 32, Richard Durbin (D-IL), 6 cosponsors.

This resolution urges the U.S. government to set up an international tribunal for the prosecution of perpetrators of war crimes in the Syrian conflict and to work with other countries to ensure the tribunal's effectiveness.

See also: H. Con. Res. 51 of 9/9/13, H. Res. 520 of 3/14/14, and S. Res. 384 of 3/13/14.

Last major action: 2/25/14 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

*6 MARCH 2014: AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

H. Con. Res. 90, Patrick Meehan (R-PA), 3 cosponsors.

Last major action: 4/8/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent (4/7/14 passed in the House by unanimous consent).

6 MARCH 2014: STRONGLY RECOMMENDING THAT THE UNITED STATES RENEGOTIATE THE RETURN OF THE IRAQI JEWISH ARCHIVE TO IRAQ

H. Res. 505, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 23 cosponsors.

See similar measure *S. Res. 333 of 1/16/14 for a full summary.

Last major action: 4/2/14 referred to Subcomm. on Middle East and North Africa.

*10 MARCH 2014: RECOGNIZING THE 193RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE U.S.

S. Res. 377, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 25 cosponsors.

This resolution cites Greece's excellent relations with both Israel and Muslim nations.

See also: *S. Res. 84 of 3/20/13.

Last major action: 3/13/14 agreed to in the Senate by unanimous consent.

*13 MARCH 2014: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, RESULTING HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPING CHALLENGES, AND THE URGENT NEED FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS

S. Res. 384, Tim Kaine (D-VA), 26 cosponsors.

Introduced on the third anniversary of the Syrian conflict, this resolution calls for a political solution to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. It also, inter alia, calls on the president to put together a humanitarian response strategy, urges all parties to the conflict to allow the delivery of

humanitarian assistance, and condemns the unlawful use of violence against civilians, particularly by the Syrian government.

See also: H. Con. Res. 51 of 9/9/13 and H. Res. 520 of 3/14/14.

Last major action: 4/3/14 agreed to in the Senate by voice vote.

14 MARCH 2014: CALLING FOR AN END TO ATTACKS ON SYRIAN CIVILIANS AND EXPANDED HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

H. Res. 520, Edward R. Royce (R-CA), 6 cosponsors.

In addition to the 2 goals mentioned in its title, this resolution called for, inter alia, the withdrawal of U.S. recognition for Bashar al-Asad's government and for the Obama administration to submit to Congress a strategy for U.S. engagement on the Syrian crisis, specifically on humanitarian assistance and human rights.

On 4/30, the House Foreign Affairs Comm. held a markup session on this resolution and a similar measure (H. Con. Res. 51 of 9/9/13). Before sending the resolution to the House floor for a vote, the House comm. added a clause calling for humanitarian assistance to be redirected to private aid organizations capable of "cross-border aid deliveries," in accordance with the argument made by 36 high-profile lawyers and law professors in an open letter, which the *Guardian* published on 4/28.

See also: H. Con. Res. 51 of 9/9/13 and S. Res. 384 of 3/13/14.

Last major action: 4/30/14 ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

21 MARCH 2014: UKRAINE SUPPORT ACT

H.R. 4278, Edward Royce (R-CA), 8 cosponsors.

In response to Crimea's secession from Ukraine (3/16) and Russian president Vladimir Putin's plan to annex the disputed Black Sea peninsula (3/18), this bill called for the provision of financial and other assistance to Ukraine, including \$1 b. in loan guarantees, and sanctions on select Russian officials.

A provision on the sanctions against Iran and Syria also requires the president to develop a plan for the full implementation of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (*H.R. 1883 of 5/20/99), which imposed sanctions on Russian companies' dealings with Iran. A later version of this bill eventually passed into law, *S. 2183 of 4/1/14, minus the relevant provision.

Last major action: 3/27/14 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 399–19.

***1 APRIL 2014: A BILL TO DENY ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES TO ANY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS WHO HAS ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, POSES A THREAT TO UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS, OR HAS ENGAGED IN A TERRORIST ACTIVITY AGAINST THE UNITED STATES**

S. 2195, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 6 cosponsors.

Under this act, UN-related visas can be denied if the president determines that the applicant has engaged in terrorist activity or espionage against the U.S., or poses a national security threat.

The bill was originally introduced following Iranian president Hassan Rouhani's selection of Hamid Aboutalebi as Iran's next UN envoy. Though his exact role is disputed, Aboutalebi was

affiliated with the Muslim student group that held 52 hostages in the U.S. embassy in Tehran for 444 days from 1979 to 1981. He claimed he was merely an occasional translator for the group, while his critics alleged that he participated in the embassy takeover.

On 4/3/14, 29 senators led by Mark Kirk (R-IL) sent a letter to President Obama, urging him to deny Aboutalebi's visa application.

The weekend of 4/5/14, Cruz met with Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) in an effort to rally support for this bill from Senate Democrats. Following their meeting, an amendment was added requiring prior proof of applicants' links to terrorist activities in the visa formality process. After the amendment was agreed on, the bill passed in the Senate without opposition.

See also: H.R. 4357 of 4/1/14.

Last major action: 4/18/14 became public law (4/10/14 passed in the House without objection; 4/7/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent).

1 APRIL 2014: TO DENY ADMISSION TO THE U.S. TO ANY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN WHO HAS ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE U.S., POSES A THREAT TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS, OR HAS ENGAGED IN A TERRORIST ACTIVITY AGAINST THE U.S.

H.R. 4357, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), 49 cosponsors.

For a summary of this bill, see identical measure S. 2195 of 4/1/14.

Last major action: 4/1/2014 referred to the Comm. on the Judiciary.

3 APRIL 2014: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT U.S. FOREIGN AID TO THE PA SHOULD BE SUSPENDED UNTIL PA GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO PROVIDING A MONTHLY SALARY TO ANYONE IMPRISONED IN ISRAEL'S PRISONS AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION ARE REPEALED

H. Res. 542, Ted Yoho (R-FL), 10 cosponsors.

Citing the approximately 4,500 Palestinians held in Israeli prison on "terror-related" charges and who are also on the PA payroll, this resolution would urge the suspension of U.S. aid to the PA until it repeals the relevant legislation codifying this practice.

Last major action: 4/3/14 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

3 APRIL 2014: SYRIAN WAR CRIMES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

S. 2209, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), 5 cosponsors.

This bill institutes new reporting procedures related to war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Syrian government or extremist groups in Syria. Specifically, it would require the secretary of state to deliver 2 reports to Congress, 1 on human rights violations in the Syrian conflict and 1 on State Dept. and USAID efforts to ensure accountability for war crimes, including strategy and implementation efforts.

Last major action: 4/10/14 sponsor introductory remarks on measure.

7 APRIL 2014: HEZBOLLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT OF 2014

H.R. 4411, Mark Meadows (R-NC), 321 cosponsors.

Designed to undermine a key ally of Syrian president Bashar al-Asad and to pressure Iran by way of its proxy, this bill would broaden sanctions against Hezbollah, give it 2 new legal designations, and establish a procedure for enforcing existing restrictions on al-Manar TV, the Lebanese television station affiliated with Hezbollah that the U.S. labeled a “Specially Designated Global Terrorist Entity” in 2006.

Specifically, new sanctions would be instituted against foreign banks and financial institutions that engage in business with Hezbollah, allowing the Treasury Dept. to target those organizations. It would also require the Obama administration to submit a list of satellite television providers that carry al-Manar TV and to justify any decision not to enforce sanctions on each of those providers. Finally, the Obama administration would be required to submit 2 reports to Congress, 1 each on Hezbollah’s drug trafficking and transnational crime. These reports would certify whether or not Hezbollah meets the criteria for being designated a narcotics trafficking and/or a transnational criminal organization; each designation would trigger further sanctions.

This bill was devised by Reps. Meadows and Brad Schneider (D-IL), both members of the House Foreign Affairs Comm., with the support of chair Ed Royce (R-CA) and ranking member Eliot Engel (D-NY).

During the House Foreign Affairs Comm.’s consideration of this bill on 6/26, Royce proposed an amendment stripping the bill of a series of nonbinding “findings.” Critics of the original draft said that the findings in question could have destabilized Lebanon because they stipulated, *inter alia*, that Hezbollah’s global financial networks allowed it to consolidate power within Lebanon.

After the House Foreign Affairs Comm. passed the bill by voice vote on 6/26, AIPAC issued a press release cheering the measure and added it as a “legislative priority” on their website, along with the Senate companion measure.

See also: Similar bill S. 2329 of 5/13/14.

Last major action: 7/22/14 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 404–0.

***7 APRIL 2014: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS SINCE THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA, AND AFFIRMING IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO WORK IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO HELP PREVENT AND MITIGATE ACTS OF GENOCIDE AND MASS ATROCITIES**

S. Res. 413, Christopher Coons (D-DE), 5 cosponsors.

While largely unrelated to Israel, the Palestinians, or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, this resolution condemned the ongoing “acts of violence and mass atrocity perpetrated against innocent civilians” in Syria.

Additionally, in a clause that specifically cites the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the resolution calls for additional efforts to “document, identify, and prevent mass atrocities and inspire citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred and prevent genocide.”

Last major action: 12/9/14 resolution agreed to in Senate by voice vote.

8 APRIL 2014: MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT

S. 2223, Tom Harkin (D-IA), 39 cosponsors.

While unrelated to Israel, the Palestinians, or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, this bill to increase the federal minimum wage had a relevant amendment attached to it during the Senate floor consideration.

S.A. 2972, submitted by Ted Cruz (R-TX) on 4/29/14, no cosponsors.

The amendment would strike the entire contents of the bill and replace it with the “American Energy Renaissance Act of 2014,” including approval for the highly controversial Keystone XL pipeline linking Canadian oil fields to U.S. refineries, and a provision stipulating the maintenance of sanctions against Syria and Iran. The amendment was tabled and not considered.

Last major action: 4/30/14 Senate floor actions.

9 APRIL 2014: HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) FOR 2015

H.R. 4435, Howard McKeon (R-CA), 1 cosponsor.

This annual must-pass bill gives the Dept. of Defense legal authority for its activities and authorizes funding for those activities that subsequent appropriation bills approve. The bill’s relevant sections for the purposes of the Congressional Monitor concern missile defense cooperation with Israel and managing relations with Iran. The FY 2015 NDAA eventually passed as *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14 (see above). The totals cited below reflect only the initial House Armed Services Comm. draft and several relevant amendments.

U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Programs

This bill would authorize the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to spend up to \$268.803 m. on the development of joint U.S.-Israeli missile defense programs, an increase of \$172 m. over the administration’s funding request. In the House Armed Services Comm. report accompanying the bill, spending on these programs was explained by citing their effectiveness and referencing the size of Iran’s ballistic missile inventory. The committee also expressed support for coproduction within these programs.

Separately, \$351.972 m. would be authorized for the Iron Dome missile defense system, an increase of \$176 m. over the president’s request. In its accompanying report, the committee requested that half of the funds be disbursed incrementally by the MDA, based on a series of logistical and supervisory qualifications. The committee also established procedures to implement the coproduction elements of earlier agreements, with the specific goal of increasing the share of U.S. participation.

Relatedly, the bill would also reaffirm U.S. policy to “fully support Israel’s lawful exercise of self-defense, including actions to halt regional aggression,” specifically ensuring that it has the necessary defense items to carry out an attack on Iran. It would also recommend that certain items—air refueling tankers and advanced bunker-buster munitions—be immediately transferred to Israel to ensure that it can “remove any existential threat posed by the Iranian nuclear program.” Finally, it would require the president to submit a report to Congress on the steps taken to employ these recommendations and to identify other defense articles that would help Israel “remove existential security threats,” including Iranian nuclear weapons facilities.

Managing Relations with Iran

The secretary of defense would be required to report to Congress within 6 months and annually for the next 3 years on Defense Dept. contractors and subcontractors that have conducted significant transactions with Iranian persons, including those subject to sanctions, and the value of their transactions.

The president would be required to submit a report to Congress on the 6-month interim deal with Iran, including verification of Iran's compliance and an assessment of the overall state of Iran's nuclear program. If the interim deal was extended or a final deal was reached, the president would be required to submit another report on the new agreement with the same requirements.

In a nonbinding "sense of Congress" section, the bill lays out a series of policies for the U.S. to pursue in relation to Iran's nuclear program, including a set of qualifications for any final accord struck during the P5+1 negotiations with Iran. In response to the proposed bill, the president released an official policy statement expressing his concern that congressional conditions on the negotiations would "undermine" the P5+1's efforts.

The text included the stipulation that nothing in the bill should be interpreted as an authorization of the use of military force against Iran.

Leading up to the 5/19 deadline for submitting amendments, members of the House submitted numerous possible changes to the Rules Comm. Many amendments which the committee ruled "out of order" were later introduced as independent measures (including 1 by Trent Franks [R-AZ], which turned into H.R. 4967 of 6/25/14). While not adopted, the only relevant amendment ruled "in order" is presented below.

H.A. 680, submitted by Adam Schiff (D-CA) on 5/21/14, 1 cosponsor.

This amendment would repeal the 2001 authorization for the use of military force after the attacks on 9/11/01. On 5/22/14, it was rejected by yea/nay vote, 191–233, with 7 abstentions.

See also: Senate's version, S. 2410 of 6/2/14. The NDAA that passed, *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14.

Last major action: 5/22/14 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 325–98.

10 APRIL 2014: U.S.-ISRAEL GLOBAL NEUROSCIENCE PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2014

H.R. 4472, Chaka Fattah (D-PA), 2 cosponsors.

This bill would establish 2 new 7-year initiatives to strengthen joint U.S.-Israeli neuroscience research: one to award grants to eligible cooperative neuroscience research efforts, and another to establish a neuroscience-related research advisory board at the National Institutes of Health.

Last major action: 4/11/14 referred to the House Subcomm. on Health.

28 APRIL 2014: ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014

S. 2262, Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), 13 cosponsors.

This bill would promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry. It was not directly relevant to Palestinian affairs or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict, except for 1 proposed amendment, outlined below.

S.A. 2975, submitted by John Hoeven (R-ND) on 5/5/14, no cosponsors.

Restructuring administration of the domestic energy sector, including approval for the Keystone XL pipeline, the amendment carried a provision ensuring the continued enforcement of existing sanctions on Iran. It was not attached to the bill.

Last major action: 5/12/14 Senate floor actions.

29 APRIL 2014: STAND WITH ISRAEL ACT OF 2014

S. 2265, Rand Paul (R-KY), 17 cosponsors.

This bill would forbid any U.S. direct aid, loan guarantees, or debt relief to the PA, unless the president certified that the PA had fulfilled a series of obligations, including a formal recognition of Israel as a Jewish state, renouncing terrorism, purging individuals with terrorist ties from security services, ending funding for “incitement,” publicly pledging not to engage in war with Israel, and honoring previous diplomatic agreements.

It was introduced 6 days after Fatah and Hamas officials in Gaza announced a reconciliation deal, which projected a timeline for elections and led to the formation of a PA unity government on 6/2/14.

On 5/1, Sen. Paul made a speech on the Senate floor calling for this bill to be immediately discharged from committee and passed by unanimous consent. Chairman of the Foreign Relations Comm. and longtime AIPAC ally, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), objected, saying, “we need to allow the parties—and particularly Mr. Abbas—the time to steer back toward a productive path to peace.”

While the Zionist Organization of America supported this bill, AIPAC reportedly expressed reservations about it to key legislators.

See also: Companion measure H.R. 5433 of 9/10/14.

Last major action: 4/29/14 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

29 APRIL 2014: PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL ACT

H.R. 4519, Steve Stockman (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would forbid transfers of U.S. funds to any international project that “prohibits participation of Israeli organizations operating beyond the 1949 armistice line” (i.e., any project that boycotts settlements). In response to critics of Israel’s persistent settlement expansion, the bill notes in its Congressional Findings section that “Israeli settlements in these territories do not in any way violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. . . .”

See also: Similar bill H.R. 4581 of 5/6/14.

Last major action: 4/29/14 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

6 MAY 2014: PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL ACT

H.R. 4581, Steve Stockman (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This bill is nearly identical to H.R. 4519 of 4/29/14, except for language removing the claim that the Spanish government was funding projects in “other disputed regions” at the same time that it had barred a team from Israel’s Ariel University from participating in a U.S.-funded solar energy conference in 2009.

Last major action: 5/6/14 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

13 MAY 2014: HEZBOLLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT OF 2014

S. 2329, Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), 57 cosponsors.

Designed to undermine a key ally of Syrian president Bashar al-Asad and to pressure Iran, this bill would target Hezbollah with the same 3 provisions as those first introduced by the similar bill, H.R. 4411 of 4/7/14. However, it would additionally require the president to submit a report to Congress on third-party support for Hezbollah's financial and logistics networks.

See also: Similar bill H.R. 4411 of 4/7/14.

Last major action: 5/13/14 referred to the Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

15 MAY 2014: RUSSIAN WEAPONS EMBARGO ACT OF 2014

S. 2352, Daniel Coats (R-IN), 5 cosponsors.

This bill would forbid the Defense Dept. from contracting with Rosoboronexport, the Russian arms import/export state agency unless the secretary of defense certifies that the firm is no longer transferring weapons to Syria, Russia has withdrawn from Crimea and Ukraine, and that Russia is not otherwise actively destabilizing Ukraine. Furthermore, the bill would forbid the Defense Dept. from contracting with any company that cooperates with Rosoboronexport.

Last major action: 7/28/14 discharged from Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs by unanimous consent.

*15 MAY 2014: RECOGNIZING THE THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY IN THE EFFORTS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

S. Res. 447, Robert Casey (D-PA), 2 cosponsors.

This resolution cites Iran, Syria, and Egypt as the most dangerous countries for journalists in 2013.

See also: *S. Res. 143 of 5/16/13.

Last major action: 7/8/14 resolution agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

20 JUNE 2014: BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014

S. 2363, Kay Hagan (D-NC), 46 cosponsors.

This bill would loosen restrictions on recreational gun ownership and reform hunting regulations. Though it was largely unrelated to Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict, there was 1 relevant amendment proposed.

S.A. 3477, submitted by Rand Paul (R-KY) on 7/8/14, no cosponsors.

The amendment would attach the text of the Stand with Israel Act, S. 2265 of 4/29/14, to the bill. It was not considered.

Last major action: 7/10/14 Senate floor actions.

*20 MAY 2014: INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

H.R. 4681, Mike J. Rogers (R-MI), no cosponsors.

This annual bill authorizes activities and appropriations for all intelligence-related agencies and organizations within the U.S. government. The only section relevant to the Arab-Israeli conflict would require the director of national intelligence to submit a report to Congress on chemical weapons in Syria, including, inter alia, a comprehensive assessment of the remaining stockpiles, a list of key personnel, and a description of key intelligence gaps relating to the Syrian chemical weapons program.

Last major action: 12/19/14 became public law (12/9/14 passed in the Senate by voice vote; 5/30/14 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 345–59).

***22 MAY 2014: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY AS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND HONORING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

S. Res. 458, Ben Cardin (D-MD), 9 cosponsors.

Last major action: 5/22/14 agreed to in the Senate by unanimous consent.

***22 MAY 2014: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE NEXT OF KIN OR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG**

S. Con. Res. 36, Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), no cosponsors.

Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish architect, businessman, and diplomat who saved tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary during the Holocaust.

See also: H.R. 3001 of 9/21/11 and S. 1591 of 9/21/11.

Last major action: 6/9/14 agreed to in the House by voice vote (5/22/14 agreed to in the Senate by unanimous consent).

2 JUNE 2014: CARL LEVIN NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

S. 2410, Carl Levin (D-MI), no cosponsors.

This annual, must-pass bill authorizes Defense Dept. activities and their funding, which subsequent appropriations bills would disburse. The relevant sections concern missile defense cooperation with Israel, managing relations with Iran, and the ongoing conflict in Syria. The totals below reflect the Senate Armed Services Comm.'s original draft. The NDAA for FY 2015 eventually passed as H.R. 3979 on 12/19/14.

Israeli Missile Defense

This bill would accommodate the administration's request for \$96.8 m. for cooperative U.S.-Israeli missile programs—the Arrow, Arrow 3, and David's Sling—and \$175.9 m. for the Iron Dome missile defense program, including stipulations for coproduction in the U.S. It also authorized an additional \$175 m. for Israel's Iron Dome program, with the provision that should Israel choose, it could direct the extra funds to any of the other 3 missile defense programs.

Relations with Iran

The bill urged the U.S. to continue cooperating with Israel to improve regional missile defense capabilities in the Middle East, specifically mentioning the threat of Iran's growing missile capabilities. In keeping with that goal, the Defense Dept. would be required to submit a new report to Congress on the status of U. S. regional missile defense capabilities of the U.S. and Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

In an unusual rebuke, the Senate Armed Services Comm. noted that the Defense Dept. failed to submit its annual report on Iran's military power in 1/2014. The committee called for a hearing on the subject and for the delayed report to be expanded to cover all of 2013 and an update on developments in 2014.

Syrian Crisis

In order to "foster a negotiated settlement" of the Syrian crisis, this bill would authorize the provision of equipment, supplies, training, and services to Syrian opposition groups that are approved from within the Free Syrian Army, the Supreme Military Council, and other "vetted" organizations. In determining which groups may benefit from U.S. military support, the secretary of defense must ensure that the group in question: is not a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization; supports counterterrorism efforts; opposes sectarian violence and revenge killings; is committed to establishing a peaceful and democratic Syria; and is committed to civilian rule. Once this vetting process is complete, the bill requires the secretary of state's approval and that Congress be notified in advance.

As in previous years, the committee used the NDAA as a vehicle to pass a measure designed to manage Russian influence in the Syrian crisis. Specifically, the Dept. of Defense is instructed to terminate all existing contracts with Rosoboronexport, Russia's arms import/export state agency, and to refrain from engaging in future contracts, with the proviso that the secretary of defense may waive that restriction if Rosoboronexport and Russia fulfill a number of conditions, including halting all weapons transfers to the Syrian government. One of the few allowable exceptions to the bill's prohibition of U.S. security cooperation with Russia is for the purpose of coordination in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons.

Two relevant amendments were proposed.

S.A. 3782, submitted by Barbara Boxer (D-CA) on 8/1/14, 1 cosponsor.

This amendment would add the full text of *S. 2673 of 7/28/14 to the bill. It was not considered.

S.A. 3898, submitted by Marco Rubio (R-FL) on 9/18/14, no cosponsors.

This amendment would attach the full text of the Palestinian and UN Anti-Terrorism Act of 2014 to the bill (see S. 2766 of 7/31/14). Specifically, it would increase restrictions on aid to the PA and impose additional conditions on U.S. support for the UNHRC and UNRWA. Because the items Rubio hoped to alter fell under foreign operations rather than defense, this amendment was not considered. Rubio later introduced an identical amendment to the reconciled NDAA (see H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14), but it was not considered either.

See also: The House's version, H.R. 4435 of 4/9/14, and the final NDAA, *H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14.

Last major action: 6/2/14 placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

12 JUNE 2014: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES AND PARTNERS WITH RESPECT TO THE PA

H. Res. 622, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 29 cosponsors.

Introduced in response to the formation of the new PA unity government on 6/2, this resolution calls for the PA and the PLO to be classified as foreign terrorist organizations and for all aid and cooperation with the PA to end.

The measure lists a series of objectives for the U.S. to pursue, including, inter alia, the dissolution of the PA's Ministry of Prisoners, the PA's recognition of Israel as a Jewish State, and the abandonment of efforts to gain UN recognition.

Last major action: 9/8/14 referred to the House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

17 JUNE 2014: EGYPTIAN MILITARY COUP ACT OF 2014

S. 2477, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This bill would forbid U.S. assistance to Egypt in accordance with the "coups d'état" provision of H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13. It would also place a hold on deliveries of certain defense articles and suspend negotiations over future deliveries until the president certified that national elections and a peaceful transfer of power had taken place in Egypt.

See also: S. 1278 of 7/11/13.

Last major action: 6/17/14 read twice and referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

25 JUNE 2014: IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

H.R. 4967, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 10 cosponsors.

Introduced less than a month before the 7/20 deadline for the P5+1 negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, this bill would require congressional approval for any agreement that was concluded. Specifically, the measure states that any agreement would have to be submitted to Congress within 3 days of being signed and that the legislature would then have a 15-day window in which to pass a joint resolution of approval.

The bill also stipulates that none of its contents are tantamount to approving sanctions relief for Iran.

See also: S. 2650 of 7/23/14.

Last major action: 6/25/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs, and Rules Comm.

25 JUNE 2014: CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE THREE KIDNAPPED TEENAGERS HELD CAPTIVE IN THE WEST BANK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H. Res. 642, Bradley Schneider (D-IL), 6 cosponsors.

On 6/12, 3 Israeli teenagers were kidnapped while hitchhiking home from school in the Gush Etzion settlement bloc in the West Bank, giving rise to a massive Israeli security clampdown on the West Bank and Jerusalem. (Their bodies were later found near Hebron on 6/30. See the Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 173 for more on the kidnappings.)

Last major action: 6/25/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

***8 JULY 2014: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST UNPROVOKED ROCKET ATTACKS FROM THE HAMAS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION**

H. Res. 657, Steve Israel (D-NY), 166 cosponsors.

This resolution was introduced on the same day that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched Operation Protective Edge. It upholds Israel's right to "self-defense" and condemns rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip.

Prior to this resolution's passage, House Foreign Affairs chair Ed Royce (R-CA) added an amendment to include language recognizing the destabilizing role that Iran plays in the region.

AIPAC praised the passage of this legislation.

See also: *S. Res. 498 of 7/10/14.

Last major action: 7/11/14 agreed to without objection.

8 JULY 2014: BRING JOBS HOME ACT

S. 2569, John Walsh (D-MT), 24 cosponsors.

This bill, which would provide businesses incentives to create jobs in the U.S., was largely irrelevant to Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, there were 2 relevant amendments proposed.

S.A. 3606, submitted by Ted Cruz (R-TX) on 7/23/14, no cosponsors.

This amendment would add a new section related to the Iran sanctions to the effect that nothing in the bill authorizes the issuance of a lease to persons subject to existing sanctions. It was not attached to the bill.

S.A. 3652, submitted by Mark Kirk (R-IL) on 7/24/14, 7 cosponsors.

See similar measure S. 2667 of 7/24/14 for a full summary of this amendment. It was not attached to the bill.

Last major action: 7/30/14 cloture not invoked by yea/nay vote, 54-42.

9 JULY 2014: THE NAFTALI FRAENKEL REWARDS FOR JUSTICE ACT

S. 2577, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 2 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the secretary of state to offer up to \$5 m. to any individual with information that leads to the arrest or conviction of the perpetrators of the kidnapping and subsequent killing of 3 Israeli settler teenagers on 6/12/14. The 3 were abducted while hitchhiking home from school in the Gush Etzion settlement bloc near Hebron and their bodies subsequently found on 6/30, approximately 15 miles from where they were last seen. (See the Quarterly Update in *JPS* 173 for more on the kidnappings and their aftermath.)

See also: S. 2579 of 7/9/14, H.R. 5041 of 7/9/14, and H. Res. 642 of 6/25/14.

Last major action: 7/29/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent.

9 JULY 2014: THE NAFTALI FRAENKEL REWARDS FOR JUSTICE ACT

S. 2579, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill is identical to S. 2577, also of 7/9/14. It is unclear why Sen. Cruz introduced it twice.

Last major action: 7/10/14 read the second time and placed on Senate legislative calendar.

9 JULY 2014: THE NAFTALI FRAENKEL REWARDS FOR JUSTICE ACT

H.R. 5041, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), 7 cosponsors.

For a full summary of this bill, see identical bill S. 2577 of 7/9/14.

Last major action: 7/30/14 ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

*10 JULY 2014: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST UNPROVOKED ROCKET ATTACKS FROM THE HAMAS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

S. Res. 498, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 79 cosponsors.

Like its counterpart in the House, H. Res. 657 of 7/9/14, this resolution supports Israel's military assault on the Gaza Strip, known by the Israel Defense Forces as Operation Protective Edge. The measure condemns the rocket fire directed at Israel, calls on Hamas to cease its attacks, and urges PA president Abbas to dissolve the new Palestinian unity government. The text also includes a clause highlighting the threats to Israeli civilians from rocket attacks originating in Gaza, but makes no mention of the Palestinian civilian casualties, which numbered in the hundreds at the time of the resolution's introduction.

AIPAC strongly supported this resolution.

Last major action: 7/17/14 agreed to in the Senate by unanimous consent.

10 JULY 2014: CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN ISRAEL AND THE ONGOING AND ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN THAT COUNTRY

H. Res. 665, David McKinley (R-WV), 35 cosponsors.

This resolution would condemn the kidnapping and killing of the 3 Israeli settler teenagers in early 6/2014 and the killing of a Palestinian teenager, Mohammed Abu Khdeir, by "extremists." It would also commend Israeli authorities for quickly apprehending Abu Khdeir's killers, call on the " Hamas-backed PA" to help the Israeli government apprehend the 3 teenagers' killers, call on Hamas to end its attacks and "stop provoking Israel," and urge the PA to sever ties with Hamas until it renounces terrorism and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Last major action: 7/25/14 forwarded by subcomm. to full comm. by unanimous consent.

10 JULY 2014: IRAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

S. 2585, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 2 cosponsors.

This bill proposed several measures to promote human rights and democracy in Iran, including sanctions against what are described as individual human rights abusers. The bill designated Ayatollah Khamenei, President Rouhani, and other senior Iranian officials as human rights violators, and would in effect: freeze their assets and place them under travel bans; expand sanctions to include all Iranians involved in human rights abuse; and impose new sanctions on individuals who do business with Iranian human rights violators under sanction. The bill also called for establishing the office of a "special coordinator on human rights and democracy in Iran" to oversee outreach and assistance programs, authorizing at least \$32 m. for such programs and up to \$10 m. to expand international broadcasting into Iran.

Last major action: 7/10/14 read twice and referred to the Comm. on Foreign Relations.

16 JULY 2014: A RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL TO APPEAR AS AMICUS CURIAE IN THE NAME OF THE SENATE IN *MENACHEM BINYAMIN ZIVOTOFSKY, BY HIS PARENTS AND GUARDIANS, ARI Z. AND NAOMI SIEGMAN ZIVOTOFSKY V. JOHN KERRY, SECRETARY OF STATE (S. CT.)

S. Res. 504, Harry Reid (D-NV), 1 cosponsor.

In 10/2002, Menachem Zivotofsky was born in Jerusalem to 2 U.S. citizens. The Foreign Relations Authorization Act (FRAA, *H.R. 1646 of 4/27/01) mandated that, on request, Jerusalem-born U.S. citizens would be able to list “Jerusalem, Israel,” as the place of birth on their passports. However, the State Dept. refused to allow Zivotofsky this option in accordance with its neutral stance on the sovereignty of Jerusalem. The Zivotofsky family then sued the U.S. government for the right to list Israel in Menachem’s passport and following over 10 years of legal proceedings, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case on 4/21/14.

The larger issue in the case related to separation of powers, with the legislative branch on one side, represented by the Israel-sympathetic Congress, which passed the original law, and the executive branch on the other, represented by the Obama administration and Bush administration, which had protested the relevant provision in the FRAA when it was passed. The Zivotofsky family posited that it was well within Congress’s power to regulate the issuance of passports while both of the administrations involved argued that the president has a constitutional “recognition power” that allows him or her the right to represent the U.S. in international diplomacy and, therefore, the State Dept. has the authority to print “Jerusalem” on passports if the president wishes to remain neutral on the city’s sovereignty.

This resolution orders the Senate Legal Counsel to appear as amicus curiae, or “friend of the court,” before the Supreme Court in support of the Zivotofsky family and to defend the constitutionality of the FRAA.

Last major action: 7/16/14 agreed to in the Senate by unanimous consent.

16 JULY 2014: DENOUNCING THE USE OF CIVILIANS AS HUMAN SHIELDS BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

H. Con. Res. 107, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 102 cosponsors.

Introduced the day before the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) initiated a ground invasion of Gaza, this resolution would condemn Hamas and other foreign terrorist organizations operating in Gaza, support Israel’s right to self-defense, express condolences to the families of innocent victims “on both sides of the conflict,” support Palestinian civilians who reject Hamas, and condemn the UNHRC for establishing a “biased” commission to investigate Israel’s conduct in Gaza.

Furthermore, it would cite the “extraordinary lengths” to which the IDF went to target only “terrorist actors” in Gaza, and its use of leaflets, announcements, and phone calls to homes in areas where Israeli air strikes were imminent.

On 12/4, the Senate Foreign Relations Comm. approved the resolution, after removing a clause that would have condemned Hamas for repeatedly refusing to accept a cease-fire. The Senate and the House proceeded to pass the amended text on 12/9 and 12/10 respectively.

AIPAC strongly supported this measure.

See also: S. Con. Res. 41 of 7/24/14.

Last major action: 12/10/14 resolving differences (12/10/14 agreed to in the House by voice vote; 12/9/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent; 7/30/14 original version passed in the House by voice vote).

23 JULY 2014: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO EXTENDING THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN REGARDING ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM

H. Con. Res. 109, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 9 cosponsors.

Introduced days after representatives of Iran and the P5+1 agreed on a 4-month extension to negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, this resolution would express concern about "Iran's unwillingness" to make concessions and reaffirm the U.S. interest in Israel's survival, as well as urge the president to support the universal rights and freedoms of the Iranian people and prevent Iran's support for terrorist organizations, including Hezbollah and Hamas.

See also: H.R. 4967 of 6/25/14 and S. 2650 of 7/23/14.

Last major action: 7/23/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

23 JULY 2014: EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

S. 2648, Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), no cosponsors.

This bill would provide supplemental appropriations for relevant federal agencies and programs to respond to the mass apprehension of unaccompanied minors along the U.S.-Mexico border, fight wildfires, and provide additional support for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system. Specifically, \$225 m. would be transferred to Israel immediately "to address the emergent operations in support of Operation Protective Edge."

In mid-7/2014, the Israeli government requested this supplemental support and U.S. defense secy. Chuck Hagel endorsed the request, adding that he hoped the appropriation would be passed with an exemption from the previously agreed upon requirement for Iron Dome components to be coproduced in the U.S.

On 7/31/14, a procedural vote blocked this bill's advancement. Many Republicans opposed it, objecting to the non-Iron Dome portions of the bill. They favored holding individual votes on the bill's 3 major parts because there was broad bipartisan support for the Iron Dome, but only Democratic support for the border security appropriation.

AIPAC strongly supported passage of the supplemental Iron Dome appropriation.

*See *H.J. Res. 76 of 8/1/14 for the stand-alone Iron Dome supplementary appropriations measure that was eventually passed.*

See also: H.R. 3547 of 11/20/14.

Last major action: 7/24/14 placed on Senate legislative calendar under general orders.

23 JULY 2014: A BILL TO PROVIDE CERTAIN LEGAL RELIEF FROM POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CHARGES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT

S. 2649, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 6 cosponsors.

On 6/4/13, the Cairo Criminal Court sentenced 43 NGO workers, including 19 U.S. citizens, to prison sentences of lengths varying from 1 to 5 years. The charges against them included receiving

illegal funding and working for unlicensed institutions. The sentences were not expected to be served because almost all of the accused had left Egypt shortly after the U.S. pressured an Egyptian judge via diplomatic channels to temporarily lift a travel ban in 3/2012.

This bill would declare that no verdict, writ, order, or warrant issued by an Egyptian court or other authority in relation to the case would be considered a conviction within the U.S. and that none of the accused would be considered subject to any criminal charges. It would also recognize any related legal charges or trials as politically motivated and invalid.

Last major action: 7/23/2014 referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

23 JULY 2014: IRAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS ACT OF 2014

S. 2650, Bob Corker (R-TN), 11 cosponsors.

Introduced 4 days after Iran and the P5+1 announced a 4-month extension to their negotiations, this bill would institute congressional oversight procedures on any agreement reached on Iran's nuclear program and establish a mechanism for Congress to endorse or overturn such an agreement.

Specifically, the measure would require the Obama administration to submit any agreement to Congress within 3 days, allowing the legislature a 15-day review period and a further 15 days to pass a joint resolution of disapproval, should it wish to do so. If no agreement is submitted to Congress within 3 days of the negotiations' new deadline on 11/24/14, or if Congress passes a joint resolution of disapproval, then all funding to implement the agreement would be restricted, in effect reinstating all sanctions. Also, the bill would require the director of national intelligence to report to Congress on Iranian violations of the agreement, triggering the reimposition of sanctions. Finally, sanctions waived or suspended in connection with the negotiations would be reinstated in full on 11/28/14 unless the president certified that a final agreement addressing all "key aspects" of Iran's nuclear program and of a "significantly longer" duration than previous agreements was reached.

On 11/13, less than 2 weeks before the new 11/24 deadline and 9 days after the Republican victories in the 11/4 midterm elections, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Corker asked for unanimous consent to allow a vote on this bill. Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) objected, saying "It would send a message that Congress does not stand with the president as the negotiations continue." His objection blocked their motion. Throughout 2014, President Obama said he would veto any legislation with the potential to undermine the negotiations with Iran.

AIPAC strongly supported this bill.

See also: H.R. 4967 of 6/25/14 and H. Con. Res. 109 of 7/23/14.

Last major action: 7/23/14 referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

24 JULY 2014: DENOUNCING THE USE OF CIVILIANS AS HUMAN SHIELDS BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

S. Con. Res. 41, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution would condemn Hamas and other terrorist organizations for using civilians as human shields, call on the international community to recognize this tactic as a "grave breach" of international law, hold Hamas and other groups in Gaza responsible for rocket attacks against

Israel, support Israel's right to defend itself, express condolences to the families of the innocent victims on both sides, support Palestinian citizens who reject Hamas, and call on PA president Mahmoud Abbas to condemn the use of human shields.

It was introduced on the 18th day of the Israeli assault on Gaza, which had, at that time, led to the deaths of over 800 Palestinians, most of them civilians.

The Senate eventually passed an amended text of the House version of this resolution on 12/9. See H. Con. Res. 107 of 7/16/14 for more.

Last major action: 7/24/14 referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

24 JULY 2014: EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AND CALLING ON HAMAS TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE ALL ROCKET AND OTHER ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL

S. Res. 517, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 7 cosponsors.

This resolution would reaffirm Israel's right to defend itself, call on the international community to condemn the "unprovoked" rocket fire against Israel, call on Hamas to stop using civilians as human shields, and oppose any cease-fire agreement that would prevent Israel from removing the threats posed by Hamas rockets and tunnels. The measure was introduced less than a week after the IDF initiated its ground invasion of the Gaza Strip on 7/17/14 as a part of Operation Protective Edge.

Last major action: 7/24/14 referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

24 JULY 2014: MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD TERRORIST DESIGNATION ACT OF 2014

H.R. 5194, Michele Bachmann (R-MN), 19 cosponsors.

This bill would convey the sense of Congress that the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) meets the criteria for classification as a foreign terrorist organization and that the secretary of state should designate it as such. Failing that, the secretary would be required to submit a report providing an explanation to Congress within 60 days of the bill's passage. The bill also called for sanctions against any person who "knowingly provide[s] material support or resources" to the organization, authorized denying visas to MB members and their removal from the U.S., and required any U.S. financial institution that knowingly administers MB funds to report to the U.S. Treasury.

In the bill's nonbinding clauses, Hamas is mentioned numerous times, specifically as a foreign terrorist organization.

Last major action: 9/26/14 referred to the House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

24 JULY 2014: IRANIAN SANCTIONS RELIEF CERTIFICATION ACT OF 2014

S. 2667, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 11 cosponsors.

This bill would condition the president's authority to continue waiving some of the sanctions against Iran as the P5+1 negotiations over Iran's nuclear program proceed. Specifically, the president would be required to certify, and recertify every 2 months, that none of the revenues accrued by Iran in connection with the waiver are being used to support any individuals under sanctions for terrorism, as well as Bashar al-Asad's government in Syria, or any groups designated as foreign terrorist organizations, including specifically Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

See also: S.A. 3652 to S. 2569 of 7/8/14.

Last major action: 7/24/14 referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

28 JULY 2014: THE SANCTION IRAN, SAFEGUARD AMERICA (SISA) ACT

S. 2672, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

Introduced in response to the 4-month extension of the P5+1 group's negotiations with Iran, this bill would remove the president's ability to waive existing sanctions (effectively reinstating all of them), codify existing sanctions imposed by executive order, and require congressional approval for funding the negotiations. Such approval was qualified by the requirement for certification that Iran had freed all U.S. "prisoners of conscience who are being unjustly held" and demonstrated its renouncement of state-sponsored terrorism.

See also: H.R. 5709 of 11/14/14.

Last major action: 7/28/14 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*28 JULY 2014: U.S.-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2014

S. 2673, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 80 cosponsors.

This is a new version of an earlier bill (S. 462 of 3/5/13) that reaffirms and strengthens the economic and security relationship between Israel and the U.S. The principal sponsors, Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Roy Blunt (R-MO), left much of the original bill intact, significantly changing only language related to Israel's entry into the Visa Waiver Program, to which a diverse range of individuals and organizations had objected (see the earlier bill for details).

The unchanged provisions include: a requirement for the administration to take steps to place Israel in the top-tier category for license-free exports of certain technology products; a \$200 m. increase in the value of U.S. weapons stockpiled in Israel (to a total of \$1.8 b.) and a one-year extension of Israeli access to the stockpiles; authorization of U.S.-Israeli cooperation on water, energy, homeland security, and alternative fuel technologies; a requirement for the president to pursue expanded cybersecurity cooperation with Israel; a requirement for more frequent and detailed reports to Congress on Israel's qualitative military edge over its neighbors; an encouragement of cooperation between Israeli and U.S. academic, business, and governmental sectors; and, an authorization for the secretary of state to establish a joint U.S.-Israel Center in the U.S. to facilitate offshore energy development and other forms of mutual cooperation.

The major change to the earlier bill's language brought it closer in line with the House companion measure on Israel's admittance into the Visa Waiver Program (H.R. 938 of 3/4/13).

Like the earlier bill, this measure was strongly supported by AIPAC.

Before the Senate adjourned for its 5-week recess starting on 8/2, Boxer attempted to pass this bill by unanimous consent on 7/31. Bob Corker (R-TN) objected to her motion, saying that he would prefer that the Senate Foreign Affairs Comm. deliberate on it first. The next day (8/1), Boxer repeated the attempt, to no avail. In a separate effort on 8/1, Boxer and Blunt proposed the full text of the bill as an amendment to the Senate version of the NDAA (S. 2410 of 6/2/14), but it was not considered.

After the recess, and further deliberations and negotiations, Boxer amended the bill on 9/18, removing the entire Visa Waiver Program section and replacing it with the following short

statement: “It shall be the policy of the U.S. to include Israel in the Visa Waiver Program [. . .] when Israel satisfies, and as long as it continues to satisfy” the requirements for participation in the program, which was the exact text from the House’s companion measure. That same day, the bill was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate. The bill later passed in the House.

See also: S.A. 3782 to S. 2410 of 6/2/14.

Last major action: 12/19/14 became public law (12/3/14 passed in the House by voice vote; 9/18/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent).

***29 JULY 2014: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ISRAEL’S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST HAMAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

S. Res. 526, Harry Reid (D-NV), 7 cosponsors.

Introduced and agreed to in the midst of Israel’s escalating assault on the Gaza Strip, this resolution laments the loss of innocent civilian life; condemns the 7/23/14 UNHRC resolution calling for an investigation into, inter alia, Israel’s violations of international humanitarian law during Operation Protective Edge; supports Israel’s right to defend itself; condemns Hamas’s “terrorist actions”; supports U.S. mediation efforts; and supports additional funding to replenish Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system and to enhance Israel’s defensive capabilities.

Last major action: 7/29/14 agreed to in the Senate by unanimous consent.

29 JULY 2014: EMERGENCY IRON DOME REPLENISHMENT ACT

H.R. 5235, Eliot Engel (D-NY), 22 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to provide supplemental assistance for Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system. While the Israeli government requested an extra \$225 m. in such assistance during its 7/2014 assault on the Gaza Strip, the bill does not specify a funding total.

For more on the Iron Dome supplemental appropriation, see S. 2648 of 7/23/14 and *H.J. Res. 76 of 8/1/14.

Last major action: 7/29/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

31 JULY 2014: THE PALESTINIAN AND UN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2014

S. 2766, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would reform the U.S. aid relationship with the PA and 2 UN agencies involved in Palestine-related work.

First, it would declare that the new Palestinian unity government is “ Hamas-controlled,” thereby triggering a cutoff in U.S. aid to the PA. (See “Limits on Aid to the PA” under *H.R. 83 of 1/3/13 for more.)

Second, it would reduce U.S. funding of the UNHRC, forbid the secretary of state to make a voluntary contribution to the council, and prohibit the U.S. running for a seat on the council unless the secretary of state certified to Congress that the UNHRC’s agenda did not include a permanent item related to Israel or the Palestinian territories.

Third, it would cut all U.S. funding to UNRWA unless the secretary of state certified that the following qualifications were applicable: no employee or affiliate of the agency propagates or

incites “anti-Israel or anti-Semitic rhetoric or propaganda”; no employee or affiliate is a member of Hamas or any other U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization; no UNRWA school, hospital, clinic, or other infrastructure is being used by Hamas for any reason, including storage of weapons; a third-party auditing firm has completed a comprehensive financial audit of the agency; UNRWA has implemented an effective system of vetting and oversight to prevent Hamas from using its resources; and finally, U.S. funds are not being received by Hamas or any other “terrorist organization.”

Finally, this bill would provide Israel funds equivalent to the amount withheld from the PA, UNHRC, and UNRWA for its Iron Dome missile defense system and for underground warfare training and technology to identify and deter tunneling from Gaza into Israel.

See also: H.R. 3979 of 1/31/14 and S. 2410 of 6/2/14.

Last major action: 7/31/14 read twice and referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

***31 JULY 2014: A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND REJECTING ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY ANTI-JEWISH HATRED OR VIOLENT ATTACKS AS AN ACCEPTABLE EXPRESSION OF DISAPPROVAL OR FRUSTRATION OVER POLITICAL EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR ELSEWHERE**

H. Res. 707, Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), 172 cosponsors.

In addition to urging the secretary of state to take a series of actions designed to combat anti-Semitism, this resolution condemns anti-Semitism and rejects it as an “acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration over political events in the Middle East or elsewhere”; condemns all comparisons of Israel to Nazis perpetrating a Holocaust or a genocide; applauds foreign leaders, particularly in Italy, France, and Germany, who have taken a firm stance against anti-Semitism; reaffirms support for the UN special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism; and pledges to support and expand Holocaust education programs.

Last major action: 9/18/14 passed in the House.

1 AUGUST 2014: A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL’S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS CITIZENS AND ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

S. Res. 537, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 1 cosponsor.

Introduced 3 weeks into Israel’s assault on Gaza, this resolution would reaffirm support for Israel’s right to defend its citizens, condemn Hamas’s cease-fire violations, demand Hamas return a captured IDF soldier, call on the UN secretary-general to condemn Hamas’s terrorist attacks on Israel, reiterate the call on Hamas to stop using human shields, urge the international community to condemn the “unprovoked” rocket fire on Israel, call on the Palestinian people to reject Hamas, and recognize Israel’s right to take all “necessary actions” to remove Hamas’s rockets and tunnels.

Last major action: 8/1/14 referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

8 SEPTEMBER 2014: AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM ACT

H.R. 5415, Frank Wolf (R-VA), 7 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to use all necessary force against any person, country, or organization found to be supporting terrorist groups, including al-Qa'ida, Boko Haram, ISIS, al-Shabab, and others in order to prevent future terrorist attacks against the U.S. and its allies.

See also: H. J. Res. 123, S. J. Res. 42, and S. J. Res. 43 of 9/8/14; and H. J. Res 124 of 9/9/14.

Last major action: 9/8/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

8 SEPTEMBER 2014: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST ISIS

H. J. Res. 123, Darrell Issa (R-CA), 15 cosponsors.

This resolution would authorize the president to use military force against ISIS and any successor organization. The president would be required to report to Congress with a strategy to defeat ISIS and any successor organization, then update Congress every 90 days after the initial report.

See also: H.R. 5415 of 9/8/14, S. J. Res. 42 of 9/8/14, S. J. Res. 43 of 9/8/14, and H. J. Res 124 of 9/9/14.

Last major action: 9/8/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

8 SEPTEMBER 2014: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST ISIS

S. J. Res. 42, Bill Nelson (D-FL), no cosponsors.

This resolution would authorize the president to use military force against ISIS in order to protect the U.S., its people, interests, and allies, from terrorist attacks.

It would not authorize the use of ground forces and it would expire in 3 years.

See also: H.R. 5415 of 9/8/14, H. J. Res. 123 of 9/8/14, S. J. Res. 43 of 9/8/14, and H. J. Res 124 of 9/9/14.

Last major action: 9/8/14 read twice and referred to the Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

8 SEPTEMBER 2014: AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION CALLED THE ISLAMIC STATE

S. J. Res. 43, James Inhofe (R-OK), no cosponsors.

See similar measures H. J. Res. 123 of 9/8/14 for a full summary.

See also: H.R. 5415 of 9/8/14, S. J. Res. 42 of 9/8/14, and H. J. Res 124 of 9/9/14.

Last major action: 9/8/14 read twice and referred to the Comm. on Foreign Relations.

9 SEPTEMBER 2014: NINEVEH PLAIN REFUGEE ACT OF 2014

H.R. 5430, Juan Vargas (D-CA), 16 cosponsors.

This bill would establish processes to facilitate U.S. admission of refugees from ISIS-controlled areas in Iraq and Syria and set up a system to manage their intake.

Last major action: 9/26/14 referred to the House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

*9 SEPTEMBER 2014: CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

H. J. Res. 124, Harold Rogers (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This resolution maintains current levels of appropriations for all federal programs and agencies from the end of FY 2014 on 9/30 through 12/11. For details about funding for FY 2014,

see *H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13. For appropriations covering the rest of FY 2015, see *H.R. 83 of 1/3/13. One amendment relating to Syria and Iraq passed.

H.A. 1141, submitted by Howard P. McKeon (R-CA) on 9/16/14, no cosponsors.

On 9/10, President Obama announced that he had authorized air strikes in Syria for the first time, as well as on select targets in Iraq, escalating counterterrorism efforts against ISIS. Congressional leaders sympathetic to the president's aims devised and proposed this amendment, which would authorize the training and equipment of certain vetted elements of the Syrian opposition and "moderate" Syrian rebel groups, in addition to instituting a series of new Congressional oversight procedures.

In the House, the amendment was approved by a yea/nay vote, 273–156 on 9/17, and it passed on to the Senate in the framework of the broader resolution, with no separate vote held to approve it. The resolution passed the next day.

See also: H.R. 5415 of 9/8/14, H. J. Res. 123 of 9/8/14, S. J. Res. 42 of 9/8/14, and S. J. Res. 43 of 9/8/14.

Last major action: 9/19/14 became public law (9/18/14 passed in the Senate by yea/nay vote, 78–22; 9/17/14 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 319–108).

10 SEPTEMBER 2014: STOP FUNDING TERRORISM ACT

H.R. 5433, Steve Stockman (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

See companion measure S. 2265 of 4/29/14 for a full summary.

This version was introduced in response to the Obama administration's announcement on 6/2 that it would maintain aid to the newly formed PA unity government, which comprised independent politicians and was based on the 4/23 Palestinian national reconciliation agreement.

Last major action: 9/10/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

11 SEPTEMBER 2014: URGING CONGRESS TO DEBATE AND VOTE ON A STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION FOR ANY SUSTAINED UNITED STATES COMBAT ROLE IN IRAQ OR SYRIA

H. Con. Res. 114, Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), 23 cosponsors.

This resolution stipulates that any authorization for the use of military force in Iraq or Syria must be debated and voted on by Congress, and furthermore, that it should be limited and include reporting requirements. The measure also reiterates Congress's opposition to the deployment of ground troops in Syria and Iraq.

Last major action: 9/11/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

18 SEPTEMBER 2014: UNRWA ANTI-TERRORISM ACT

H.R. 5647, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would withhold all U.S. support for UNRWA unless the secretary of state certified that no UNRWA official or affiliate was a member of a U.S.-designated terrorist organization or propagated related views, including anti-U.S., anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic rhetoric; no UNRWA facility was used by a terrorist organization; no UNRWA school used anti-U.S., anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic materials; UNRWA was subject to sufficient auditing oversight; and UNRWA

was unaffiliated with financial institutions or banks complicit in money laundering and “terror financing.”

It also expresses a series of policy goals, including transferring responsibility for Palestinian refugees to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and changing UNRWA’s own definition of “Palestine refugee” to drastically reduce the agency’s beneficiaries.

See also: H.R. 3155 of 9/19/13.

Last major action: 9/18/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

18 SEPTEMBER 2014: UNITED STATES-JORDAN DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT OF 2014

H.R. 5648, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would increase defense cooperation with Jordan in response to the threat posed by ISIS and the Syrian refugee crisis. Specifically, it would authorize the administration to enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding with Jordan, include Jordan on a list of countries eligible for streamlined arms sales, and make certain funds available to Jordan through 2019. Also, it would add Jordan to the list of countries exempt from the annual foreign military training report submitted to Congress by the Depts. of Defense and State.

Last major action: 9/18/14 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

18 SEPTEMBER 2014: UNHRC ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

H.R. 5649, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 3 cosponsors.

Unless the secretary of state made a series of certifications to Congress relating to the UNHRC membership and leadership, this bill would withhold the amount normally allocated to the council from the annual U.S. budgetary contribution to the UN, bar the secretary from making a voluntary contribution to the UNHRC, and forbid the U.S. from running for a UNHRC seat. It would also direct the secretary to withhold an amount equal to that allocated to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories or any other official or procedure “display[ing] bias” against the U.S. or Israel.

The bill was partially motivated by what lawmakers regard as the UNHRC’s “virulently anti-Israel behavior,” which the U.S. has condemned since joining the council in 2009. It specifically highlights the council’s choice of William Schabas, a Canadian international law professor with a purported “clear conflict of interest and lack of impartiality,” to lead an investigation into possible war crimes during Israel’s summer 2014 assault on Gaza.

See also: H.R. 3155 of 9/19/13.

Last major action: 9/18/14 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

18 SEPTEMBER 2014: TO STRENGTHEN U.S.-ISRAEL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

H.R. 5666, Randy K. Weber (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would authorize the U.S.-Israel Science and Technology Foundation to facilitate collaboration between Israeli and U.S. researchers, businesses, and other industrial organizations. It would also direct the Dept. of Commerce to ensure that the foundation is upholding its original mandate to create and execute joint research and development.

Last major action: 12/11/14 referred to the House Subcomm. on Research and Technology.

18 SEPTEMBER 2014: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

H.R. 5668, Ted Yoho (R-FL), 10 cosponsors.

This bill would suspend all U.S. aid to the PA and only reinstate it if the president determined, after consulting Congress, that the PA had taken “sufficient action” to stop funding and working with U.S.-designated terrorist organizations, including Hamas. The president would be required to submit an annual report to Congress on all matters relating to this act.

Last major action: 9/18/14 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

14 NOVEMBER 2014: SANCTION IRAN, SAFEGUARD AMERICA (SISA) ACT OF 2014

H.R. 5709, Trent Franks (R-AZ), no cosponsors.

See identical bill, S. 2672 of 7/28/14, for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/9/14 referred to the Subcomm. on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

*14 NOVEMBER 2014: CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

H. Res. 754, Ed Royce (R-CA), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution condemns recent Iranian human rights abuses and calls on the Obama administration to put more pressure on Iran to uphold international human rights standards. It specifically recommends that the president fully utilize existing legislation to impose sanctions on individual Iranian officials complicit in certain abuses. (See H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09.)

Last major action: 11/19/14 agreed to without objection.

18 NOVEMBER 2014: TO REQUIRE CERTIFICATIONS BY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THEY ARE NOT BOYCOTTING PERSONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 5727, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would effectively prevent the federal government from entering into contracts with any person who knowingly boycotts Israel or Israeli settlements by requiring all potential contractors to certify that they do not boycott any country with which the U.S. has signed a free trade agreement, including Israel. The bill defines a “boycotting person” as someone who refuses to do business with such a country, one of its citizens or residents, and any business that operates under that country’s laws—in effect, covering Israeli settlements. The president would be allowed a case-by-case national security waiver.

See other boycott-stymying legislation from this session: H.R. 4009 of 2/6/14.

Last major action: 11/18/14 referred to the Comm. on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Comm. On Foreign Affairs.

18 NOVEMBER 2014: RIGHT OF RETURN ACT

H.R. 5734, Steve Stockman (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would institute a new “plan for peace” between Israel and the Palestinians that differs greatly from the existing U.S. two-state solution policy. The proposed plan calls for the secretary of state to urge Israel to annex Gaza and the West Bank and for Palestinians residing in those areas to be granted citizenship in Egypt and Jordan. It would also block all U.S. aid to the PA until it accepts said annexation and would redirect all U.S. financial support from UNRWA to indeterminate programs assisting Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to “return” to Egypt and Jordan.

Last Major Action: 11/18/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

***19 NOVEMBER 2014: NO SOCIAL SECURITY FOR NAZIS ACT**

H.R. 5739, Sam Johnson (R-TX), 48 cosponsors.

This bill terminates social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi war crimes and who concealed or misrepresented their participation in such conduct.

Last major action: 12/18/14 became public law (12/4/14 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent; 12/2/14 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 420–0).

19 NOVEMBER 2014: NO SOCIAL SECURITY FOR NAZIS ACT

S. 2944, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 19 cosponsors.

See identical bill, *H.R. 5739 of 11/19/14, for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/19/14 read twice and referred to the Senate Comm. on Finance.

4 DECEMBER 2014: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

H.R. 5795, Joseph Crowley (D-NY), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would urge the president, along with the government of Israel, the PA, and the international community, to establish an international fund for Israeli-Palestinian peace. The “nonpolitical” fund would “promote and support contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared community building, peaceful coexistence, joint economic development, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.” It would also authorize an annual \$50 m. in contributions to the proposed fund until 2019 and require a yearly report to Congress on the fund’s operations, activities, and budget.

Last major action: 12/04/14 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.