

Congressional Monitor

THE 114TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION:

6 JANUARY 2015–18 DECEMBER 2015



COMPILED BY PAUL KAROLYI

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 congress.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 first session of the 114th Congress opened on 1/6/15 and closed less than a year later on 12/18/15. Leading into the session were the 2014 midterm elections, which produced a major upheaval in the legislature's makeup. Republicans won a majority of the available Senate seats, giving them control of the upper chamber with 54 members. They also increased their majority in the House of Representatives, winning 247 seats (up from 234 in the previous Congress).

Collectively, members of the 114th Congress introduced 7,893 measures over the course of the first session; of these, 178 carried provisions pertinent to Palestinian affairs or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, marking a more than twofold increase over the 87 introduced in the previous session (see *JPS* 44 [4]). Such variation is typical of first sessions when more measures are traditionally introduced, and bills carry over to the second session in what is typically a slow process. However, this session's total also represented a substantial increase over the 124 measures introduced during the first session of the 113th Congress, as a result of 3 additional factors: first, disagreements between the Obama administration and the Republican leadership surrounding the P5+1[†] nuclear negotiations with Iran; second, contentious debate in Congress over the admittance of refugees from the ongoing conflict in Syria; third, the growing strength of the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

[†] China, France, the UK, U.S., Russia, and Germany.

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION

Congressional measures fall into 2 general categories. There are binding measures—bills and joint resolutions—that can pass into law, and there are nonbinding measures—concurrent and simple resolutions—that merely state the views of Congress on a particular issue. While they are less consequential, nonbinding measures are important indicators of congressional priorities as they typically “urge,” “recognize,” “encourage,” “affirm,” or “support” people, events, and policy positions. Of the 178 measures under discussion here, 119 were binding (8 passed into law), and 59 were simple or concurrent resolutions (11 passed).

Although most of the 178 measures principally concerned issues relating to Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict, 39 were tangentially related (a similar proportion to previous years) and included relevant issues in debates surrounding the measures, amendments proposed but not attached, or provisions in vast, multi-faceted bills.

Of the 39 tangential measures, 16 were authorizations or appropriations bills, with the former providing the legal authority for all U.S. government programs and agencies (i.e., earmarking funds), and the latter approving funding and transfer of monies to those authorized bodies (i.e., disbursement of funds). The 4 appropriations and authorizations bills that passed into law extended appropriations for fiscal year 2015 (*H.R. 719 of 2/4/15 and *H.R. 2250 of 5/12/15), to allow Congress time to agree on the FY 2016 budget (*H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15), and authorized national defense spending in FY 2016 (*S. 1356 of 5/14/15). Some of the measures’ key provisions dealt with military assistance to Israel and Egypt, oversight on the administration’s Iran-related policies, and economic and security aid for the Palestinians.

The other 23 tangential measures dealt with a variety of issues, ranging from restrictions on the crude oil market (H.R. 702 of 2/4/15 and S. 1372 of 5/19/15), to government funding for scientific research (H.R. 1806 of 4/15/15) and global blasphemy laws (H. Res. 290 of 6/2/15). The 3 nonbinding measures that passed urged the administration to counter anti-Semitism in Europe (*H. Res. 354 of 7/9/15 and *S. Res. 87 of 2/25/15) and set the FY 2016 budget (*S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/20/15). The 2 binding measures that passed into law were each, at separate times, vehicles for renewing the president’s “fast track” authority, specifically to expedite congressional approval of trade agreements (*H.R. 1314 of 3/4/15 and *H.R. 2146 of 4/30/15). Among numerous trade-related sections, the various versions of the “fast track” bill each carried provisions designed to counter the growing clout of the BDS movement.

MAJOR TRENDS

Partisan disagreements led to greater legislative focus on the nuclear talks with Iran and the Syrian refugee crisis but, overall, the Republican-controlled 114th Congress had similar priorities as its predecessors with respect to Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, the 178 measures under discussion will be broken down into the same 3 broad thematic categories that appeared in the last 2 annual Congressional Monitor reports: (1) those directly or indirectly

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

benefiting Israel; (2) those serving Israel's interests by undermining its adversaries; (3) those securing Israel's position in the Middle East by reinforcing, influencing, or altering U.S. regional policy.

BENEFITING ISRAEL

Just under a quarter, or 43, of the 178 measures under discussion here carried provisions benefiting Israel directly or indirectly. While there were proportionally fewer than in the past, the total number of measures in this category was consistent with previous years (there were 45 and 46 in the first and second sessions of the 113th Congress, respectively). The 26 bills or joint resolutions and 17 simple or concurrent resolutions in this category can be further broken down into the following subcategories:

Maintaining or Increasing Military Support: The 16 bills in this category each carried provisions granting military aid to Israel or boosting military cooperation in some other way. Of these, only the 4 previously mentioned appropriations and authorizations bills passed into law, providing Israel with over \$3 b. in military and economic aid in 2016. New this year, 7 of the bills carried provisions relating to Hamas's use of tunnels during Israel's assault on Gaza in the summer of 2014 (see *JPS* 44 [1–2]). Although various anti-tunnel measures were proposed and debated, the versions that passed into law: authorized up to \$25 m. in spending on a new joint U.S.-Israeli anti-tunnel program (*S. 1356 of 5/14/15); directed the administration to hire an official “to manage the collection and analysis of intelligence regarding the tactical use of tunnels by state and nonstate actors” and submit an annual report to Congress on tunnel usage trends and the U.S.'s collaborative efforts with others (mainly Israel and Egypt) to counter tunnel operations (*H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15).

Providing Ceremonial or Nonmilitary Support: There were 9 bills and 11 simple or concurrent resolutions with provisions designed to offer Israel nonmilitary support or otherwise strengthen the U.S.-Israel alliance. Of these, 3 nonbinding measures passed: the first welcoming Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu to Congress in 3/2015 (*S. Res. 76 of 2/12/15; see *JPS* 44 [4]), the second defending Israel at the UN and calling on the administration to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem (*S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/20/15); and the third supporting Israel's right to defend itself against so-called Palestinian terror attacks amid the wave of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) that escalated in 10/2015 (*S. Res. 302 of 11/3/15; see also the Update in *JPS* 45 [2–3]). Other notable trends within this subcategory include measures authorizing or encouraging joint scientific research (H.R. 3717 of 10/8/15, H. Res. 551 of 12/3/15, H.R. 1806 of 4/15/15, and H.R. 2028 of 4/24/15) and those citing Israeli security concerns to justify lifting restrictions on U.S. crude oil exports (H.R. 702 of 2/4/15 and H.R. 8 of 9/16/15).

Commemorating Jewish and Israeli History: Each of the 7 nonbinding measures in this category would have honored or commemorated some aspect of Jewish or Israeli history (none passed). Of these, 3 called for Holocaust commemoration ceremonies (H. Res. 49 of 1/26/15, H. Con. Res. 9 of 1/26/15, and H. Res. 57 of 1/27/15), 3 honored former Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin around the 20th anniversary of his death (S. Res. 299 of 10/28/15, H. Res. 502 of 10/28/15, and H. Res. 513 of 11/3/15), and 1 praised the American Jewish Comm. on its 109th anniversary (H. Res. 518 of 11/5/15).

UNDERMINING ISRAEL'S ADVERSARIES

Marking both a proportional and an absolute increase over previous years, more than half, or 101, of the 178 measures under discussion carried provisions that would undermine Israel's adversaries in some way. Fifteen of these passed, 9 of which were binding.

Iran

The lion's share of measures in this category, or 72, carried provisions relating to the international nuclear negotiations with Iran. These measures largely sought to influence or undermine the talks and the historic agreement they produced on 7/14/15 (see *JPS* 45 [1]), with their sponsors often citing Israeli security and Iranian human rights violations as justification. Overall, 50 were bills or joint resolutions, 5 of which passed into law, and 22 were simple or concurrent resolutions, 4 of which passed.

Influencing Diplomacy: All 72 of the measures under discussion aimed to influence the talks, the 7/14 deal, and its eventual implementation, with all but 8 of them carrying provisions directly related to the issue. Among the 64 measures, there were numerous proposals for increased congressional oversight, restrictions on the U.S. negotiating team, and limitations on the U.S. obligations under the agreement (which would have scuttled the deal *ex post facto*), as well as statements of both disapproval and approval for various elements of the Obama administration's strategy. The most significant measures in this category were the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, establishing a procedure for Congress to overturn the 7/14 deal (*H.R. 1191 of 3/2/15) as well as the main vehicle for such congressional disapproval (H. J. Res. 61 of 7/23/15), which failed to gather enough Democratic support in the Senate, thereby ensuring that the Obama administration could proceed with its obligations (see *JPS* 45 [1–2]). Furthermore, the 4 abovementioned appropriations and authorizations bills carried oversight measures from FY 2015 (*H.R. 719 of 2/4/15 and *H.R. 2250 of 5/12/15), and instituted new ones for FY 2016 (*S. 1356 of 5/14/15 and *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15).

Human Rights and Diplomacy: 12 of these measures—5 bills and 7 simple and concurrent resolutions—carried provisions that dealt with the nuclear negotiations indirectly. Of these, 5 proposed mechanisms to redistribute fines from sanctions violations to the U.S. citizens taken hostage in Iran in 1979 (S. Con Res. 11 of 3/20/15, S. 868 of 3/26/15, S. 1635 of 6/18/15, H.R. 3338 of 7/29/15, and *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15); 3 condemned the Iranian government's targeting of religious minorities or called for the release of prisoners held on the basis of their religious beliefs (H. Res. 111 of 2/13/15, *S. Res. 148 of 4/23/15, and H. Res. 20 of 4/24/15); 3 called for the release of U.S. citizens being held in Iran or authorized new means for the president to pursue their release (H. Res. 148 of 3/10/15, S. Res. 99 of 3/10/15, and H.R. 3259 of 7/28/15); and 1 supported Israel's right to defend itself against Iran (H. Res. 500 of 10/28/15).

Palestinians

The U.S. relationship with the Palestinians remained largely unchanged. The Republican-led Congress earmarked hundreds of millions of dollars in economic and security support for the Palestinian Authority (PA) and for programs serving Palestinians in the oPt while at the same time criticizing Palestinian efforts to deviate from the U.S. vision of a 2-state solution or opposing the Israeli occupation. Down from 27 last session, there were 19 measures introduced in the first

session of the 114th Congress—13 bills and 6 simple or concurrent resolutions—with provisions along these lines. The measures can be further categorized as follows:

Restricting Aid: 6 of the abovementioned appropriations and authorizations bills, 3 of which passed, carried provisions approving aid for the Palestinians but also extending restrictions (*H.R. 719 of 2/4/15, *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15, and *H.R. 2250 of 5/12/15). There were also 6 other bills proposing new restrictions: 3 would have barred aid to the PA until the Palestinians dropped their bid for membership at the International Criminal Court (ICC);[‡] (S. 34 of 1/6/15, H.R. 277 of 1/12/15, and H.R. 364 of 1/14/15); one would have barred aid to the PA until it recognized “Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state” and met several other Israeli demands (S. 633 of 3/4/15); and 2 would have placed new restrictions on U.S. aid to UNRWA[§] (H.R. 3667 of 10/1/15 and H.R. 3829 of 10/26/15). None of these passed.

Criticism and Condemnation: The remaining 7 measures in the Palestinian category (of which 2 passed) carried provisions opposing specific actions: 2 censured the Palestinians’ accession to the ICC (H. Res. 209 of 4/16/15 and H. Res. 270 of 5/18/15) and 5 condemned statements from Palestinian leaders deemed to be incitement, in 10/2015 (*H. Res. 293 of 6/3/15, S. 1635 of 6/18/15, H. Res. 485 of 10/21/15, *S. Res. 302 of 11/3/15, and H. Con. Res. 96 of 11/19/15).

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement

With BDS gaining strength across the U.S. in 2015 (see *JPS* 44 [3]–45 [3]), opponents of the movement consolidated their efforts in Congress, leading to a significant increase in the number of measures explicitly designed to counter BDS efforts. Up from 4 last session, 14 measures—11 bills and 3 simple resolutions—from the 114th Congress’s first session fall under this category. Although the increase was, in part, due to the fact that a key anti-BDS provision was shuffled from bill to bill during debates over Pres. Barack Obama’s overall trade agenda, BDS opponents also scored a major victory this session. They tacked a set of anti-BDS objectives for the U.S. to pursue in trade negotiations onto a larger trade bill, which eventually passed into law (*H.R. 2146 of 4/30/15). Similar provisions introduced as 2 independent measures were added to 6 other trade-related bills but neither passed into law. Of the remaining measures, 2 called on Obama or the European Union to take action against BDS (H. Res. 402 of 7/29/15 and H. Res. 567 of 12/16/15); 1 condemned academic boycotts (H. Res. 318 of 6/16/15); and 2 would have restricted the government’s ability to do business with companies that participate in boycotts targeting Israel (H.R. 2645 of 6/4/15 and H.R. 1572 of 3/24/15).

Hezbollah

While many of the measures regarding Israel or the Iran nuclear negotiations noted that Hezbollah posed a threat to Israel, only 2 bills introduced this session had the explicit goal of sanctioning the group, and only 1 passed into law. Both versions of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 were designed to tighten sanctions, increase congressional oversight, and facilitate the application of 2 official key designations which would allow the U.S. to hamper the group’s international activities further (S. 1617 of 6/18/15 and *H.R. 2297 of 5/13/15).

[‡] See *JPS* 44 [3].

[§] UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

BUTTRESSING ISRAEL VIA U.S. REGIONAL POLICY

The Refugee Crisis

In the aftermath of what were widely held to be ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15, U.S. politicians and media focused increasingly on the perceived threats posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) and the refugees fleeing the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq. Prior to the Paris attacks, 5 measures had been introduced offering support to persecuted religious minorities (H.R. 3942 of 11/5/15 and *S. Res. 310 of 11/9/15), commending Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon for accepting refugees (H. Res. 509 of 11/2/15), providing funds for refugee resettlement (S. 2145 of 10/6/15), and levying oversight procedures and security-related limitations on the Visa Waiver Program (H.R. 158 of 1/6/15). After the attacks, 28 measures were introduced, mostly by Republicans, opposing, restricting, or otherwise blocking entry to the U.S. for refugees from Syria, Iraq, and other places in the Middle East, including Egypt and the oPt. Furthermore, in an effort to counter ISIS, funding and nonlethal aid for rebel groups in Syria was extended through FY 2016 (*H.R. 719 of 2/4/15, *H.R. 2250 of 5/12/15, and *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15).

Egypt

As Pres. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi further consolidated the authoritarian credentials of his regime in Egypt, the U.S. government's relationship with Cairo remained guarded. The 7 measures carrying Egypt-related provisions thus reflected Washington's growing concern with the country's human rights situation, but also the consensus view that Egypt's adherence to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel was essential for regional stability. Of the 7 Egypt-relevant measures, 6 were appropriations or authorizations bills; each of the 3 that passed into law approved military and economic aid, renewed the conditionality of such aid on the human rights situation in the country (*H.R. 719 of 2/4/15, *H.R. 2250 of 5/12/15, and *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15). The final measure, a simple resolution, called on Pres. Obama to designate Egypt as a "country of particular concern" for violations of religious freedom and urged the Egyptian government to repeal or amend its blasphemy laws (H. Res. 290 of 6/2/15). It did not pass.

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 when 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 (85 of 178 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 measures, a “see also” entry has been added to refer readers to similar, identical, or related bills and resolutions.

The “last major action” entry indicates where the measure stood at the end of the first session of the 114th Congress in 12/2015.

Because of the large number of measures that were introduced this session and also due to space limitations, only summaries are provided 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

6 JANUARY 2015: DEFEND ISRAEL BY DEFUNDING PALESTINIAN FOREIGN AID ACT OF 2015

S. 34, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit any assistance, loan guarantees, or debt relief for the PA until it withdraws its request to join the ICC.

PA pres. Mahmoud Abbas signed documents of accession to the Rome Statute, the ICC’s governing treaty, on 12/31/15. In a provision perennially included in bills appropriating funds to the State Dept. and foreign operations, all aid to the Palestinians—both support for programs in the West Bank and Gaza and to the PA, comprising an annual average of around \$440 m.—would be barred if the Palestinians initiate or actively support an ICC investigation into alleged Israeli crimes against Palestinians (see *H.R. 83 of 1/3/13).

Paul introduced a similar bill in 2013 also cutting off all aid to the Palestinians but it was conditioned on a presidential certification that the PA, inter alia, recognize Israel as a Jewish state and renounce terrorism (see S. 2265 of 4/29/14).

On 1/9, several Senate leaders, including Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), issued a statement threatening a “strong response” to the Palestinian accession to the ICC and alluding to adjustments in U.S. aid. They also said that Congress would seek to protect Israeli citizens from ICC investigations, should the court accept Palestine’s application. Furthermore, Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) circulated a letter in 1/2015 addressed to Secy. of State John Kerry calling for a suspension of aid to the PA pending a review of the Palestinians’ unilateral actions at the UN and ICC. AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) publicly supported both initiatives.

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

6 JANUARY 2015: JERUSALEM EMBASSY AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 114, Scott Garrett (R-NJ), 10 cosponsors.

Recognizing Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel, this bill would eliminate the president’s authority to delay the relocation of the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which every president has done on a biannual basis since the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 was signed into law (S. 1322 of 11/8/95). It would also call for a corresponding update to all U.S. government documents and materials, and institute several budgetary restrictions conditional on the embassy’s relocation.

Garrett introduced a similar bill on the first day of the 113th Congress, but it did not advance past committee consideration (H.R. 104 of 1/3/13).

See also: S. 117 of 1/17/15.

Last major action: 2/11/15 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

6 JANUARY 2015: VISA WAIVER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND TERRORIST TRAVEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 158, Candice Miller (R-MI), 93 cosponsors.

This bill would block visa-free entry to the U.S. for passport-holders of the Visa Waiver Program’s 38 participating countries if they hold dual citizenship with or have traveled, since 3/2011, to Iraq, Syria, or other countries determined by the secretary of state to be “safe haven[s]” for terrorists, home to significant terrorist activity, as well as countries that if visited could increase a person’s likelihood of becoming a “credible threat” to the U.S. The unnamed countries would presumably include Iran and Sudan. Inter alia, the bill would also require the 38 Visa Waiver Program countries to perform checks against Interpol databases on passport-holders hoping to travel to the U.S. and to start issuing “e-passports,” which would allow the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) to check biometric and biographic information. The DHS would be authorized to disqualify any member-state that does not adequately comply with the program’s new components.

In terms of oversight, the head of DHS would be required to submit an annual report on the number of times that the administration exercised a national security waiver over the abovementioned

restrictions. DHS would also have to report to Congress annually on the number of travelers denied entry on security grounds in the previous year and report periodically on foreign governments' compliance with the information-sharing requirements described above.

The bill came under criticism from the Arab-American Civil Rights League, American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee on the grounds that it could affect journalists and aid workers, discriminate against Arab-Americans (if the European members of the Visa Waiver Program pass reciprocal measures), and effectively discourage travel to and business with Iran, thereby jeopardizing the 7/14 nuclear deal.

After passing in the House on 12/8/15, the text of this bill was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (*H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15), which passed into law on 12/18/15.

See also: similar bill S. 2362 of 12/7/15.

Last major action: 12/8/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 407–19.

7 JANUARY 2015: A BILL TO WITHHOLD U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN UNTIL THE UN FORMALLY RETRACTS THE FINAL REPORT OF THE "UN FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT"

S. 93, David Vitter (R-LA), no cosponsors.

As implied by its title, this bill sought to restrict all U.S. contributions to the UN until such time as the international body formally retracts the Goldstone Report.

See also: S. 95 of 1/23/13, S. 923 of 5/9/11, and H.R. 1501 of 4/12/11.

Last major action: 1/7/15 referred to Comm. on Foreign Relations.

7 JANUARY 2015: JERUSALEM EMBASSY AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

S. 117, Dean Heller (R-NV), 7 cosponsors.

See similar bill, H.R. 114 of 1/6/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: 1/7/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

12 JANUARY 2015: DEFEND ISRAEL BY DEFUNDING PALESTINIAN FOREIGN AID ACT OF 2015

H.R. 277, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), 2 cosponsors.

See identical bill, S. 34 of 1/6/15, for a full summary.

See also: H.R. 364 of 1/14/15.

Last major action: 1/12/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

14 JANUARY 2015: DEFEND ISRAEL BY DEFUNDING PALESTINIAN FOREIGN AID ACT OF 2015

H.R. 364, Curt Clawson (R-FL), 4 cosponsors.

See identical bill, S. 34 of 1/6/15, for a full summary.

See also: H.R. 277 of 1/12/15.

Last major action: 1/14/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

26 JANUARY 2015: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHERS TO PREVENT IRAN FROM DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR WEAPON

S. Res. 40, Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), 13 cosponsors.

This resolution, inter alia, reaffirmed the policy to deter Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, supported U.S. diplomatic efforts within the P5+1 negotiating with Iran, and affirmed that all waived sanctions should be reimposed if negotiators failed to reach an accord, or if Iran violated the agreement governing the negotiations or any accord reached.

Last major action: 1/26/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

26 JANUARY 2015: HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST, COMMENDING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR MARKING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ, AND EXPRESSING THE COMMITMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM, BIGOTRY, AND INTOLERANCE

H. Res. 49, Theodore Deutch (D-FL), 28 cosponsors.

Last major action: 2/11/15 referred to Subcomm. on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.

26 JANUARY 2015: 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. 9, Patrick Meehan (R-PA), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution would have authorized the use of the Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony on 4/16/15 remembering victims of the Holocaust.

Last major action: 4/14/15 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent (4/13/15 agreed to in the House without objection).

27 JANUARY 2015: NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE IRAN ACT OF 2015

S. 269, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 52 cosponsors.

This bill would reimpose and escalate sanctions on Iran if ongoing negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 failed to culminate in a final agreement. It would also institute a series of congressional oversight measures on the negotiations as well as on any final agreement or extension to the negotiations' governing document, the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA), signed on 11/24/13 and extended on 7/19/14 and 11/24/14.

Specifically, if the P5+1 and Iran reached a final accord or agreed to another JPOA extension by the 6/30/15 deadline, the Obama administration would be required to deliver 2 documents to Congress within 5 days: the full text of the agreement and a report from the secretary of state assessing the U.S. government's ability to verify Iran's compliance. Also, the treasury secretary would be required to deliver a report to Congress analyzing the benefits of past and future sanctions waivers to Iran's economy. After delivery of such materials, the administration would be prohibited from waiving, deferring, or suspending any sanctions on Iran, including those outlined in the JPOA, until Congress had spent at least 30 days in continuous session to review the documents.

In addition, the bill included a detailed section listing the policy goals of future legislation were the final agreement not to comport with congressional expectations and preferences. First, the section affirmed U.S. policy to deter Iran's nuclear weapons capabilities, supporting all available instruments of power to accomplish that goal. Second, it stated that Iran has no inherent right to uranium enrichment or reprocessing. Third, it outlined a series of goals for all international negotiations with Iran: reversing the development of Iran's nuclear program, bringing Iran into compliance with all past UNSC resolutions, full access to Iran's nuclear program by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and requiring Iranian compliance with all earlier IAEA agreements. Finally, the U.S. would continue with the sanctions vis-à-vis Iran's human rights record and its support for the Syrian government; sanctions would also be maintained on any individual, government, or organization that aided Iran's nuclear weapons program.

If the P5+1 and Iran failed to reach a final status agreement or to extend the JPOA within 5 days of the 6/30 deadline, the bill stipulated, then sanctions would be reimposed, and either strengthened or expanded each month through 12/2015. The president would be able to waive the reimposition and expansion of sanctions during this period if he certified to Congress that it was in the interest of national security, necessary for reaching a long-term deal with Iran, and that Iran was neither advancing its nuclear weapons program nor violating any interim agreements.

The bill's principal architects, Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Mark Kirk (R-IL), also designed the Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013 (S. 1881 of 12/19/13), escalating and expanding sanctions on Iran if it violated the JPOA. The 2 bills share many of the same cosponsors including AIPAC and other major pro-Israel organizations.

Pres. Obama pledged to veto the bill, as well as any other sanctions-related measures, saying that these would disrupt the negotiations and threaten the prospects of reaching a long-term, viable deal.

On the day the bill was introduced, Menendez and 9 other Democratic cosponsors signed on to a letter to Obama in which they pledged, in support of the administration, not to vote on the measure until at least 3/24/15, at the then deadline for the P5+1 and Iran to reach a political accord. In early 4/2015, Kirk agreed to delay a vote on the bill until after the 6/30 deadline for a final agreement.

On 1/29, the Senate Banking Committee held a markup of the bill and members proposed numerous amendments. Those accepted have been incorporated into the summary presented above. Below is a list of amendments considered, but not adopted.

S.A. 10, submitted by Tom Cotton (R-AR), no cosponsors.

This amendment would eliminate the president's authority to waive the reimposition of suspended sanctions or new sanctions after a 30-day period following the expiration of the JPOA on 6/30. It was rejected by a 10–12 vote.

S.A. 12, submitted by Tom Cotton (R-AR), no cosponsors.

This amendment would eliminate gradually escalating sanctions—designed to cajole a hypothetical, reticent Iran to continue participating in negotiations—in favor of a single, wholesale reimposition of all sanctions. The measure was rejected by a 10–12 vote.

See also: S. 1881 of 12/19/13 and S. 792 of 3/18/15.

Last major action: 1/29/15 approved in Senate Banking Comm. by a vote of 18–4.

27 JANUARY 2015: URGING THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT IN 2015, A YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE, U.S. EMBASSIES IN APPROPRIATE COUNTRIES SHOULD COMMEMORATE THIS ANNIVERSARY YEAR WITH SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC EVENTS INCLUDING THE MESSAGE THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION CONTAINED IN THESE ANNIVERSARIES ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL PEOPLES

H. Res. 57, Christopher Smith (R-NJ), 7 cosponsors.

Stating that 2015 was a year of significance for the Jewish people because it marked the 80th anniversary of the passage of the Nuremberg Race Laws in Germany and the 70th anniversary of the start of the Nuremberg trials and the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, this resolution urged the U.S. government to hold commemorative events.

Last major action: 2/11/15 referred to Subcomm. on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

2 FEBRUARY 2015: TRADE FACILITATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

H.R. 644, Tom Reed (R-NY), 7 cosponsors.

Commonly known as the “customs” bill, this measure would strengthen enforcement of trade restrictions and facilitate trade through a variety of related measures. It also included an AIPAC-backed provision designed to strengthen the U.S.-Israel economic relationship and discourage boycott, divestment, and sanctions of Israel, and boycotts of the Israeli settlements in particular.

Due to procedural rules, the Senate amended the full text of an earlier version of the customs bill, S. 1269 of 5/11/15, creating this version as a substitute on 5/14 and replacing an unrelated measure. After passage in the Senate, the House amended the bill again, modifying the anti-BDS language, inter alia, and passing it on 6/12/15. The House’s new anti-BDS language was mostly identical to that in the U.S.-Israel Trade and Commercial Enhancement Act (H.R. 825 of 2/10/15). After the Senate and House passed separate versions in the first half of 2015, House leadership agreed to a reconciliation conference on 12/1/15. The conferees then agreed to use the anti-BDS language from H.R. 825, with a few minor changes, and passed the bill on 12/11/15.

See also: S. 1269 of 5/11/15, H.R. 1314 of 3/4/15, and H.R. 1907 of 4/21/15.

Last major action: 12/11/15 House agreed to conference report by yea/nay vote, 256–158 (6/12/15 House agreed to Senate amendments, 240–190; 5/14/15 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 78–20; 2/12/15 original text passed in House, 279–137).

4 FEBRUARY 2015: TO ADAPT TO CHANGING CRUDE OIL MARKET CONDITIONS

H.R. 702, Joe Barton (R-TX), 137 cosponsors.

This bill was designed to strengthen the U.S. energy sector by removing restrictions on crude oil exports. Aiming to garner bipartisan support, it included a line in “Findings” related to Israel’s security: “For our European allies and Israel, the presence of more U.S. oil in the market will offer more secure supply options, which will strengthen United States strategic alliances and help curtail the use of energy as a political weapon.” It also included a provision prohibiting the export of crude oil to Iran.

Last major action: 10/9/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 261–159.

***4 FEBRUARY 2015: CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016**

H.R. 719, John Katko (R-NY), 4 cosponsors.

This bill maintains existing appropriations for all federal programs and agencies from the end of FY 2015 on 9/30/15 through 12/11/15. For details about FY 2015 appropriations levels and their relation to Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East, see *H.R. 83 of 1/3/13 at congressionalmonitor.org. For further action on FY 2016 appropriations, see *H.R. 2250 of 5/12/15, which extended FY 2015 funding through 12/16/15, and *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15, which was the vehicle for FY 2016 appropriations.

Last major action: 9/30/15 became public law (9/17/15 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent; 2/10/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 414–0).

5 FEBRUARY 2015: NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS ENFORCEMENT ACT

H.R. 757, Edward Royce (R-CA), 29 cosponsors.

Within this comprehensive sanctions bill, one provision would require the president to submit a report to Congress within 90 days on any nuclear cooperation between North Korea and Iran, including the identity of any persons known to have transmitted information between the 2 countries.

Last major action: 2/5/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

10 FEBRUARY 2015: U.S.-ISRAEL TRADE AND COMMERCIAL ENHANCEMENT ACT

H.R. 825, Pete Roskam (R-IL), 69 cosponsors.

In order to strengthen U.S.-Israel economic relations and counter the BDS movement in general, and boycotts of Israeli settlements in particular, this bill outlines a series of policy goals to that effect, instituting a new oversight measure, and imposing a new restriction on U.S. courts.

Specifically, the bill laid out 3 objectives for any trade agreements with foreign countries: discourage potential trading partners from taking actions that unduly target the U.S.-Israel commercial relationship; discourage any BDS efforts directed at Israel or the Israeli settlements; and strive to combat state-sponsored boycotts of Israel, including the Arab boycott. In terms of oversight, the president would be required to report annually on BDS actions. Furthermore, any foreign firm traded on a U.S. stock market would be required to disclose in its annual or quarterly reports any BDS-related developments within the company, including possible campaigns it is subject to and pressure it may have received from foreign governments. Finally, no U.S. court would be permitted to recognize or consider any foreign court's judgment regarding a U.S. citizen doing business in Israel or the oPt.

The full text of this bill was added to both the Senate and House versions of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (see S. 1269 of 5/11/15, which became H.R. 644 of 2/2/15 and H.R. 1907 of 4/21/15, respectively).

See also: S. 619 of 3/2/15, H.R. 1890 of 4/17/15, S. 995 of 4/16/15, and H.R. 1314 of 3/4/15.

Last major action: 3/17/15 referred to Subcomm. on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

11 FEBRUARY 2015: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PROVIDE CONGRESS WITH A DETAILED DEPLOYMENT AND TROOP COMMITMENT PLAN PRIOR TO APPROVAL FOR AUTHORIZATION TO COMMIT U.S. ARMED FORCES TO FIGHT THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS)

H. Res. 104, Stevan Pearce (R-NM), no cosponsors.

This resolution stated that unless the president laid out clear objectives and provided Congress with a “clear and definitive deployment and troop commitment plan,” the House should not approve a request for the use of military force to combat ISIS.

Last major action: 2/11/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

12 FEBRUARY 2015: U.S. JORDAN DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 907, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 13 cosponsors.

This bill was introduced less than 2 weeks after U.S. secy. of state Kerry and Jordanian FM Nasser Judeh signed (2/3/15) a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) committing the U.S. to increase its annual aid to Jordan from \$660 m. to \$1 b. for 2015–17. To counter what is described as the growing threat posed by ISIS and alleviate the pressure on the Jordanian government caused by the Syrian refugee crisis, the bill would authorize the MoU, express support for “expeditious consideration” of Jordanian requests for particular defense equipment, and add Jordan to the list of countries eligible for expedited arms sales, licensing agreements, and technical assistance.

See also: the Senate’s version of this bill, S. 1789 of 7/16/15.

Last major action: 7/7/15 passed in House by voice vote.

***12 FEBRUARY 2015: A RESOLUTION WELCOMING THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL TO THE U.S. FOR HIS ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS**

S. Res. 76, John Cornyn (R-TX), 50 cosponsors.

On 1/22/15, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) announced that Israeli PM Netanyahu had accepted his invitation to address a joint meeting of Congress on the alleged dangers of Iran and its nuclear program. Following the announcement, Netanyahu’s visit became a partisan issue, further stoking tensions between the Israeli PM and the Obama administration. (See the quarterly Updates in *JPS* 45 [1–2] for details.)

All 50 of this resolution’s cosponsors were Republicans.

Last major action: 2/26/15 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

13 FEBRUARY 2015: A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE SAEED ABEDINI AND ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS DETAINED ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

H. Res. 111, Robert Pittenger (R-NC), 15 cosponsors.

In 2012, Saeed Abedini, a U.S.-Iranian pastor, traveled to Iran to visit his family and continue building an orphanage there. Detained by government forces for establishing home-based Christian churches, he remained in Iranian government custody and was allegedly tortured. This resolution called for his immediate release.

See also: S. Con. Res. 16 of 5/7/15 and H. Res. 233 of 4/29/15.

Last major action: 3/20/15 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

25 FEBRUARY 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING U.S. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE

H. Res. 126, Barbara Lee (D-CA), 3 cosponsors.

In a reaffirmation of current policy toward Israel and the Palestinians, this resolution expressed U.S. support for the Iron Dome missile defense system, condemnation of settlement growth, and insistence that Hamas denounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist. It also called on the Obama administration to "establish a framework for a final agreement backed by a strong international coalition of stakeholders."

Last major action: 3/20/15 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

***25 FEBRUARY 2015: TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE AND TO ENCOURAGE GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, THE EU, AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ANTI-SEMITISM**

S. Res. 87, Robert Menendez (R-NJ), 61 cosponsors.

This resolution urged the secretary of state, attorney general, and other relevant officials to work with the EU and European governments to confront anti-Semitism.

See also: H. Res. 130 of 2/27/15.

Last major action: 6/3/15 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

27 FEBRUARY 2015: IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

S. 615, Bob Corker (R-TN), 66 cosponsors.

This bill would increase congressional oversight of the P5+1 negotiations with Iran, giving Congress authority to approve or reject any agreement and creating a mechanism for it to oversee the verification of such a deal. The bill would also outline a phased process for congressional review and condition any sanctions relief on congressional approval.

The congressional approval process was as follows: within 5 days of a final agreement, the administration would have to deliver to Congress: the text of the deal; a report from the State Dept. assessing U.S. and IAEA capacity to verify it, as well as any verification safeguards built into it; and a certification that the deal upholds existing U.S. policies on nonproliferation, and will continue to deter Iran's nuclear capabilities. Upon completion of these steps, Congress would have a 30-day period to review the deal (with the period extended to 60 days if the administration delivered the required materials between 7/10 and 9/7/2015) during which, the administration could not provide Iran any relief from existing sanctions, except for those already waived in the course of the negotiations. Sanctions would be maintained for an additional 12 days, in the event of the passage of a disapproval resolution, and another 10 following a presidential veto of such a resolution. Sanctions relief would be permitted if Congress passed a joint resolution of approval during the review period or if it took no action.

If Congress approved the deal or failed to overturn a presidential veto on a disapproval resolution, the president would be required to report to Congress every 90 days on his ability to verify Iran's compliance with the agreement or any action taken by Iran to advance its nuclear weapons program. The president would also have to verify that sanctions relief was vital to U.S. interests and proportionate to the corresponding steps taken by Iran. Additionally, the president would be required to deliver to Congress any information about incidents of Iranian noncompliance within 10 days, then report on whether each incident was a "material breach" or a "compliance incident" and how Iran could rectify the matter. (A material breach would be defined as any breach of the deal benefiting Iran's nuclear program, decreasing Iran's "breakout" time, or undermining the purposes of the agreement.) If the president failed to do so, Congress would be permitted to consider legislation reinstating sanctions within 60 days by way of an expedited process.

If a deal was reached, the administration would be required to deliver a report to Congress on Iran's nuclear program and its compliance with the deal every 180 days. The administration would also be required to keep Congress informed about any negotiations or initiative with Iran regarding its nuclear program, including amendments to the original deal.

On 3/3, the bill was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where it needed to pass before it could be brought before the full Senate. That day, Israeli PM Netanyahu addressed a special meeting of Congress, and over 10,000 attendees of AIPAC's annual conference were on Capitol Hill calling for increased oversight of the P5+1 negotiations with Iran. In order to circumvent the often long committee process, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) employed his authority as Senate majority leader to introduce a largely identical bill, which he placed on the full chamber's schedule immediately. See S. 625 of 3/3/15 for more.

After McConnell's efforts to fast-track the measure were stymied by Senate Democrats, focus returned to the original version of the bill as well as the review by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It was subject to several weeks of partisan debate, but Corker, the committee's chair and bill's sponsor, was keen on taking action. Ultimately, he and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), the committee's ranking Democrat, set a vote for 4/14.

Ahead of the 4/14 committee vote, senators offered over 50 amendments for consideration. The serious amendment negotiations, however, took place between Corker and Ben Cardin (D-MD), with Cardin negotiating for compromises, in part, on behalf of the White House and Corker agreeing to them to maintain bipartisan support.

The committee unanimously passed a watered-down version of the bill on 4/14 (the summary above reflects their agreement). The initial draft would have seen Congress's review period lasting 60 days and would have required the president to certify every 90 days after reaching an agreement that Iran was not supporting terrorism. Pres. Obama was reportedly not "particularly thrilled" with the bill, but signaled that he would sign it nonetheless, reversing an earlier statement pledging to veto any legislation to undermine the negotiations with Iran.

Also, due to a procedure-based regulation that all legislation dealing with revenue must originate in the House, the full text of this bill was amended as a substitute to a previously irrelevant bill that had passed the House (*H.R. 1191 of 3/2/15). See that bill for further action on the measure.

Last major action: 4/14/15 passed in Senate Foreign Relations Comm. by yea/nay vote, 19–0.

27 FEBRUARY 2015: TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE AND TO ENCOURAGE GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, THE EU, AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ANTI-SEMITISM

H. Res. 130, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), 84 cosponsors.

See similar measure, S. Res. 87 of 2/25/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: 3/20/15 referred to Subcomm. on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats.

2 MARCH 2015: U.S.-ISRAEL TRADE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

S. 619, Ben Cardin (D-MD), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would establish a series of objectives—designed to counter the growing BDS movement—to be pursued in any U.S. trade negotiations. Specifically, to eliminate politically motivated barriers on exports from Israel and discourage actions that oppose U.S.-Israel trade or politically motivated actions intended to limit trade with Israel and the settlements, including the Arab League’s boycott of Israel.

Numerous pro-Israel organizations supported this bill, including AIPAC, American Jewish Committee, the Israel Project, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, StandWithUs, the Zionist Organization of America, and the Republican Jewish Coalition (see the quarterly Updates in *JPS* 45 [1–4] for more on the legislative crackdown on BDS).

See also: H.R. 825 of 2/10/15 and H.R. 2146 of 4/30/15.

Last major action: 3/2/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Finance.

***2 MARCH 2015: IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT OF 2015**

H.R. 1191, Lou Barletta (R-PA), 23 cosponsors.

This bill increases congressional oversight of the P5+1 nuclear negotiations with Iran, including provisions for a congressional vote on any final deal.

Ahead of the Senate’s consideration, the full text of the original Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (S. 615 of 2/27/15) was attached to this previously unrelated bill as a substitute (procedural regulations require all revenue-related legislation to originate in the House of Representatives; see that earlier measure for a full summary, as well as the Updates in *JPS* 45 [1–2] for details).

Last major action: 5/22/15 became public law (5/14/15 House agreed to Senate amendments, 400–25; 5/7/15 passed in Senate, 98–1; 3/17/15 passed in House, 415–0).

3 MARCH 2015: IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT

S. 625, Mitch McConnell (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This bill was substantially identical to S. 615 of 2/27/15, establishing new congressional oversight procedures of the P5+1–Iran nuclear talks and providing Congress with the means to scupper any deal produced therein. It was introduced by Majority Leader McConnell hours after Israeli PM Netanyahu addressed a joint meeting of Congress calling for congressional oversight on the P5+1’s negotiations with Iran.

The earlier version of the bill was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when it was introduced, so it would have had to go through a markup and pass a vote

before coming to the floor of the Senate. By introducing this bill and putting it directly on the full Senate's calendar, McConnell employed his powers as majority leader to circumvent the committee process. A group of a 10 senators, including key supporter Robert Menendez (D-NJ), sent a letter of complaint to McConnell calling on him to allow the Senate Foreign Relations Committee its traditional role. Menendez said that he only backed the bill on the understanding that it would go through the committee process. McConnell then cancelled (3/5) a scheduled 3/10 vote on the bill to preserve the bipartisan support Menendez and his cohort provided. After McConnell's efforts to fast-track the measure through the Senate were stymied, the bill's backers returned their focus to the original version (see S. 615 for details).

Last major action: 3/9/15 cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the measure withdrawn by unanimous consent.

3 MARCH 2015: STAND WITH ISRAEL ACT OF 2015

S. 633, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

Introduced the day of Israeli PM Netanyahu's address to Congress, this bill would prohibit any U.S. aid to the PA unless the president could certify that it recognized Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, renounced terrorism, ended alleged funding for incitement, pledged not to "engage in war with Israel," and honored all previous diplomatic agreements.

See also: S. 2265 of 4/29/14 and S. 34 of 1/6/15.

Last major action: 3/3/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

4 MARCH 2015: IRAN CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT ACT OF 2015

S. 669, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 6 cosponsors.

This bill would establish an oversight mechanism for any possible agreement between Iran and the P5+1, as well as a mechanism to facilitate the reinstatement of sanctions and the imposition of other penalties, in the event of Iranian violations. Specifically, the administration would be required to report to Congress every 90 days on Iran's compliance with the JPOA, governing the P5+1-Iran talks, and any agreement made therein. If the administration determined and certified that Iran had committed violations, Congress would be permitted to consider legislation to reinstate any waived or suspended sanctions via an expedited process. Furthermore, the administration would be required to continue reporting to Congress every 90 days if the JPOA was succeeded by a long-term agreement.

Boxer introduced this bill as a moderate alternative to the more assertive measures spearheaded primarily by Republicans in the Senate (see S. 269 of 1/27/15, S. 615 of 2/27/15, and S. 625 of 3/3/15).

Last major action: 3/4/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

*4 MARCH 2015: BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2015

H.R. 1314, Patrick Meehan (R-PA), 2 cosponsors.

This bill originally passed the House as a measure amending the tax code. Since all measures dealing with revenue must originate in the House, the Senate tacked S. 995 of 4/16/15 onto this bill as a full substitute. This amendment renews the president's authority to "fast-track" approval

of trade agreements in Congress and includes the provision outlining anti-BDS objectives to be pursued in trade negotiations.

On 6/12/15, the House approved Title 1 of the bill by a vote of 219–211, including the anti-BDS objectives that originated in the U.S.-Israel Trade Enhancement Act of 2015 (S. 619 of 3/2/15). However, as the overall bill was defeated, the text of Title 1 was attached to a separate, previously passed bill. For further action on the anti-BDS provision, see *H.R. 2146 of 4/30/15. Later, a new version of the bill passed into law without any provisions related to Palestinian affairs or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict.

See also: H.R. 644 of 2/2/15, H.R. 825 of 2/10/15.

Last major action: 11/2/15 became public law (10/30/15 Senate agreed to House’s new amendment, 64–35; 10/28/15 House agreed to Senate amendment with another amendment, 266–167; 6/12/15 Title 1 approved by yea/nay vote, 219–211; 5/22/15 passed in Senate, 62–37; 4/15/15 passed in House by voice vote).

10 MARCH 2015: U.S.-ISRAEL ANTI-TUNNEL DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT

H.R. 1349, Gwen Graham (D-FL), 8 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to spend \$200 m. on joint research, development, and testing with Israel to create an anti-tunnel defense system to detect, map, and destroy any tunnels leading from the Gaza Strip into Israel or Egypt. Congress would only disburse funding if the president could certify that Israel would fund the project partially, share related intellectual property, and had agreed to an MoU on joint anti-tunnel activities with the U.S. Furthermore, the administration would be required to submit quarterly reports to Congress on any joint efforts, including the volume of funds Israel had spent on the program.

See also: H.R. 1735 of 4/13/15 and *S. 1356 of 5/14/15.

Last major action: 8/13/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Emerging Threats and Capabilities.

10 MARCH 2015: CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON REPEATED PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, THE LONGEST HELD U.S. HOSTAGE IN OUR NATION’S HISTORY

H. Res. 148, Theodore Deutch (D-FL), 3 cosponsors.

This resolution would urge the Iranian government to release Robert Levinson as a humanitarian gesture, *inter alia*. Levinson, a retired FBI officer, was last seen on Kish Island in Iran on 3/9/07. He is thought to be held in detention there ever since being captured by “unknown assailants.”

See also: S. Res. 312 of 12/9/13 and S. Res. 99 of 3/10/15.

Last major action: 3/20/15 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

10 MARCH 2015: A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON REPEATED PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, THE LONGEST HELD U.S. CIVILIAN IN OUR NATION’S HISTORY

S. Res. 99, Bill Nelson (D-FL), 1 cosponsor.

See identical resolution H. Res. 148 of 3/10/15 for a full summary.

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

Last major action: 3/10/15 referred to Comm. on Foreign Relations.

17 MARCH 2015: SYRIAN WAR CRIMES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

S. 756, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), 6 cosponsors.

This bill would call for UN investigation of human rights violations in the Syrian conflict and condemn the ongoing violence; require the secretary of state to report to Congress on war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, as well as on the Obama administration's efforts to hold the perpetrators of such crimes accountable.

Last major action: 7/15/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs (7/14/15 passed in Senate by unanimous consent).

18 MARCH 2015: NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE IRAN ACT OF 2015

S. 792, Richard Shelby (R-AL), no cosponsors.

See similar bill, S. 269 of 1/27/15 for a full summary.

Last major action: 3/18/15 placed on Senate legislative calendar under general orders.

19 MARCH 2015: SANCTION IRAN, SAFEGUARD AMERICA (SISA) ACT OF 2015

S. 825, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would effectively end the P5+1 negotiations with Iran by forcing the U.S. to leave its commitments unfulfilled. Inter alia, it would reimpose all sanctions waived by the Obama administration in connection with the talks; expand sanctions on Iran's petrochemical and automotive sectors; and prohibit funding for the talks, barring congressional approval.

See also: identical measure, H.R. 1540 of 3/23/15.

Last major action: 3/19/15 read twice and referred to Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*19 MARCH 2015: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 194TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

S. Res. 105, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 28 cosponsors.

This resolution recognized Greece's "excellent relations" with both Israel and Muslim countries.

Last major action: 3/27/15 agreed to by unanimous consent.

19 MARCH 2015: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 1489, Joseph Crowley (D-NY), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would urge the president to coordinate with Israel and the PA to create an international fund for Israeli-Palestinian peace; and authorize contributions to the fund. According to a press release from Crowley's office, the fund would sponsor grassroots people-to-people efforts to build peace.

See also: H.R. 5795 of 12/4/14.

Last major action: 3/19/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

***20 MARCH 2015: AN ORIGINAL CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017 THROUGH 2025**

S. Con. Res. 11, Michael B. Enzi (R-WY), no cosponsors.

This budget resolution was largely irrelevant to Palestinian affairs and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict. However, in a procedural process colloquially known as the “vote-a-rama,” senators were permitted to submit as many amendments to this nonbinding resolution as they wished, and on any subject, so long as they were “budget neutral.”

Owing to the large number of relevant amendments, only those approved appear below.

S.A. 481, submitted by Tom Cotton (R-AK) on 3/24/15, no cosponsors.

This resolution would authorize cutting U.S. funding to any UN organization taking “unfair or discriminatory action against Israel,” without defining such actions. It passed by a vote of 99–0 on 3/25.

S.A. 545, submitted by Mark Kirk (R-IL) on 3/24/15, 2 cosponsors.

This amendment supports efforts to “immediately reimpose waived sanctions and impose new sanctions” against Iran if the president cannot certify that Iran is complying with the JPOA or any subsequent agreement on the country’s nuclear program. The text of the amendment was produced in negotiations between Kirk and key Democrats, in an effort to obtain bipartisan support. Therefore, it hewed closer to a moderate proposal (S. 669 of 3/4/15) than Kirk’s original draft, which called for support of his previous oversight proposal (S. 269 of 1/27/15). The amendment was adopted by a 100–0 vote on 3/26/15.

S.A. 552, submitted by Marco Rubio (R-FL) on 3/24/15, no cosponsors.

This amendment would authorize a deficit-neutral reserve fund that would allow for the relocation of the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It was agreed to by voice vote on 3/27/15.

S.A. 839, submitted by Johnny Isakson (R-GA) on 3/25/15, 1 cosponsor.

This amendment would authorize the establishment of a deficit-neutral fund to support U.S. citizens who were held hostage at the U.S. embassy in Tehran between 11/3/79 and 1/20/81. It was agreed to by voice vote on 3/26.

Last major action: 5/5/15 Senate agreed to conference report by yea/nay vote, 51–48 (4/30/15 House agreed to conference report by yea/nay vote, 226–197; 4/20/15 reconciliation conference held).

23 MARCH 2015: SISA ACT OF 2015

H.R. 1540, Trent Franks (R-AZ), no cosponsors.

See identical measure, S. 825 of 3/19/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: 3/23/15 referred to House Ways and Means Comm.

24 MARCH 2015: BOYCOTT OUR ENEMIES NOT ISRAEL ACT

H.R. 1572, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), 11 cosponsors.

In an effort to counter the BDS movement, this bill would require prospective and current government contractors to certify that they do not participate in any boycott against Israel.

False certifications would be subject to penalties, including bans from future government contracts.

Last major action: 3/24/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

26 MARCH 2015: JUSTICE FOR FORMER AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN ACT OF 2015

S. 868, Johnny Isakson (R-GA), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would establish a fund at the U.S. Treasury designed to support U.S. citizens who were held hostage in Iran between 1979 and 1981. The fund would be supplied by imposing a 30% surcharge on any fine or penalty imposed on violators of laws or regulations related to sanctions on Iran. Isakson proposed a similar amendment to S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/20/15 (see S.A. 839), and similar provisions appeared in H.R. 3338 of 7/29/15 and S. 1635 of 6/18/15.

Last major action: 3/26/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

26 MARCH 2015: PARTNERING TO DETECT AND DEFEAT TUNNELS ACT

H.R. 1649, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), no cosponsors.

This bill would direct the defense secretary to seek an agreement with Israel to administer codevelopment and production of technologies to detect and destroy tunnels emanating from Gaza. The secretary would also be authorized to seek similar agreements with other allies and required to report on all efforts associated with this bill annually through 2020.

Last major action: 8/13/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Emerging Threats and Capabilities.

13 APRIL 2015: NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

H.R. 1735, Mac Thornberry (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 10/22/15 vetoed by the president. (10/7/15 conference report agreed to in Senate by yeay/nay vote, 70–27. 6/18/15 passed in the Senate, 71–25. 5/15/15 passed in the House, 269–151.)

15 APRIL 2015: AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 1806, Lamar Smith (R-TX), 10 cosponsors.

This bill would establish research and administrative priorities for 3 major U.S. science agencies and authorize further federal investments in scientific research. With regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, it would convey the sense of Congress that the National Institute of Standards and Technology should continue facilitating collaborations between U.S. and Israeli scientific agencies, as well as other partnerships in the scientific realm.

Last major action: 5/20/15 passed in House by yeay/nay vote, 217–205.

16 APRIL 2015: BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL TRADE PRIORITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

S. 995, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would renew the president's power to "fast-track," or expedite, approval of trade agreements in Congress, and establish new procedures and oversight mechanisms for such agreements. It carried no provisions relevant to Palestinian affairs or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict

until the Senate Finance Committee added an amendment targeting the BDS movement during a 4/22 markup session. Specifically, the relevant provision would establish the same objectives for all U.S. trade negotiations outlined in S. 619 of 3/2/15. See that measure for a full summary.

As legislation dealing with revenue must originate in the House, the Senate amended the full text of this bill onto a bill previously passed in the House, H.R. 1314 of 3/4/15. Further action is listed under that measure.

See also: the House's version of the "fast-track" renewal bill, H.R. 1890 of 4/17/15, and *H.R. 2146 of 4/30/15.

Last major action: 5/12/15 reported from Senate Comm. on Finance.

16 APRIL 2015: DEPLORING THE ACTIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT AND UNDERTAKE LEGAL ACTION THROUGH THE COURT AGAINST ISRAEL

H. Res. 209, Jackie Walorski (R-IN), 31 cosponsors.

This resolution moved to classify any PA efforts to initiate legal measures targeting Israel at the ICC as "lawfare," which it defined as "the abuse of law to achieve political and military means and has as its goals the de-legitimization of the sovereignty of democratic states and the obstruction of democracies to fight against and defeat terrorism."

Last major action: 4/16/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

17 APRIL 2015: BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL TRADE PRIORITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

H.R. 1890, Paul Ryan (R-WI), 3 cosponsors.

Like its counterpart in the Senate (S. 995 of 4/16/15), this bill would renew the president's power to expedite approval of trade agreements in Congress, and establish new procedures and oversight mechanisms for such agreements. A provision targeting the BDS movement was added during committee markup (4/23) (identical to the one appended to S. 995 above), reaffirming the anti-BDS trade objectives outlined in the U.S.-Israel Trade Enhancement Act of 2015 (S. 619 of 3/2/15).

See also: H.R. 825 of 2/10/15.

Last major action: 5/1/15 discharged from Comms. on the Budget and Rules.

21 APRIL 2015: TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

H.R. 1907, Patrick J. Tiberi (R-OH), 2 cosponsors.

Commonly known as a "customs bill," this measure would reauthorize trade enforcement and facilitation procedures. It was largely unrelated to Palestinian affairs or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, except for a single provision to strengthen U.S.-Israeli trade and counter the growing BDS movement. The relevant provision was identical to the text of the U.S.-Israel Trade and Commercial Enhancement Act (see H.R. 825 of 2/10/15 for details).

See also: the Senate's version of this bill, S. 1269 of 5/11/15, as well as S. 619 of 3/2/15, S. 995 of 4/16/15, and H.R. 1890 of 4/17/15.

Last major action: 5/14/15 discharged from Judiciary, Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, and Homeland Security Comms.

21 APRIL 2015: DAVID'S SLING AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

H.R. 1915, Derek Kilmer (D-WA), 1 cosponsor.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 8/13/15 referred to the House Subcomm. on Strategic Forces.

***23 APRIL 2015: A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHA'I MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

S. Res. 148, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 38 cosponsors.

In addition to condemning Iran for persecuting its Baha'i minority, this resolution urged the president and secretary of state to implement existing laws and impose sanctions on human rights abusers in Iran.

See also: H. Res. 220 of 4/23/14.

Last major action: 12/17/15 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

23 APRIL 2015: A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHA'I MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

H. Res. 220, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 84 cosponsors.

See identical measure, *S. Res. 148 of 4/23/14, for a full summary.

Last major action: 5/20/15 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

24 APRIL 2015: ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

H.R. 2028, Michael Simpson (R-ID), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a summary and relevant amendments.

Last major action: 5/1/15 passed in the House, 240-177.

***24 APRIL 2015: CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016**

H.R. 2029, Charles Dent (R-PA), no cosponsors.

After 2 stopgap funding measures provided financing for the federal government through 12/16/15 (see *H.R. 719 of 2/4/15 and *H.R. 2250 of 5/12/15), congressional leaders negotiated this \$1.15 trillion omnibus appropriations bill to fund the government through 9/2016. It appropriated funds for all U.S. government departments and agencies, including the Defense Dept., the State Dept., and foreign operations through which military aid and other forms of support for international programs are channeled. Congressional leaders also added the full text of the Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act of 2015 (H.R. 158 of 1/6/15) after it passed in the House on 12/8/15, limiting entry to the U.S. for participants who hold dual citizenship with or have traveled to Iraq, Syria, or other countries deemed as potential threats. See that bill for a full summary.

The funding totals and justifications listed below are chiefly drawn from the text of the bill itself and the House Committee on Appropriations chair Hal Rogers's (R-KY) explanatory statement (12/17/15).

Assistance to Israel

Military aid to Israel was consistent with previous years, in accordance with the 2007 U.S.-Israel MoU and the continued prevalence of support for Israel in Congress. Specifically, \$3.1 b. would be disbursed to Israel in foreign military financing (FMF) within 30 days of this bill becoming law, of which Israel could spend \$815.3 m. outside the U.S., including on Israeli-made weapons and military equipment. (This is a situation unique among all recipients of U.S. military aid, and is tantamount to a direct subsidy of Israel's defense industry.)

A total of \$487.595 m. was allotted to joint U.S.-Israeli programs, including \$55 m. to the Iron Dome missile defense system, \$282.526 m. to the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense System, \$89.55 m. to an upper-tier component of Israeli missile defense (known as Arrow 3), and \$56.519 m. to the Arrow System Improvement Program.

The loan guarantee program was extended from 9/15/15 to 9/15/19. The current iteration of the program was established in 2003 to provide U.S. backing for up to \$9 b. in Israeli loans (the Israeli government issued \$4.1 b. worth of U.S.-backed bonds in 2003 and 2004), and the program was extended in 10/2012 through 9/15/15. Also, authority to stockpile reserves of some U.S. military equipment and materials in Israel was extended through 2017.

In a related provision carried over from the House's initial draft of the Intelligence Authorization Act (H.R. 2596 of 6/1/15), the director of national intelligence was tasked with hiring an official "to manage the collection and analysis of intelligence regarding the tactical use of tunnels by state and non-state actors" and to submit an annual report to Congress regarding trends in tunnel usage and the U.S.'s collaborative efforts to counter such operations. Although the provision did not explicitly mention Israel, Gaza tunnels were frequently cited in the surrounding debates.

As in previous years, interest and earnings accrued by the Israeli Arab Scholarship Program's endowment were authorized for expenditure. According to Rogers's explanatory statement, \$13,000 would be authorized this year, down from \$26,000 in FY 2015.

Matching the FY 2015 appropriation, \$10 m. was designated for resettlement in Israel of emigrants from Eastern Europe.

In another provision carried over from previous years, the bill blocked U.S. funding of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) subject to Israel being removed from the council's permanent agenda and U.S. participation in UNHRC becoming a national interest. Furthermore, the secretary of state was required to report to Congress on the resolutions considered in the UNHRC over the previous year and specifically, the steps taken to remove Israel from the permanent agenda.

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

While funding was authorized to support the PA and U.S. programs in the West Bank and Gaza, the bill mentioned no specific amounts. In previous years, the administration's budget request had been largely obliged, except for FY 2015 when the traditional package called economic support funds (ESF) totaled \$290 m., \$80 m. less than the \$370 m. requested (see the Update in *JPS* 45 [2] for more). It was therefore unclear how much support would be offered to the Palestinians in FY 2016. The summary offered below covers the administration's request and the new and recurring restrictions and conditions on any congressional obligation of that request.

As it did for FY 2015, the State Dept. requested \$370 m. in ESF for FY 2016. Contrary to practice, the administration did not specify the policy goals behind the 2016 request, stating only that “as the political situation continues to evolve, we will evaluate how our assistance best supports a negotiated, 2-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” The request went on to clarify that “this could include promoting the development of a strong private-sector driven economy; aiding the provision of quality health and education services; and meeting humanitarian assistance needs.” The State Dept. also requested \$70 m. from the appropriation for International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INL) to support the PA’s security sector, including expanding PA security forces (PASF), security training, and replacing security equipment.

Prior to disbursement of any ESF, the secretary of state was required to report to Congress that the purpose of the transfer was to either “advance Middle East peace,” “improve security in the region,” “continue support for transparent and accountable government institutions,” “promote a private sector economy,” or “address urgent humanitarian needs.”

ESF disbursement was further restricted as follows: No funds would be disbursed if the Palestinians initiated or supported an ICC-authorized investigation into alleged Israeli war crimes or if the Palestinians achieved the standing of a member-state at the UN or any agency thereof outside a negotiated settlement with Israel. However, the secretary of state was permitted a national security waiver of this restriction. Furthermore, in a provision added in FY 2015, fund disbursements were to be cut back by an amount equal to that paid out by the PA to Palestinians in Israeli prisons on purported terrorism-related charges and to the families of Palestinians killed while attempting to commit “acts of terror” during the previous calendar year.

As in FY 2015 and earlier years, the president was authorized to waive the ban on a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) office in the U.S. if he could certify to Congress that it was in the interest of U.S. national security, or if the Palestinians had not obtained member-state status or equivalent standing at the UN or any agency thereof. New this year, the president also had to certify that the Palestinians had not “taken any action . . . intended to influence a determination by the ICC to initiate a judicially authorized investigation,” or supported such an investigation, into alleged Israeli war crimes against Palestinians. If the president were unable to provide such certifications, a waiver would still be permitted upon certification that the Palestinians had entered into direct negotiations with Israel.

Finally, the secretary of state was required to report to Congress on assistance provided to the PASF, including “detailed descriptions” of training, curriculum, and equipment provided; an assessment of the PASF before and after training; a description of the assistance provided to the PASF by other countries; and a description of any modifications to the PA’s security strategy.

Military Assistance to Egypt

If the secretary of state certified to Congress that Egypt was “sustaining the strategic relationship with the U.S.” and “meeting its obligations under the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty,” the state would receive \$150 m. in ESF and \$1.3 b. in FMF. Of the ESF, no less than \$35 m. would be designated for higher education, including \$10 m. in scholarships to eligible Egyptian students at nonprofit institutions. Furthermore, funds would be deducted from the ESF appropriation equal to that spent by the U.S. on legal and court fees for U.S. citizens involved in democracy-related

trials in Egypt (the secretary would be able to annul this provision by certifying to Congress that Egypt had dismissed the 6/4/13 convictions of 16 U.S. citizens on charges related to using foreign funds to destabilize the government). Moreover, unless the secretary determined it was in the U.S. national security interest not to do so, 15% of the FMF would be withheld until the secretary certified that Egypt was working to “advance democracy and human rights,” implement liberal reforms, “release political prisoners” and provide detainees with due process of law, “hold Egyptian security forces accountable,” and to provide U.S. officials regular access to monitor the use of U.S. aid. The secretary of state was directed to establish the mechanisms for monitoring, oversight, and control of both ESF and FMF to Egypt.

In a new provision, the secretary of state was directed to consult with the Senate and House Comms. on Appropriations for FY 2016, related to plans to restructure military aid for Egypt.

The ESF appropriation was also authorized to be used in the creation or operation of one or more enterprise funds for Egypt. Pres. Obama first said in 5/2011 that he would try to create such a fund to promote private sector development and boost Egyptian financial markets, modeling the proposal after the funds that USAID set up in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s. The Egyptian-American Enterprise Fund was officially launched on 4/24/13 with initial funding of \$60 m. As of 2/2015, it had not made any investments in Egypt and only \$588,000 of the \$120 m. obligated to it by USAID had been disbursed.

Finally, if the president determined that it was in the interest of a U.S. foreign policy or national security goal, Egypt would be authorized to lease certain military materials from U.S. commercial suppliers.

Oversight and Policy on Iran

This measure instituted a series of oversight procedures primarily focused on the agreement announced by Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14/15. The secretary of state was required to “inform” Congress of any new information relating to the deal and report to Congress on the implementation and enforcement of U.S. and multilateral sanctions on Iran, as well as any Iranian ballistic missile testing. Every 6 months the 7/14 deal was in effect, the director of national intelligence and the secretary of the treasury were required to report to Congress on the value of sanctions relief Iran has received, how Iran has used the funds, and the extent to which individual Iranian officials have “diverted” the funds for personal use (this provision originated in S. 1682 of 6/25/15). However, the director and secretary would only be required to file the report every year if a successor deal was reached.

Unspecified funds were authorized for preventing Iran from obtaining or producing a nuclear weapon, supporting an “expeditious” response to any violation of the 7/14 deal, implementing and enforcing existing sanctions on Iran, and for operating democracy promotion programs in Iran.

Of the \$50.5 m. appropriated for promoting global Internet freedom and access, an unspecified amount was authorized for the purpose in Iran.

In a related provision, the 53 U.S. citizens taken hostage in Iran in 1979 were each allotted restitution of \$4.4 m. (i.e., \$10,000 per day spent in captivity), and each spouse or child of a former hostage was allotted \$600,000.

Military and Economic Support for Jordan

No less than \$1.275 b. was appropriated for supporting Jordan, including \$812.35 m. in ESF; \$8.85 m. for nonproliferation, antiterrorism, demining, and related programs; \$3.8 m. for international military education and training; and \$450 m. in FMF. Of these allocations, \$100 m. was designated to support the Red Sea–Dead Sea water project, according to Rogers’s explanatory statement, and no less than \$204 m. was earmarked in direct budget support. Furthermore, an unspecified amount of ESF was made available for offering loan guarantees to Jordan.

Responding to the Crisis in Syria and Iraq

Of the various appropriations designated for countering ISIS and alleviating the humanitarian situation in Syria, the bill stated that none may be used for the introduction of U.S. military forces into the hostilities in Syria. Specifically, over \$1 b. would be appropriated to counter the threat in the following ways: \$715 m. to the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, through which vetted Iraqi security forces were given assistance in their fight against ISIS (vetting procedures included assessments of a candidate’s connections with government-defined Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) and the government of Iran); an unspecified amount to Lebanon for border security; and up to \$600 m. of the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund to support Jordan’s armed forces and border security.

In a related provision, the secretary of state was required to report to Congress on contributions from the U.S. and others to the Jordan Response Plan 2015 for the Syria Crisis (JRP), a government initiative to administer Jordan’s intake of Syrian refugees. Finally, ESF, INL, and funds appropriated for Peacekeeping Operations were made available for the provision of nonlethal assistance to several vetted programs that seek to: establish representative, inclusive, and accountable government in Syria; expand the role of women in the political resolution to the conflict; develop and implement democratic, transparent, and lawful political processes; further enhance the Syrian opposition; develop civil society and an independent mass media; promote economic development; document, investigate, and prosecute human rights violations; counter extremist ideologies; support Syrian refugees in completing their education requirements at regional academic institutions; and assist vulnerable populations in Syria and neighboring countries.

In terms of oversight, the secretary of state was required to report to Congress on vetting procedures, consult with the relevant committees, and deliver an update to Congress on the U.S.’s comprehensive strategy in Syria prior to the disbursement of any funds listed above. Furthermore, the director of national intelligence was required to submit 2 reports to Congress: the first, every 60 days, documenting the flow of foreign fighters to and from Syria, including the number of U.S. citizens that had traveled or attempted to travel to Syria since 1/1/11; the second, 180 days after this bill is made law, describing the intelligence-sharing within NATO and between the U.S. and EU member-states regarding foreign fighters in Syria.

As in previous years, the Defense Dept. was barred from entering into contracts with Rosoboronexport—Russia’s state intermediary agency for the import and export of arms—unless the secretary of defense could certify that doing so was a U.S. national security interest or if Rosoboronexport had, inter alia, ceased transferring arms to the Syrian government.

Assistance to Lebanon

As in FY 2015, unspecified FMF funds were made available for Lebanon to “professionalize” the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), strengthen border security, and combat terrorism. Prior to any disbursements, the secretary of state would be required to submit a detailed spending plan to Congress, including notifications of any sale of lethal military equipment, and consult with the relevant congressional committees. If either the LAF or Lebanon’s Internal Security Forces were controlled by a designated terrorist organization, support for those organizations would be barred.

There are no specific appropriations in ESF for Lebanon. However, the State Dept. requested \$110 m. for FY 2016, with past requests providing a general guide to disbursements, notably for the support of institutions that advance internal and regional stability, combat extremist influence, and promote transparency and economic growth.

Funding for Relevant Government Entities and International Programs/Agencies

UNESCO: As in FY 2014 and FY 2015, no funds were appropriated to the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Rogers’s explanatory statement cited existing laws barring contributions to UN agencies and organizations of which Palestine is a member.

Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA): U.S. contributions to UNRWA are drawn from the MRA program and the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance fund. Although neither the bill nor Rogers’s explanatory statement offered specific figures for UNRWA, U.S. contributions to the agency have ranged from \$233.3 m. to \$408.7 m. since 2009. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the secretary of state must verify to Congress that UNRWA is fulfilling a series of requirements, including addressing any staff or beneficiary violation of its own policies; implementing procedures to ensure the neutrality of its facilities; certifying that all UNRWA education materials are consistent with values of human rights, dignity, and tolerance, as well as being free from incitement; and complying with the UN’s biennial audit requirements.

The U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI): As in FY 2015, \$70 m. was appropriated for this program.

Reconciliation Programs: No less than \$26 m. was made available to support “people-to-people” reconciliation programs in areas of strife around the world, including \$10 m. for programs in the Middle East.

International Peacekeeping Activities: Down from \$2.12 b. in FY 2015, as much as \$1.794 b. was earmarked for global UN peacekeeping activities. Neither the bill nor Rogers’s explanatory statement specified allocations, but the State Dept. requested \$147 m. for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (down from \$17.58 m.) and \$13.878 m. for the UN Disengagement Observer Force (down from \$17.58 m.) operating on the Syria-Israel border.

Complex Crises Fund: Down to \$30 m. from FY 2015’s \$50 m., appropriations for this fund have been used in the past to address instability caused by political transitions in the Middle East. Only some \$20 m. of the \$50 m. was used in FY 2015.

Center for Middle Eastern–Western Dialogue (The Hollings Center for International Dialogue): Up \$13,000 from FY 2015, \$96,000 in interest and earnings was made available for the center, which facilitates communication between the U.S. and Muslim nations through scholarship programs.

Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG): \$734.087 m. is appropriated for the BBG to carry out international communications activities, including radio, television, and internet programs, as well as \$105.9 m. for the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, which broadcasts to Iraq and Syria.

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: Unless the secretary of state can certify that a democratically elected government has subsequently taken power, all assistance would be cut off to any country whose head of government is deposed by military overthrow.

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

Arab League Boycott of Israel: Expressing Congress's opposition to the boycott, this provision encourages the Arab League to normalize relations with Israel, calls on the president and secretary of state to help end the boycott, and urges the president report to Congress annually on steps taken to do so.

Palestinian Statehood: No support is permitted for the establishment of a Palestinian state unless the secretary of state certifies that certain conditions are met. For example, the governing entity must demonstrate a commitment to peaceful coexistence with Israel and peace in the region, pursue counterterrorism measures, and work toward establishing a framework to settle the refugee question. The president is permitted a national security waiver on this provision.

Business with the PA in Jerusalem: No funds appropriated in this bill would be permitted for any diplomatic mission in Jerusalem, except the U.S. consulate, to conduct business with the PA or any successor government.

Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC): Funding of the PBC is prohibited.

Assistance for the West Bank and Gaza: Prior to the disbursement of any ESF to programs in the West Bank or Gaza, the secretary of state must certify that none of the money will go to any person or group that has participated in acts of terrorism and that all grantees have been thoroughly vetted. These provisions are subject to audit and investigation, for which up to \$500,000 would be appropriated to USAID.

Limits on Aid to the PA: Barring a presidential national security waiver, aid to the PA is restricted and conditional. If the president exercised the waiver, the secretary of state would have to certify that the PA had established a single treasury account through which to channel aid, established a comprehensive civil service roster and payroll, was working to counter violence against Israelis, and supporting activities promoting peaceful coexistence. No funds may be permitted to support Hamas or any power-sharing government of which Hamas is a member, any government resulting from an agreement with Hamas, or one in which Hamas exercises "undue influence." The president may waive this restriction if he can certify that all ministers in such a power-sharing arrangement 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: Aid transfers in support of the PLO are barred.

Last major action: 12/18/15 became public law (12/18/15 passed by yea/nay vote in House, 316–113, and in Senate, 65–33).

28 APRIL 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT ANY RESOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT SHOULD COME FROM DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS AND WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

H. Res. 222, David McKinley (R-WV), 3 cosponsors.

Last major action: 5/20/15 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

***29 APRIL 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT IRAN SHOULD IMMEDIATELY RELEASE THE THREE U.S. CITIZENS THAT IT HOLDS, AS WELL AS PROVIDE ALL KNOWN INFORMATION ON ANY U.S. CITIZENS THAT HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHIN ITS BORDERS**

H. Res. 233, Daniel Kildee (D-MI), 202 cosponsors.

See also: H. Res. 111 of 2/13/15 and S. Con. Res. 16 of 5/7/15.

Last major action: 6/15/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 391–0.

***30 APRIL 2015: DEFENDING PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ACT**

H.R. 2146, David G. Reichert (R-WA), 5 cosponsors.

After a series of debates on U.S. trade policy, this bill became the final vehicle for renewing the president's authority to "fast-track" approval of trade agreements in Congress. Following procedural machinations and some negotiations, the House approved a major part of the original version of this measure on 6/12 (*H.R. 1314 of 3/4/15), including the anti-BDS provision that originated in the U.S.-Israel Trade Enhancement Act of 2015 (S. 619 of 3/2/15). That part, Title 1, was then amended as a substitute onto this previously passed bill on 6/18/15. The House then approved the new bill on 6/18, and the Senate agreed to it on 6/24.

The day after Pres. Obama signed this bill into law, the State Dept. released a statement clarifying that although the administration opposed BDS efforts targeting Israel, it did not oppose such efforts regarding "Israeli-controlled territories" (i.e., West Bank settlements). The anti-BDS provision marked a historic departure from long-established U.S. policy on Israeli settlements and the oPt. (See the Updates in *JPS* 44 [4] and 45 [1] for more.)

Last major action: 6/29/15 became public law (6/24/15 Senate agreed to House amendments by yea/nay vote, 60–38; 6/18/15 House agreed to amendment by yea/nay vote, 218–208; 6/4/15 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 5/12/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 407–5).

5 MAY 2015: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE COURAGEOUS WORK AND LIFE OF ARGENTINIAN PROSECUTOR ALBERTO NISMAN, AND CALLING FOR A SWIFT AND TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION INTO HIS TRAGIC DEATH IN BUENOS AIRES ON JANUARY 18, 2015

S. Res. 167, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

While the motives behind the 1/18/15 killing of Argentinian lawyer Alberto Nisman remain unknown, many speculate that it was connected to his criticism of the government. Four days before his death, a 289-page report was released summing up his findings of a 10-year investigation into a 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires. In the report,

Nisman found Argentinian president Cristina de Kirchner and foreign minister Héctor Timerman guilty of offering covert support to the perpetrators of the bombing. Furthermore, Nisman had long believed that the Iranian government and Hezbollah were in some way responsible for the bombing, making him popular with right-wing Israeli politicians. His evidence hinged on wiretapped recordings of a conversation between a local union leader and an Iranian official, and he believed that Kirchner's government was exchanging international support for Iranian oil.

This resolution expressed sympathy with Nisman and called for a transparent investigation into his death. It also expressed "serious concern" about "Iran's terrorist network in Argentina," as well as Kirchner's alleged efforts to discredit Nisman and cast uncertainty over the nature of his death (Kirchner posted a message to Facebook on 1/19/15 implying that Nisman had taken his own life).

Last major action: 5/5/15 referred to Senate Foreign Relations Comm.

***6 MAY 2015: A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY BASHAR AL-ASSAD OF SYRIA AND HIS REGIME, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

S. Res. 173, Harry Reid (D-NV), 4 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution supported diplomatic efforts to remove Syrian president Bashar al-Asad from power.

Last major action: 5/6/15 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

7 MAY 2015: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION STATING THE POLICY OF THE U.S. REGARDING THE RELEASE OF U.S. CITIZENS IN IRAN

S. Con. Res. 16, James Risch (R-ID), 18 cosponsors.

This resolution called for the release of 3 high-profile U.S. prisoners in Iran—Saeed Abedini, Amir Hekmati, and Jason Rezaian—and for the location and return of Robert Levinson, a retired FBI officer who went missing in Iran in 2007.

See also: H. Res. 111 of 2/13/15 and H. Res. 233 of 4/29/15.

Last major action: 5/20/15 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa (5/11/15 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 90–0).

11 MAY 2015: TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

S. 1269, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), no cosponsors.

This bill would strengthen enforcement of trade restrictions as well as facilitate trade. One provision, outlining policy toward Israel, supported U.S.-Israeli trade and cooperation and opposed the BDS movement. Due to procedural rules, the Senate amended the full text of this bill onto a bill passed previously in the House, H.R. 644 of 2/2/15, on 5/14. (See that bill above for further action.)

See also: the House's version of this measure, H.R. 1907 of 4/21/15.

Last major action: 5/13/15 reported from Senate Comm. on Finance.

***12 MAY 2015: FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016**

H.R. 2250, Tom Graves (R-GA), no cosponsors.

This bill maintains FY 2015 funding levels for all federal programs and agencies from 12/11/15 through 12/16/15, further extending the amount of time given to congressional leaders to negotiate FY 2016 appropriations, and avoiding a government shutdown (see *H.R. 719 of 2/4/15 for the initial extension). For FY 2015 appropriations levels, see *H.R. 83 of 1/3/13 at congressionalmonitor.org. For further action on FY 2016 appropriations, see the federal funding measure *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15.

Last major action: 12/11/15 became public law (12/11/15 House agreed to Senate amendments by voice vote; 12/10/15 passed in Senate with amendment).

***13 MAY 2015: HIZBALLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT OF 2015**

H.R. 2297, Edward Royce (R-CA), 9 cosponsors.

This bill strengthens sanctions against Hezbollah, increases congressional oversight on Hezbollah-related policies, and facilitates the application of designations to the group that would allow the U.S. to further undermine its international activities.

In terms of sanctions, the administration is authorized to “prohibit, or impose strict sanctions on” any foreign financial institution’s efforts to open or maintain an account in the U.S. if the institution in question is knowingly doing business with Hezbollah or its affiliates (the administration is permitted a national security waiver on this provision for up to 180 days). Furthermore, the administration is required to brief Congress on the status of all satellite television and internet providers that distribute material from al-Manar TV, Hezbollah’s official television station. The administration is required to explain why any such providers had not been sanctioned.

Additionally, the administration is required to submit 2 reports to Congress, 1 on Hezbollah’s drug trafficking and another on transnational crime. Designating Hezbollah as either a narcotics trafficking and/or a transnational criminal organization would allow U.S. law enforcement agencies to pursue Hezbollah’s members in countries that had not recognized the group as a terrorist organization and generally provide law enforcement further power in countering Hezbollah’s efforts abroad.

The administration is also required to report to Congress on countries that support Hezbollah and on whether the State Dept.’s rewards program has helped obtain information on the group.

Also sponsored by Royce, a nearly identical bill passed in the House during the second session of the 113th Congress (see H.R. 4411 of 4/7/14 at congressionalmonitor.org).

See also: Senate version, H.R. 2297 of 5/13/15.

Last major action: 12/18/15 became public law (11/17/15 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 5/14/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote 423–0).

***14 MAY 2015: NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016**

S. 1356, Ron Johnson (R-WI), 3 cosponsors.

This annual, must-pass bill authorizes all Defense Dept. programs and activities, including joint U.S.-Israeli military programs, monitoring Iran’s nuclear program and international activities, and

U.S. involvement in the Syria conflict. (A previous version of the NDAA, H.R. 1735 of 4/13/15, was passed in the House [5/15/15] and Senate [6/18/15], but vetoed by Pres. Obama on 10/22/15.)

Israeli Missile Defense

No more than \$41.4 m. is provided to Israel for the procurement of radars for the Iron Dome missile defense system (\$13.6 m. less than the administration's request), which included coproduction of radars. Cooperation with Israel on the Iron Dome program is pursuant to the 3/5/14 joint agreement, which stated that coproduction opportunities should be maximized.

A total of \$267.595 m. is authorized for other Israeli cooperative missile defense programs, including no more than \$150 m. for the David's Sling weapons system and \$15 m. for the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program, stipulating coproduction of parts in the U.S. for both systems. Before disbursing the funds, the administration was required to certify that Israel had entered a coproduction agreement with the U.S.; pledged to match any aid on a one-to-one basis; and demonstrated knowledge of the technology and production readiness. The administration was permitted to waive the certification requirement, however, if it could certify that disbursements were being provided solely for certain components and that coproduction in the U.S. was being maximized without incurring additional costs. Furthermore, the undersecretary and the director of the Missile Defense Agency would be required to submit to Congress, at the same time the president submits the FY 2017 budget proposal, a plan to achieve 50% coproduction on these programs.

Joint U.S.-Israel Anti-Tunnel Program

This provision authorizes up to \$25 m. for joint research and development of anti-tunneling systems, pending the submission to Congress of a U.S.-Israeli MoU by the secretary of defense. The secretary is also authorized to provide maintenance support to Israel for the anti-tunneling measures. Disbursements under this provision would only be authorized if the government of Israel pledged matching funds and if the secretary submitted a report to Congress 15 days prior. Furthermore, the secretary was required to report semiannually on any anti-tunneling activities, including expenditures made by the Israeli government.

Managing Relations with Iran

This bill included a variety of measures designed to influence the Obama administration's evolving relationship with Iran. It extends the annual requirement for reporting to Congress on Iran's military power through 2025, and it requires the report to include new sections on Iran's cyber capabilities and an assessment of any transfers to Iran of military equipment, technology, and/or training. Furthermore, the secretary of defense is required to submit a new biannual report on any military engagements made with Iran's armed forces and any related policy changes.

Separate from those reports, the administration is required to consider ties to Iran and Iranian funding in any decisions regarding support for groups fighting against ISIS.

In order to defend the U.S. against the "emerging" threat of ballistic missiles from Iran, a provision on homeland missile defense requires the director of the Missile Defense Agency to

deploy a “long-range discrimination radar or other appropriate tracking and discrimination sensor capabilities” before the end of 2020; and begin, before 3/14/16, to evaluate at least 3 possible locations for the future deployment of an “advanced missile defense sensor site.”

During the Senate’s consideration of the earlier NDAA, John McCain (R-AZ) proposed an amendment to convey the sense of Congress that Iranian dissidents living in Camp Liberty, Iraq, were not being afforded sufficient physical protection or adequate humanitarian conditions by the Iraqi government. It was adopted on 6/18/15 and carried over to this draft.

Matters Relating to Syria

The authorizations for U.S. airstrikes targeting ISIS, U.S. training and equipment of Syrian rebels, and corresponding reporting requirements are extended another year. For the “Train and Equip Funds,” through which aid was channeled to groups opposing ISIS, \$715 m. is authorized for Iraq and \$406.45 m. for Syria. Additionally, the secretaries of defense and state are required to report to Congress on the Obama administration’s strategy for countering “violent extremism” in the Middle East, including U.S. efforts to prevent foreign fighters from traveling to Syria and Iraq.

In a related provision, no more than \$150 m. is authorized to reimburse the Jordanian and Lebanese governments for border security expenses related to the ongoing conflict in Syria.

Last major action: 11/25/15 became public law (11/10/15 Senate agreed to House amendments by yea/nay vote, 91–3; 11/5/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 370–58; 5/14/15 passed in the Senate by unanimous consent).

18 MAY 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY’S PURPORTED ACCESSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INITIATING PROSECUTIONS AGAINST ISRAELI SOLDIERS, CITIZENS, OFFICIALS, AND LEADERS

H. Res. 270, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 11 cosponsors.

This resolution called on the PA to withdraw its application for membership at the ICC and cease all litigation efforts against Israelis at the ICC and any other international judicial bodies. Inter alia, it also called on the ICC to rescind Palestine’s membership and acknowledge that Israeli courts had jurisdiction to litigate cases involving Israeli military and civilian personnel.

In fact, Palestine, not the PA, was inducted as a member of the ICC on 4/1/15.

Last major action: 5/18/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

19 MAY 2015: AMERICAN CRUDE OIL EXPORT EQUALITY ACT

S. 1372, Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would lift the ban on U.S. exports of crude oil. During a committee mark-up session on 10/1, Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) proposed language that would prohibit the Obama administration from lifting any sanctions in connection with the 7/14 Iran nuclear deal reached until it could certify that Iran had paid judgments brought against it in U.S. courts (similarly to measures H.R. 3457 of 9/9/15 and S. 2086 of 9/28/15). The committee approved this proposal by a vote of 13–9, despite Pres. Obama’s pledge to veto such measures.

Last major action: 5/19/15 referred to Senate Comm. of Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

27 MAY 2015: TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

H.R. 2577, Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a summary and relevant amendments.

Last major action: 11/19/15 cloture motion on the measure withdrawn by unanimous consent in Senate. (6/9/15 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 216–210.)

1 JUNE 2015: INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT (IAA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

H.R. 2596, Devin Nunes (R-CA), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a summary and relevant amendments.

Last major action: 6/16/15 passed in the House, 247–178.

2 JUNE 2015: CALLING FOR THE GLOBAL REPEAL OF BLASPHEMY LAWS

H. Res. 290, Joseph Pitts (R-PA), 12 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution called on the president to designate Egypt a “country of particular concern” for violations of religious freedom and urged the Egyptian government to repeal or amend its blasphemy laws.

Last major action: 8/20/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

*3 JUNE 2015: EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER ANTI-ISRAEL AND ANTI-SEMITIC INCITEMENT WITHIN THE PA

H. Res. 293, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 71 cosponsors.

This resolution supported individuals and organizations striving to “encourage cooperation” between Israelis and Palestinians, condemned the ongoing violence in Israel and the occupied territories (see the Update in *JPS* 45 [2]), reiterated Congress’s condemnation of alleged anti-Semitism and anti-Israel incitement in the ranks of the PA, called on Pres. Abbas and other PA officials to discourage such incitement and renew peace negotiations with Israel, directed the State Dept. to “regularly monitor and publish information” on alleged PA incitement against Jews and Israel, and called on the Obama administration to continue repudiating Palestinian anti-Israel incitement.

Only one representative, Keith Ellison (D-MN), publicly opposed this resolution, saying, “when we denounce the Palestinians and leave no mention of divisive rhetoric by the Israeli government, we do a disservice to Palestinians and Israelis.”

Last major action: 11/2/15 passed in House by voice vote.

4 JUNE 2015: TO AMEND TITLE 5, U.S. CODE, TO PREVENT THE THRIFT SAVINGS FUND FROM INVESTING IN ANY COMPANY THAT BOYCOTTS ISRAEL

H.R. 2645, Brendan F. Boyle (D-PA), no cosponsors.

Designed to counter the growing BDS movement, this bill would prevent Thrift Savings Fund, a retirement savings and investment fund for employees of the federal government and members of the armed services, from investing in any company engaging in politically-motivated actions

intended to “penalize, inflict economic harm on, or otherwise limit” commercial interactions with Israel, Israeli companies, or Israeli companies based in the oPt.

Last major action: 6/4/15 referred to House Comm. on Oversight and Govt. Reform.

5 JUNE 2015: DEPT. OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

H.R. 2685, Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a summary of relevant provisions.

Last major action: 6/11/15 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 278–149.

11 JUNE 2015: DEPT. OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

S. 1558, Thad Cochran (R-MS), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a summary of relevant provisions.

Last major action: 6/11/15 placed on Senate calendar under general orders.

15 JUNE 2015: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 2772, Kay Granger (R-TX), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a summary of relevant provisions.

Last major action: 6/15/15 placed on Union Calendar.

16 JUNE 2015: CONDEMNING RESOLUTIONS OR POLICIES CALLING FOR OR INSTITUTING A BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS OR SCHOLARS BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND SCHOLARLY ASSOCIATIONS

H. Res. 318, Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), 34 cosponsors.

This resolution condemned any academic boycotts against Israel as “contrary to the principles of academic freedom” and obstacles to the 2-state solution, praising university staff who have encouraged joint engagement between U.S. and Israeli universities.

Last major action: 6/16/15 referred to House Comm. on Education and the Workforce.

18 JUNE 2015: HEZBOLLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

S. 1617, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 27 cosponsors.

See similar bill, H.R. 2297 of 5/13/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: 6/18/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

18 JUNE 2015: HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

S. 1627, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would withhold 5% of the funds appropriated for the State Dept.’s diplomatic and consular programs for every 30 days that the department’s report on international human rights is late.

Announcing the bill, Cruz said that up-to-date information on human rights abuses committed by the Iranian government should be used as a tool in the then-ongoing negotiations between the P5+1 and Iran and not “swept under the rug”; an op-ed by Cruz to the same effect ran in the

Washington Times on 6/16. In response to this and similar initiatives, the Obama administration reaffirmed its position consistently that the negotiations, and any final agreement, would cover the nuclear issue only and not Iran's human rights record.

Last major action: 6/18/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

18 JUNE 2015: DEPARTMENT OF STATE OPERATIONS AUTHORIZATION AND EMBASSY SECURITY ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2016

S. 1635, Bob Corker (R-TN), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 6/9/15 passed in the Senate Foreign Relations Comm. by unanimous consent.

25 JUNE 2015: IRAN SANCTIONS RELIEF OVERSIGHT ACT OF 2015

S. 1682, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 3 cosponsors.

Introduced less than a week before the P5+1 and Iran's deadline for a final nuclear agreement, this bill would extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (ISA) through 12/31/26 and require the secretary of the treasury, in consultation with the director of national intelligence, to report to Congress on the total sanctions relief provided to Iran since the negotiations began, any Iranian use of those funds to support international terrorism or the Syrian government, and any diversion of those funds by Iranian officials into personal accounts.

Similar versions of this provision were included in 2 versions of the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2016, S. 1705 of 7/7/15 and H.R. 4127 of 11/30/15; a version of it eventually passed into law as part of the omnibus appropriations bill for FY 2016, *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15.

Last major action: 6/25/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

25 JUNE 2015: CONDEMNING THE USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS AS WEAPONS IN THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

H. Res. 346, Ted Yoho (R-FL), 38 cosponsors.

Introduced in response to repeated reports of chlorine attacks in Syria, this resolution condemned the Syrian government for its "atrocities against the Syrian people," urged the president to report to Congress on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, and called on the international community to create a "comprehensive strategy regarding Syria," possibly including a no-fly zone. It also called on the administration to continue supporting programs and people collecting evidence of chemical weapons attacks in Syria, assist in the cataloging and preservation of the evidence, and facilitate its transfer to appropriate legal forums.

Last major action: 12/9/15 ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

7 JULY 2015: INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT (IAA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

S. 1705, Richard Burr (R-NC), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/16/15 reported from the Senate Comm. on Intelligence.

9 JULY 2015: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2016

S. 1725, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a summary of relevant provisions.

Last major action: 7/9/15 placed on Senate Legislative Calendar.

***9 JULY 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE**

H. Res. 354, Christopher Smith (R-NJ), 89 cosponsors.

This resolution urged the U.S. government to work with the EU and European governments to promote activities to combat anti-Semitism.

Last major action: 11/3/15 agreed to in House by yea/nay vote, 418-0.

14 JULY 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT JERUSALEM IS THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL AND THEREFORE, CONSISTENT WITH THE LOCATION OF OTHER UNITED STATES EMBASSIES, THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN ISRAEL SHOULD BE LOCATED IN JERUSALEM

H. Con. Res. 62, Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), 33 cosponsors.

This resolution called for the U.S. government to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

See also: S. Res. 504 of 7/16/14.

Last major action: 7/14/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

16 JULY 2015: U.S.-JORDAN DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT OF 2015

S. 1789, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 19 cosponsors.

This bill would make Jordan eligible for expedited purchases of certain defense articles; authorize the State Dept. to enter an MoU with Jordan that would increase annual U.S. military and economic aid; and authorize various cooperative activities. By the end of the legislative session, the House version of this bill, *H.R. 907 of 2/13/15, became the main vehicle for increasing U.S. aid to Jordan.

Last major action: 10/27/15 reported by Comm. on Foreign Relations.

16 JULY 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN DISAPPROVAL OF THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION AGREED TO BY THE P5+1 AND IRAN ON JULY 14, 2015

H. Res. 367, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 220 cosponsors.

Introduced 3 days before the State Dept. officially delivered the text of the P5+1-Iran nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, this resolution expressed "firm disapproval" of the JCPOA and reaffirmed Congress's commitment to both preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and supporting strategic allies, including Israel. Congress's mandated 60-day period to review the JCPOA did not begin until 7/20, although the text of the deal was already widely available in the media.

Because the law mandating Congress's review period requires any legal disapproval to be expressed by a vote on a joint resolution, this measure merely "set the stage," according to a statement released by Roskam on 7/17. It was introduced with 165 cosponsors, almost 40% of the

House. A joint resolution of disapproval needed support from two-thirds of the chamber to override Pres. Obama's promised veto.

Last major action: 7/16/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

23 JULY 2015: BLOCK ARMS TO IRAN ACT OF 2015

S. 1853, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would block 20% of the funds made available for U.S. contributions to international organizations, including the UN, if the UN's arms embargo on Iran was "lifted reduced, or otherwise eased," as agreed to in the JCPOA between Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14.

Last major action: 7/23/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

23 JULY 2015: TO PROHIBIT STATUTORY SANCTIONS RELIEF BY THE UNITED STATES WITH RESPECT TO IRAN UNLESS THE SENATE PROVIDES ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION OF THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

H.R. 3199, Dave Brat (R-VA), 10 cosponsors.

Under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (signed into law as *H.R. 1191 of 3/2/15 and summarized above under S. 615 of 2/27/15), the administration was permitted to maintain the same level of sanctions relief that Iran had been afforded under the agreement governing the negotiations during the mandated congressional review period for any deal. This bill would bar the Obama administration from providing Iran statutory sanctions relief until the Senate provided its "advice and consent to the ratification" of the nuclear agreement reached by Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14.

Last major action: 7/23/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

23 JULY 2015: REAFFIRMING THE ROLE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION RELATING TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN

H. Res. 379, Leonard Lance (R-NJ), 15 cosponsors.

This resolution reaffirmed the House's right to approve or reject the nuclear deal announced by Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14 and expressed disapproval of the Obama administration's choice to support a UN Security Council resolution codifying the deal before Congress had completed its review period. It also stated that Congress was not bound by the 7/20 UNSC resolution.

Last major action: 7/23/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

23 JULY 2015: HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

H. J. Res. 61, Rodney Davis (R-IL), 2 cosponsors.

Previously passed in the House of Representatives as an unrelated measure, this joint resolution was the Senate Republicans' chosen vehicle for expressing their disapproval of the 7/14 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1, as mandated under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (see *H.R. 1191 of 3/2/15). After a week of discussions and speeches in the Senate, majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) brought up a cloture motion to end the debate and call a vote on this measure on 9/10. Because 42 Senate Democrats supported the deal, they were able to block the cloture motion and, in so doing, preserve the Obama administration's plans to implement the deal. They blocked 2 more cloture motions on 9/15 and 9/17. Opponents of the deal would have needed at

least 60 votes to approve the cloture motion and pass the resolution. (As Pres. Obama repeatedly pledged to veto the measure, they would have needed 67 votes to override his veto.)

Last major action: 9/17/15 third cloture motion withdrawn by unanimous consent.

28 JULY 2015: TO GRANT AUTHORITY TO THE PRESIDENT TO DETAIN NON-DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IN THE U.S. AND NON-DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN IN CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES UNTIL ALL U.S. CITIZENS HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN ARE RELEASED AND RETURNED TO THE U.S., AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 3259, Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), no cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to detain “non-diplomatic officials” of the Iranian government in the U.S. and any country that offers the U.S. authority to do so until Iran releases and returns the 3 known U.S. prisoners in Iran, and accounts for the whereabouts of Robert Levinson, a U.S. citizen allegedly being held in Iran since 2007.

Last major action: 7/28/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

29 JULY 2015: PROHIBITING ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR IRAN ACT

H.R. 3273, Scott Garrett (R-NJ), no cosponsors.

This bill would forbid military or any other U.S. assistance to Iran for the development, use, or protection of its nuclear program, unless the president could certify that it would be in the national interest and Congress passed a joint resolution of approval.

Last major action: 7/29/15 referred to House Comm. on Armed Services.

29 JULY 2015: JUSTICE FOR FORMER AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN ACT OF 2015

H.R. 3338, Sean Duffy (R-WI), 82 cosponsors.

Like the similar Senate measure (see S. 868 of 3/26/15), this bill would establish a U.S. Treasury fund to support U.S. citizens who were held hostage in Iran between 1979 and 1981. It would also deposit into the fund 30% of any fines imposed on persons found to be violating sanctions on Iran, but the payout structure would be slightly different, and identical to the one outlined by the similar provision in S. 1635 of 6/18/15.

Last major action: 9/8/15 referred to Subcomm. on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

29 JULY 2015: TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE U.S. AGAINST IRAN IF IRAN COMMITS A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF ITS COMMITMENTS OR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H. J. Res. 62, John Larson (D-CT), no cosponsors.

This resolution would authorize the president to use military force against Iran if he could: certify that IAEA inspectors had determined that Iran had not fulfilled its obligations under the nuclear deal reached on 7/14 or that relevant UNSC sanctions on Iran had been reimposed; and provide Congress a “scope and strategy” for the use of military force. The president would also be required to deliver a report to Congress every 60 days on issues relating to this resolution.

Last major action: 7/29/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

29 JULY 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ACTS OF BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT FROM, AND SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H. Res. 402, Edward Royce (R-CA), 4 cosponsors.

This resolution expressed opposition to “politically motivated acts of boycott, divestment from, and sanctions against Israel,” called on the Obama administration to strengthen its anti-BDS efforts, supported such efforts in state legislatures across the country, and reaffirmed support for a 2-state solution.

Last major action: 7/29/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

30 JULY 2015: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE DETERMINATION OF THE SENATE THAT THE 60-CALENDAR DAY PERIOD FOR CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN DID NOT BEGIN WITH THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE AGREEMENT ON 7/19/15, BECAUSE THAT TRANSMITTAL DID NOT INCLUDE ALL MATERIALS REQUIRED TO BE TRANSMITTED PURSUANT TO THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT OF 2015

S. Res. 238, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

The resolution stated that the Obama administration did not fully follow the requirements laid out in the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (see *H.R. 1191 of 3/2/15), and that the congressional review period for any nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 should be extended as a result. Specifically, the resolution indicated, the Obama administration had not delivered the text of “side agreements” between Iran and the IAEA along with the main Iran-P5+1 deal, as allegedly mandated, and that the 60-day review period could not begin until the Senate majority leader certified that all “side deals” had been delivered to Congress.

Cruz introduced this resolution in an effort to block U.S. implementation of the deal and give opponents more time to organize in opposition to the president. It illustrated one of their primary objections to the deal, namely that the Obama administration was not being transparent about the nature of the IAEA inspections of Iran’s nuclear sites and that Iran would be allowed to “self-inspect” under the 7/14 deal.

Last major action: 7/30/15 referred to Comm. on Foreign Relations.

4 AUGUST 2015: DISAPPROVING OF THE AGREEMENT TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT ON 7/19/15, RELATING TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN

H. J. Res. 64, Edward Royce (R-CA), 12 cosponsors.

This resolution would disapprove the nuclear deal reached by Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14 and, under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (see *H.R. 1191 of 3/2/15), block U.S. implementation of that deal. Because disapproval in the House was all but certain, this resolution was not the main vehicle for congressional disapproval. Instead, senators contentiously debated their favored measure, H. J. Res. 61 of 7/23/15, failing to secure enough votes to reject the Iran nuclear agreement (see that measure for further action as well as the Updates in *JPS* 45 [1–2]).

Last major action: 9/8/15 referred to House Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means Comms.

8 SEPTEMBER 2015: AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF FORCE AGAINST IRAN RESOLUTION

H. J. Res. 65, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), no cosponsors.

This resolution would authorize the use of military force to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons; and would require the president to report every 60 days after implementing the above authorization.

Last major action: 9/8/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

8 SEPTEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT OF 2015 (*H.R. 1191 OF 3/2/15) DOES NOT APPLY TO THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION REGARDING IRAN AND SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS ON 7/19/15, BECAUSE THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IS A TREATY AND, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE II OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, THE SENATE MUST GIVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION IF THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IS TO BE EFFECTIVE AND BINDING UPON THE UNITED STATES

H. Res. 410, Louis Gohmert (R-TX), 11 cosponsors.

This resolution stated that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action agreed to by Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14 was a treaty and, therefore, would need to be approved by two-thirds of the Senate in order for the U.S. to implement it.

Last major action: 9/8/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

9 SEPTEMBER 2015: JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

H.R. 3457, Patrick Meehan (R-PA), 118 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit the Obama administration from lifting any sanctions in connection with the nuclear deal reached with Iran on 7/14 until the president certified to Congress that Iran had paid every judgment brought against it between 4/24/96 and the date of the bill's enactment into law (estimated at over \$43 b.).

Ahead of a scheduled 10/1 vote, Pres. Obama pledged to veto the bill on the grounds that it would undermine the 7/14 deal.

Last major action: 10/1/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 251–173.

9 SEPTEMBER 2015: TO SUSPEND UNTIL 1/21/17, THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE, SUSPEND, REDUCE, PROVIDE RELIEF FROM, OR OTHERWISE LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN

H.R. 3460, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 1 cosponsor.

Introduced alongside a number of other, similar Republican-designed measures to block or hinder the Obama administration's implementation of the nuclear deal announced by the P5+1 and Iran on 7/14, this bill would prohibit the president from lifting any sanctions in connection with the deal until 1/21/17.

Last major action: 9/11/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 247–186.

9 SEPTEMBER 2015: TO APPROVE THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION, SIGNED AT VIENNA ON 7/14/15, RELATING TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN

H.R. 3461, John Boehner (R-OH), no cosponsors.

This bill would convey Congress's approval of the nuclear deal reached by Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14. Although a bill of "approval," this measure was introduced in order for House Republicans to show that a majority of their chamber of Congress disapproved of the deal (see H. J. Res. 61 of 7/23/15).

Last major action: 9/11/15 rejected in House by yea/nay vote, 162–269, with 1 voting present.

9 SEPTEMBER 2015: IRAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION

H. J. Res. 66, Duncan Hunter (R-CA), 5 cosponsors.

This resolution would authorize the use of military force against Iran if the president certified to Congress that Iran could not verify that it had not sought, developed, or acquired nuclear weapons, which would violate the nuclear deal reached by Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14.

Last major action: 9/9/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

***9 SEPTEMBER 2015: FINDING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH SECTION 2 OF THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT OF 2015**

H. Res. 411, Mike Pompeo (R-KS), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution declared that the Obama administration had failed to deliver to Congress the text of "side agreements" made between Iran and the IAEA on 7/14 as required by the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (see *H.R. 1191 of 3/2/15) and, therefore, the 60-day congressional review period mandated under that law had not technically begun.

Last major action: 9/10/15 agreed to by yea/nay vote, 245–186.

***9 SEPTEMBER 2015: PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION (H. RES. 411) FINDING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH SECTION 2 OF THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL (H.R. 3461) TO APPROVE THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION, SIGNED AT VIENNA ON 7/14/15, RELATING TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL (H.R. 3460) TO SUSPEND UNTIL 1/21/17, THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE, SUSPEND, REDUCE, PROVIDE RELIEF FROM, OR OTHERWISE LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN**

H. Res. 412, Pete Sessions (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This procedural resolution provided for the consideration of 3 measures introduced by House Republicans to oppose the Obama administration's efforts to fully implement the nuclear deal announced by the P5+1 and Iran on 7/14/15: H. Res. 411 of 9/9/15, H.R. 3461 of 9/9/15, and H.R. 3460 of 9/9/15.

Last major action: 9/10/15 agreed to by yea/nay vote, 243–186.

10 SEPTEMBER 2015: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PROVISION OF THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT OF 2015 DOES NOT APPLY TO THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION ANNOUNCED ON 7/14/15, BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT FAILED TO TRANSMIT THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AS REQUIRED BY SUCH ACT, AND THAT THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION WOULD ONLY PREEMPT EXISTING IRAN SANCTIONS LAWS AS “THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND” IF RATIFIED BY THE SENATE AS A TREATY WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE SENATORS PRESENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 2, OF THE CONSTITUTION OR IF CONGRESS WERE TO ENACT NEW IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION THAT SUPERSEDES THE MANDATORY STATUTORY SANCTIONS THAT THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION ANNOUNCED ON JULY 14, 2015, PURPORTS TO SUPERSEDE

S. Res. 251, Ron Johnson (R-WI), 4 cosponsors.

Like the similar resolution in the House (*H. Res. 411 of 9/9/15), this resolution stated that, because the Obama administration had not fully complied with the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (see *H.R. 1191 of 3/2/15), it was not legally authorized to implement the nuclear deal reached with Iran on 7/14. Therefore, it stated, existing sanctions on Iran would only be allowed to be lifted if the nuclear deal were treated like a treaty and ratified by the Senate in a two-thirds vote.

Last major action: 9/10/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

16 SEPTEMBER 2015: NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2015

H.R. 8, Fred Upton (R-MI), no cosponsors.

This bill contained a series of provisions designed to enhance energy infrastructure, efficiency, and security. It included the full text of H.R. 702 of 2/4/15. See that measure for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/3/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 249–174.

24 SEPTEMBER 2015: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

S. Res. 268, Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), 8 cosponsors.

Recognizing that the Syrian refugee crisis is part of the broader conflict in Syria and given the “scale and complexity” of the crisis, this resolution welcomed Pres. Obama’s announcement (9/10/15) that at least 10,000 Syrian refugees would be admitted into the U.S. in 2016.

Last major action: 9/24/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

28 SEPTEMBER 2015: JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

S. 2086, Pat Toomey (R-PA), 4 cosponsors.

Like the similarly titled House bill, H.R. 3457 of 9/9/15, this measure would prohibit the Obama administration from lifting sanctions on Iran or any individuals in connection with the nuclear deal announced on 7/14/15 until the president certified that the Iranian government had paid the judgments brought against it in U.S. courts from 4/24/96 to the date of this bill’s enactment.

Last major action: 9/28/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

29 SEPTEMBER 2015: IRGC TERRORIST DESIGNATION ACT

S. 2094, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would require the secretary of state to deliver a report to Congress determining whether Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) met the criteria of a foreign terrorist organization (FTO), including a "detailed justification" of which criteria, if any, it did not meet.

At the time of this bill's introduction, the U.S. considered Iran a state sponsor of terrorism and had designated as an FTO the IRGC's special unit known as the Quds Force.

See also: H.R. 3646 of 9/29/15.

Last major action: 9/29/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

29 SEPTEMBER 2015: IRGC TERRORIST DESIGNATION ACT

H.R. 3646, Michael McCaul (R-TX), 19 cosponsors.

See similar bill, S. 2094 of 9/29/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: referred to House Comm. on the Judiciary.

29 SEPTEMBER 2015: CALLING UPON THE PRESIDENT TO USE THE U.S.' VOICE AND VOTE IN THE UNSC TO CONDEMN THE ONGOING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM YEZIDI, CHRISTIAN, SHABAK, AND OTHER RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES BY ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT MILITANTS AS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, TO PROSECUTE ALL PERPETRATORS AND THOSE COMPLICIT IN THESE CRIMES, AND TO SUPPORT OTHER UN MEMBER-STATES PROSECUTING THESE PERPETRATORS AND THOSE COMPLICIT

H. Res. 447, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 15 cosponsors.

See also: S. Res. 310 of 11/9/15.

Last major action: 10/5/15 referred to Subcomm. on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

1 OCTOBER 2015: IRAN POLICY OVERSIGHT ACT OF 2015

S. 2119, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), 11 cosponsors.

After almost a month of negotiations with fellow Democrats and the Obama administration, Cardin introduced this bill on 10/1 to set an official policy for all future dealings with Iran regarding the 7/14 deal, interpret a number of the deal's provisions regarding sanctions relief, and establish a series of congressional oversight procedures.

Regarding U.S. policy on Iran's nuclear program, the bill stated that Iran had no inherent right to uranium enrichment, Iran should be deterred from "destabilizing regional activity," and that the military option should remain available to prevent Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability. Furthermore, the bill would enable the U.S. to enforce any violations of the 7/14 deal using a range of national and multilateral tools, including alliances with the European parties to the deal.

In terms of oversight, the administration would be required, every 2 years, to submit to Congress a 10-year strategy for countering Iranian activities internationally. Required elements would include, inter alia, a summary and assessment of Iran's support for the Syrian government, Hezbollah,

Hamas, and various other groups; a summary of country-by-country plans for maintaining regional security; an assessment of Iran's conventional forces and its chemical and biological weapons capabilities; a description of planned and current U.S. cooperative activities with allies in the region, including their impact on Israel's qualitative military edge. The administration would also be required to deliver to Congress every 180 days a report on any Iranian research or development in contravention of the 7/14 deal, an assessment of Iran's breakout time (i.e., the amount of time it would take for Iran to produce a nuclear weapon should it choose to defect from the deal), an assessment of the IAEA's verification capacity and capability, and a description of any changes in Iranian funding of its Revolutionary Guards Corps and Quds Force, as well as Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Syrian government. The president would also be required to submit to Congress a detailed report on the IAEA's final assessment of Iran's past and present nuclear activities.

Regarding sanctions, the president would be required to notify the public and provide written justification prior to lifting any sanctions against Iranian persons accused of supporting missile programs or international terrorism, as well as Iranians who had committed human rights abuses. Also, the bill would establish an expedited legislative procedure for new sanctions on Iran, which would only be used if the president determined that Iran had "directed or conducted" an act of terror against the U.S. or "substantially increased" its support for an organization that threatened the U.S. or its allies.

The president would be required to appoint a special coordinator for the implementation of the 7/14 deal within the State Dept., and that person would be required to coordinate all activities relating to the deal with the Treasury and Energy Depts.

To ensure that verification of Iran's adherence to the 7/14 deal could continue, the bill would authorize through 2026 an annual contribution to the IAEA and encourage the president to ensure that the IAEA annually received the necessary \$10.6 m. for carrying out its duties specific to the deal. The president would be required to report to Congress every 180 days on efforts to ensure the IAEA's continued funding and verification.

In addition to the provisions directly relating to the nuclear deal with Iran, the bill would also authorize the president to take all necessary steps to enhance Israel's qualitative military edge and to enter into a new MoU with Israel providing annual military support through 2028.

Last major action: 10/1/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

1 OCTOBER 2015: IRAN TERROR FINANCE TRANSPARENCY ACT

H.R. 3662, Steve Russell (R-OK), 31 cosponsors.

This bill would bar the president from lifting sanctions on financial institutions listed in the P5+1-Iran nuclear deal unless it was certified to Congress that the institution in question had not knowingly facilitated transactions on behalf of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, designated terrorist organizations, or any person under sanctions in connection with Iran's nuclear development and that it no longer engages in illicit or deceptive transactions. The bill would

also institute other minor congressional oversight procedures related to the 7/14 deal and sanctions relief.

See also: H. Res. 454 of 10/1/15.

Last major action: 10/1/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs and Comm. on Financial Services.

1 OCTOBER 2015: UNITED NATIONS TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND REFORM ACT OF 2015

H.R. 3667, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 2 cosponsors.

This bill would restructure the U.S. relationship with and funding of the UN, conditioning funds on various UN bodies' treatment of Taiwan, Yugoslavia, and the Palestinians. The relevant provisions include the following: the president would be directed to use U.S. influence to ensure that the UN and its employees were complying with directives against anti-Semitism; the State Dept. would be required to withhold all contributions to any UN entity that recognized a Palestinian state or upgraded the status of a Palestinian representative body; U.S. contributions to the UN would be withheld of an amount equal to the funds required for a special rapporteur on human rights in the oPt; U.S. contributions to UNRWA would be withheld unless the secretary of state certified, inter alia, that no UNRWA employee or educational institution had disseminated anti-Israel or anti-Semitic rhetoric or been a member of a designated terrorist organization, and that UNRWA was subject to third-party financial auditing. Finally, U.S. contributions to the UNHRC would be withheld and the U.S. would not be permitted to run for a seat on UNHRC unless the secretary certified to Congress, inter alia, that UNHRC had removed Israel as a permanent agenda item.

See also: similar legislation from previous Congresses H.R. 3155 of 9/19/13, H.R. 2829 of 8/30/11, and H.R. 557 of 1/15/09.

Last major action: 10/1/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

1 OCTOBER 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO THE EXERCISE OF PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS IMPOSED AGAINST IRAN UNDER U.S. LAW

H. Res. 454, Steve Russell (R-OK), 14 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution reaffirmed the House's position that the president had misused executive authority to waive sanctions on Iran in connection with the nuclear deal announced on 7/14.

See also: H.R. 3662 of 10/1/15.

Last major action: 10/1/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

5 OCTOBER 2015: AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, 2016

S. 2130, Thad Cochran (R-MS), 4 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a summary of relevant provisions.

Last major action: 10/6/15 placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under general orders.

6 OCTOBER 2015: MIDDLE EAST REFUGEE EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

S. 2145, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 13 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 10/6/15 referred to the Senate Comm. on Appropriations.

6 OCTOBER 2015: IRGC TERRORIST SANCTIONS ACT OF 2015

H.R. 3693, Ted Poe (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would direct the Treasury Dept. to report to Congress on the following: whether Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) met the requirements to be designated a terrorist entity; whether an entity controlled by the IRGC was considered to be controlled by the government of Iran—this distinction would trigger the application of certain sanctions; and the factors used to make the above distinction.

Last major action: 10/6/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

8 OCTOBER 2015: GLOBAL NEUROSCIENCE PARTNERSHIP ACT

H.R. 3717, Chaka Fattah (D-PA), no cosponsors.

This bill would enhance cooperation in the field of neuroscience between U.S. and Israeli researchers, directing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to award grants for joint U.S.-Israeli research and to establish a joint neuroscience advisory committee.

Last major action: 10/9/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Health.

8 OCTOBER 2015: TO AMEND THE IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012 TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROVISION OF SPECIALIZED FINANCIAL MESSAGING SERVICES TO THE CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN AND OTHER SANCTIONED IRANIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 3728, David Schweikert (R-AZ), no cosponsors.

This bill would amend the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (*H.R. 1905 of 5/13/11) by *requiring* rather than merely allowing the president to impose sanctions on financial institutions that provide certain services to the Central Bank of Iran and other institutions, in accordance with the law. Also, the sanctions would be expanded to include visa denial and exclusion from entry to the U.S. for persons the president determined were "senior executive[s] or member[s] of the board of directors" of financial institutions providing such services.

Last major action: 11/3/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

9 OCTOBER 2015: COMMISSION TO VERIFY IRANIAN NUCLEAR COMPLIANCE ACT

H.R. 3741, Gerald Connolly (D-VA), 15 cosponsors.

This bill would establish a congressional commission to verify the Iranian government's compliance with the 7/14 nuclear deal and assess the adequacy of safeguards and control mechanisms written into the deal and the IAEA's capacity to verify the deal.

Last major action: 10/9/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

16 OCTOBER 2015: TO PROVIDE FOR RECONCILIATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 2002 OF THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

H.R. 3762, Tom Price (R-GA), no cosponsors.

Before the Senate replaced the full text with a budget-related measure, this bill passed in the House on 10/23/15 as one of many House Republican attempts to repeal all or part of the Affordable Care Act. Although its provisions were largely unrelated to Palestinian affairs or the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict, one relevant amendment was submitted during the Senate's consideration.

S.A. 2899, submitted by Rand Paul (R-KY) on 12/3/15, no cosponsors.

Introduced in the wake of the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15, this amendment would suspend the issuance of visas to persons from “high-risk” countries and impose a minimum 30-day waiting period for now-enhanced background checks. The Depts. of Homeland Security and State, as well as the director of national intelligence, would be required to periodically report on the measures listed above. The bill lists 34 “high-risk” countries and territories, including Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the oPt.

It was rejected by yea/nay vote on 12/3/15, 10–89. Paul previously introduced this amendment as a stand-alone measure, S. 2329, on 11/19/15.

Last major action: 12/3/15 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 52–47 (10/23/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 240–189).

21 OCTOBER 2015: EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL IN THE WAKE OF RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS AND CONDEMNING THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY FOR INCITING AN ATMOSPHERE OF VIOLENCE

H. Res. 485, Martha McSally (R-AZ), 51 cosponsors.

Introduced amid escalating violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories (see the Update in *JPS* 45 [2]), this resolution expressed support for the Israeli victims of recent attacks and their families, condemned “terrorism committed under the auspices of the PA,” called on Palestinian leaders to stop supporting or inciting violent activities in Israel, expressed concern that the Obama administration had continued to exercise national security waivers to maintain U.S. aid to the PA, and required Pres. Obama to recertify that the PA and all its ministers had publicly accepted and complied with the Quartet's** principles, including recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Last major action: 10/21/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

26 OCTOBER 2015: UNRWA ANTI-INCITEMENT AND ANTI-TERRORISM ACT

H.R. 3829, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 2 cosponsors.

Like similar bills Ros-Lehtinen introduced in previous years (H.R. 5647 of 9/18/14 and H.R. 5065 of 4/20/10), this bill would condition U.S. funding for UNRWA on a State Dept. certification that no UNRWA employee, representative, affiliate, or beneficiary was a member of a terrorist organization; no UNRWA employee or school had propagated anti-U.S., anti-Israel, or anti-Semitic rhetoric; and

** The UN, U.S., EU, and Russia.

no UNRWA facilities had been used by a foreign terrorist organization. The State Dept. would also have to certify that UNRWA was subject to third-party auditing and that the agency held no accounts or affiliation with financial institutions that the U.S. deemed complicit in money laundering or terror financing. Inter alia, the bill would also encourage the president to request that other nations condition their support of UNRWA on similar grounds and call for responsibility for Palestinian refugees to be fully transferred to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Last major action: 10/28/15 sponsor introductory remarks on measure.

28 OCTOBER 2015: A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

S. Res. 299, Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), 21 cosponsors.

In addition to honoring Rabin, this resolution called on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to “quell the current outbreak of terrorism and violence, and to resume work toward a negotiated two-state solution ending the conflict once and for all.”

See also: H. Res. 502 of 10/28/15 and H. Res. 513 of 11/3/15.

Last major action: 10/28/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

28 OCTOBER 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST IRANIAN HOSTILITY AND THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PLEDGES TO SUPPORT ISRAEL IN ITS EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ITS SOVEREIGNTY

H. Res. 500, Steve King (R-IA), 41 cosponsors.

This resolution expressed the sense of Congress that in light of the 7/14 nuclear deal between the P5+1 and Iran, Israel had the right to defend itself “against Iranian hostility”; the measure also pledged support for Israel’s efforts to maintain its sovereignty.

Last major action: 10/28/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

28 OCTOBER 2015: HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

H. Res. 502, Keith Ellison (D-MN), 35 cosponsors.

See S. Res. 299 of 10/28/15 for a full summary.

See also: H. Res. 513 of 11/3/15.

Last major action: 10/28/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

2 NOVEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. SHOULD USE THE FULL AUTHORITY OF HIS OFFICE TO CONVENE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS INTENDED TO STOP THE CIVIL WAR IN SYRIA

H. Res. 508, James A. Himes (D-CT), 25 cosponsors.

This resolution called on the president to convene negotiations on ending the Syrian conflict that would stabilize the country, provide for political change, put in place measures to protect Syrian refugees and decrease their numbers, and “create a coordinated international strategy” for the

defeat of ISIS. It also called on other countries with an interest or involvement in the Middle East to participate in the talks.

Last major action: 11/2/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

2 NOVEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN, AND THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC TO PROVIDE HOUSING, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, HEALTH CARE, AND OTHER FORMS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES DISPLACED BY THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA

H. Res. 509, Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), 1 cosponsor.

Inter alia, this resolution commended Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon for providing assistance to Syrian refugees, recognized the strain resulting from such efforts, and expressed sympathy for the refugees.

Last major action: 11/2/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

3 NOVEMBER 2015: MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD TERRORIST DESIGNATION ACT OF 2015

S. 2230, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would require the State Dept. to report to Congress within 60 days on whether the Muslim Brotherhood met the criteria to be designated a foreign terrorist organization, and to specifically identify which criteria it did not meet, if any.

See also: identical bill H.R. 3892 of 11/3/15.

Last major action: 11/3/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

3 NOVEMBER 2015: MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD TERRORIST DESIGNATION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 3892, Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), 6 cosponsors.

See identical bill, S. 2230 of 11/3/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/3/15 referred to House Comm. on the Judiciary.

***3 NOVEMBER 2015: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND IN CONDEMNATION OF PALESTINIAN TERROR ATTACKS**

S. Res. 302, Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), 68 cosponsors.

Introduced amid escalating violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories (see *JPS* 45 [2]), this resolution, inter alia, urged the president and international community to condemn Palestinian attacks, supported Israel's right to self-defense, supported the 10/24 Israel-Jordan agreement to install cameras at Haram al-Sharif, and called on PA president Abbas to end Palestinian incitement.

AIPAC supported this measure.

Last major action: 11/10/15 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

3 NOVEMBER 2015: HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

H. Res. 513, Eliot Engel (D-NY), 52 cosponsors.

Like similar measures S. Res. 299 of 10/28/15 and H. Res. 502 of 10/28/15, this resolution honored Rabin on the 20-year anniversary of his death. Unlike them, however, the resolution condemned "any and all acts of terrorism" and expressed support for community leaders and

government officials who encourage “coexistence and cooperation” between Palestinians and Israelis. Furthermore, it did not mention the ongoing wave of violence in Israel and the oPt.

Last major action: 11/3/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

4 NOVEMBER 2015: PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS TO TERRORISTS ACT OF 2015

S. 2239, Tom Udall (D-NM), 2 cosponsors.

This bill would prevent any U.S. expenditure to support military operations in Syria until a joint resolution approving military assistance was enacted; funds provided for nonlethal humanitarian assistance were not affected.

Last major action: 11/4/15 referred to Select Comm. on Intelligence.

5 NOVEMBER 2015: SAVE CHRISTIANS FROM GENOCIDE ACT

H.R. 3942, Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), 14 cosponsors.

Recognizing that Christians and Yazidis in Iraq, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, and Libya were targets of genocide, this bill would direct the Dept. of Homeland Security to give first priority to immigrant and refugee applications filed by Christian or Yazidi citizens of those countries.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

5 NOVEMBER 2015: HONORING AND PRAISING THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE (AJC) ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 109TH ANNIVERSARY

H. Res. 518, Al Green (D-TX), 11 cosponsors.

This resolution honored the AJC, a Jewish advocacy group, for its human rights and interfaith dialogue activities, as well as its defense of “Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish State.”

Last major action: 11/5/15 referred to House Comm. on Oversight and Govt. Reform.

***9 NOVEMBER 2015: A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ONGOING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM YEZIDI, CHRISTIAN, SHABAK, TURKMEN, AND OTHER RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES BY ISIS MILITANTS AND URGING THE PROSECUTION OF THE PERPETRATORS AND THOSE COMPLICIT IN THESE CRIMES**

S. Res. 310, Ron Johnson (R-WI), 6 cosponsors.

This resolution called on the U.S. attorney general and the governments of Iraq and other countries in the Middle East to investigate and prosecute any U.S. citizen found to be complicit in crimes of sexual violence against women and children from any of the abovementioned groups.

See also: H. Res. 447 of 9/29/15.

Last major action: 12/16/15 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

16 NOVEMBER 2015: AMERICAN SECURITY AGAINST FOREIGN ENEMIES (SAFE) ACT OF 2015

H.R. 3999, Richard Hudson (R-NC), 53 cosponsors.

This bill would require the Dept. of Homeland Security, the attorney general, and the FBI to certify that any Syrian, Iraqi, or other person present in Syria or Iraq attempting to enter the U.S. had undergone a thorough background investigation prior to admission.

Introduced after the ISIS-affiliated attacks on Paris on 11/13/15, this was one in a series of bills and resolutions in 11/2015 designed to curtail or block U.S. intake of Syrian refugees.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

16 NOVEMBER 2015: SAVE CHRISTIANS FROM GENOCIDE ACT

H.R. 4017, Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), 7 cosponsors.

As part of a series of bills and resolutions introduced in 11/2015 to curtail or block U.S. intake of Syrian refugees in the wake of the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15, this bill would authorize the Dept. of Homeland Security to expedite the processing of visas for Christians or Yazidis from Iraq, Pakistan, Iran, and Libya.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

16 NOVEMBER 2015: URGING THE [OBAMA] ADMINISTRATION TO WORK WITH NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) MEMBER-STATES TO INVOKE ARTICLE 5 OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY IN RESPONSE TO THE PARIS ATTACKS

H. Res. 525, Ted Poe (R-TX), no cosponsors.

In the wake of the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15, the French government escalated its campaign of airstrikes against ISIS targets in Syria and Iraq, but it did not invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which classifies an attack against one NATO member-state as an attack against all NATO members and encourages assistance to the member-state under attack, including the use of armed force. This resolution urged the administration to persuade France to invoke the article in question, thereby providing a legal basis for escalating U.S. military operations in Syria and Iraq.

Last major action: 11/16/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: TO PROHIBIT OBLIGATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR ADMISSION OF REFUGEES FROM SYRIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 4025, Dennis Ross (R-FL), 9 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit the use of federal funds for admission to the U.S. of Syrians or other refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: SYRIAN REFUGEE VERIFICATION AND SAFETY ACT

S. 2284, David Vitter (R-LA), 6 cosponsors.

Introduced after the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15, this bill would block any Syrian refugee from entering the U.S. until 30 days after the president certified that the intelligence community had evaluated the administration's proposed protocols for accepting refugees and the State Dept. had briefed Congress on the process, inter alia. The president would not be able to make such a certification until 270 days after this bill was passed into law, effectively placing a 9-month hold on refugee intake. Congress would be given a 15-day window to disapprove of any of the administration's plans.

Last major action: 11/17/15 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: TO AMEND THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT TO PROVIDE THAT REFUGEES MAY NOT BE RESETTLED IN ANY STATE WHERE THE GOVERNOR OF THAT STATE HAS TAKEN ANY ACTION FORMALLY DISAPPROVING OF THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN THAT STATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 4030, Steven Palazzo (R-MS), no cosponsors.

As the title suggests, this bill would prohibit the resettlement of refugees in any state of the union where the governor had “taken action formally disapproving of the resettlement of refugees.”

After the 11/13/15 ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris, 31 governors—all Republicans, except for one—pledged to block the resettlement of Syrian or Iraqi refugees in their states.

Last major action: 11/17/15 referred to House Comm. on the Judiciary.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: DEFUND THE SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4031, Bradley Byrne (R-AL), 5 cosponsors.

Introduced after the ISIS-affiliated attacks on Paris on 11/13/15, this bill would prohibit federal funds from being used to admit any refugee from the Syrian conflict to the U.S.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: STATES' RIGHT OF REFUGEE REFUSAL ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4032, Ted Poe (R-TX), 51 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit the federal government from administering the resettlement of refugees in any state where the governor had opposed their entry. (For more, see H.R. 4030 of 11/17/15.)

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: REFUGEE RELOCATION SECURITY ACT

H.R. 4033, Eric A. Crawford (R-AR), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would prohibit the admission of any Syrian or Iraqi refugees to the U.S. until Congress passed a joint resolution specifically allowing their admission. It would also block the president from relocating any refugees to a state whose governor had rejected the admission of refugees. (See similar measures H.R. 4030 and H.R. 4032 of 11/17/15.)

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: AMERICAN SECURITY AGAINST FOREIGN ENEMIES (SAFE) ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4038, Michael McCaul (R-TX), 103 cosponsors.

Like the similarly named H.R. 3999 of 11/16/15, this bill was introduced in the wake of the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15 to curtail or block the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the U.S. Specifically, it would require the DHS and FBI to: conduct background checks on each Syrian or Iraqi refugee applying for admission to the U.S., and only allow admission if the DHS, FBI, and director of national intelligence could certify that each

individual had “received a background investigation that is sufficient to determine whether the covered alien is a threat to the security of the U.S.”; report to Congress every month on how many certifications had been made and how many refugees had been rejected; and conduct annual reviews on all certifications.

On 11/18/15, Pres. Obama said he would veto this bill.

Last major action: 11/19/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 289–137.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: TO PROHIBIT OBLIGATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR ADMISSION OF REFUGEES FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES

H.R. 4044, Curt Clawson (R-FL), no cosponsors.

Introduced in the wake of the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15, this bill would prohibit federal funds from being used to admit refugees from Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, or Yemen into the U.S.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

17 NOVEMBER 2015: SYRIAN REFUGEE VERIFICATION AND SAFETY ACT

H.R. 4048, Garret Graves (R-LA), 4 cosponsors.

See identical bill S. 2284 of 11/17/15 for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

18 NOVEMBER 2015: AMERICAN SECURITY AGAINST FOREIGN ENEMIES (SAFE) ACT OF 2015

S. 2300, Ron Johnson (R-WI), no cosponsors.

See similar bill, H.R. 4038 of 11/17/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/18/15 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

18 NOVEMBER 2015: TERRORIST REFUGEE INFILTRATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

S. 2302, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

Introduced in the wake of the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15, this bill would block from entry to the U.S. any refugee from a country with “terrorist-controlled territory,” including Iraq, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen (the State Dept. would be directed to maintain a list of countries with so-called terrorist-controlled territory and victims of genocide). Exceptions would be provided for individuals who satisfied existing admission requirements, were considered members of groups designated as victims of genocide, and had undergone the highest level of U.S. security screening. Individuals would also need the Depts. of State, Homeland Security, and Defense, as well as the FBI and the director of national intelligence, to certify that they were not a security threat. Furthermore, the above restrictions would not apply to those refugees who provided substantial assistance to the U.S. and those facing substantial risk of death or injury if not admitted.

See also: identical bill H.R. 4143 of 12/1/15.

Last major action: 11/18/15 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

18 NOVEMBER 2015: TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO COLLECT DATA REGARDING FOREIGN TRAVEL, OR REPATRIATION, TO THE COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY OR LAST HABITUAL RESIDENCE BY AN ALIEN ADMITTED TO THE U.S. AS A REFUGEE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 4074, Austin Scott (R-GA), no cosponsors.

This bill would direct the secretary of homeland security to research and annually report to Congress on any instance of a refugee resettling in the U.S. and later returning to their home country; suspend the admission of such refugees to the U.S. until Congress passed a joint resolution reauthorizing admission.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

18 NOVEMBER 2015: GIVE STATES A CHANCE ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4078, Ted Yoho (R-FL), 11 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this bill would authorize any governor to refuse resettlement of a refugee in his/her state if they had not been suitably informed of the refugee's planned sponsorship process, were not "reasonably satisfied" that the refugee did not pose a security threat, or if they had determined that the proposed resettlement location had too large a population or too large a proportion of refugees. Furthermore, all Syrian and Iraqi refugees would be denied admission to the U.S. unless the Dept. of Homeland Security certified on an individual basis that they did not pose a security threat. The FBI would be directed to ensure each refugee applicant was given a background check prior to admission.

See also: H.R. 4033, H.R. 4032, and H.R. 4030 of 11/17/15.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

18 NOVEMBER 2015: DECLARING THAT A STATE OF WAR EXISTS BETWEEN ISIS AND THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S. AND MAKING PROVISION TO PROSECUTE THE SAME

H. J. Res. 73, Tom Emmer (R-MN), no cosponsors.

This resolution would authorize the president to carry on war with ISIS, pledging "all the resources of the country" to the effort.

Last major action: 11/18/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

18 NOVEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO ACCEPT 10,000 SYRIAN REFUGEES

H. Res. 533, Roger Williams (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This resolution disapproved of Pres. Obama's pledge to accept 10,000 Syrian refugees into the U.S. in 2016, which he reaffirmed after the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

18 NOVEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF STATE GOVERNORS WHO HAVE MADE A DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

H. Con. Res. 94, Mark Meadows (R-NC), 6 cosponsors.

This resolution declared that the federal government should not coerce or attempt to persuade any of the 31 governors who, in the wake of the 11/13/15 ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris, vowed not to allow any Syrian refugees to resettle in their states.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

19 NOVEMBER 2015: STOP EXTREMISTS COMING UNDER REFUGEE ENTRY (SECURE) ACT

S. 2329, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This bill would strengthen security measures involved in the admission and resettlement of refugees from 34 “high-risk” places, including Jordan, Syria, and the oPt. Paul also introduced the text of this bill as an amendment to H.R. 3762 of 10/16/15. See that measure for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/30/15 placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under general orders.

19 NOVEMBER 2015: SECURE REFUGEE PROCESS ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4079, Bennie Thompson (D-MS), 34 cosponsors.

This bill would bar the admission of any refugee whose identity had not sufficiently been documented by the Department of Homeland Security or checked against federal national security or criminal records. Inter alia, it would also require the DHS to report to Congress monthly on the total number of refugees applying for entry and any corresponding denials; and conduct an annual “risk-based” review of refugees it approved in the previous year.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

19 NOVEMBER 2015: SECURITY VERIFICATION FOR REFUGEES ACT

H.R. 4086, French Hill (R-AR), 2 cosponsors.

This bill carried over all the provisions from H.R. 4038 of 11/17/15, adding additional reporting requirements. The secretary of state would be required to submit to Congress an annual report on the origins of refugees who applied for admission to the U.S., an evaluation of the threat posed by nationals or residents of specific countries, and a description of the violations of international law or presence of ISIS in those countries.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

19 NOVEMBER 2015: STUDENT VISA SECURITY IMPROVEMENT ACT

H.R. 4089, Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

Introduced in the aftermath of the ISIS-affiliated attacks in Paris on 11/13/15, this bill would institute a number of new DHS procedures designed to enhance the monitoring of foreign students in the U.S., including a requirement for DHS employees to review student visa applications with an emphasis on applicants’ possible predilection for terrorist-related activities.

Last major action: 12/10/15 sponsor introductory remarks on measure.

19 NOVEMBER 2015: TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF FUNDS FOR THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO SYRIAN OPPOSITION GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

H.R. 4108, Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit any U.S. defense or intelligence agency from providing assistance to any element of the Syrian opposition or other Syrian group attempting to overthrow the Syrian government, unless the assistance was specifically appropriated for that purpose by Congress.

Last major action: 11/19/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

19 NOVEMBER 2015: TO AMEND THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ALIENS WHO WERE PRESENT IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES MAY NOT BE ADMITTED UNDER THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 4122, Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), 6 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit the admission of any person to the U.S. under a waived visa if, over the previous 5 years, they had been present in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Nigeria, any country whose government supports international terrorism, or any country deemed appropriate by the State Dept.

Last major action: 12/4/15 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

19 NOVEMBER 2015: CONDEMNING PALESTINIAN INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE AND REAFFIRMING THE SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

H. Con. Res. 96, Rob Woodall (R-GA), 11 cosponsors.

Citing and condemning 66 alleged Palestinian attacks on Israelis in 10/2015, this resolution expressed support for those working to encourage Palestinian-Israeli cooperation, called on PA president Abbas to condemn the ongoing violence, and reaffirmed the U.S. relationship with Israel.

Last major action: 11/19/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

30 NOVEMBER 2015: INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT (IAA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

H.R. 4127, David Nunes (R-CA), 1 cosponsor.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/1/15 passed in the House by yea/nay vote, 364–58.

1 DECEMBER 2015: TERRORIST REFUGEE INFILTRATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4143, Ron DeSantis (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

See identical bill, S. 2302 of 11/18/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/1/15 referred to House Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Comms.

1 DECEMBER 2015: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE RIGHT OF STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

S. Con. Res. 26, Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL), 3 cosponsors.

Designed to undermine the implementation of the 7/14 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1, this resolution recognized the legitimacy of state and local/municipal legislation targeting Iran's sponsorship of terrorism and human rights violations, including divesting from persons or entities doing business in Iran. It also affirmed Congress's commitment to deter illicit Iranian activities.

See also: similar measure H. Con. Res. 100 of 12/1/15.

Last major action: 12/1/15 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

1 DECEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE RIGHT OF STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

H. Con. Res. 100, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 32 cosponsors.

See identical measure, S. Con. Res. 26 of 12/1/2015, for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/2/15 sponsor introductory remarks on measure.

3 DECEMBER 2015: RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-ISRAEL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP AND ENCOURAGING NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION

H. Res. 551, Ted Lieu (D-CA), 5 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution encouraged the Obama administration to “expand existing forums of economic dialogue” and support the exploration of new agreements with Israel in energy, water, agriculture, medicine, neuro-technology, and cybersecurity.

Last major action: 12/3/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

3 DECEMBER 2015: URGING THE PRESIDENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY TO SUBMIT TO CONGRESS THE TEXT OF ALL SIDE AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE IAEA AND IRAN WITH RESPECT TO THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

H. Res. 553, Ryan K. Zinke (R-MT), 35 cosponsors.

This resolution urged the president to submit to Congress the text of all agreements between the IAEA and Iran pursuant to the 7/14 nuclear deal between Iran. It also noted that 25% of the IAEA’s base budget comes from U.S. contributions and that future funding of the agency would be contingent on congressional approval.

Last major action: 12/3/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

7 DECEMBER 2015: VISA WAIVER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT AND TERRORIST TRAVEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

S. 2362, Ron Johnson (R-WI), 2 cosponsors.

See similar bill H.R. 158 of 1/6/15 for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/7/15 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

8 DECEMBER 2015: STATE REFUGEE SECURITY ACT OF 2015

S. 2363, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would, inter alia, bar any refugee from being resettled in a state whose governor certified that “the director [of the Office of Refugee Resettlement] has failed, in the sole determination of the Governor, to provide adequate assurance that the alien does not present a security risk to the state.” Also, the official in question would be required to notify the relevant state government 21 days in advance of plans to place or resettle a refugee in said state.

See also: identical measure, H.R. 4197 of 12/9/15.

Last major action: 12/8/15 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

9 DECEMBER 2015: STATE REFUGEE SECURITY ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4197, Ted Poe (R-TX), 37 cosponsors.

See identical measure, S. 2363 of 12/8/15, for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/9/15 referred to House Comm. on the Judiciary.

*10 DECEMBER 2015: A RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL TO APPEAR AS AMICUS CURIAE IN THE NAME OF THE SENATE IN BANK MARKAZI, THE CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN V. DEBORAH D. PETERSON, ET AL. (SUPREME COURT)

S. Res. 333, Mitch McConnell (R-KY), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution directed the Senate's legal counsel to appear as amicus curiae, or "friend of the court," to represent the Senate's interests in a Supreme Court case relating to the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (see *H.R. 1905 of 5/13/11). Specifically, the court was considering the constitutionality of the congressional order for a federal court to require the surrender of the U.S.-held assets of Bank Markazi, Iran's central bank, to pay damages to victims of acts of terrorism allegedly sponsored by Iran.

Last major action: 12/10/15 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

15 DECEMBER 2015: IRGC SANCTIONS ACT

H.R. 4257, David Nunes (R-CA), 27 cosponsors.

In light of the P5+1 and Iran's 7/14 nuclear deal, this bill would, inter alia: bar any U.S. citizen, company, or govt. agency from engaging in financial transactions with Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps or any subsidiary or subdivision thereof; direct the president to create a watch list of IRGC-affiliated persons; require the administration to submit a quarterly report to Congress on additions to the said watch list as well as all IRGC financial or commercial activities; require that Congress approve any motion to remove a country from the list of state sponsors of terrorism; and direct all U.S. securities issuers to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission any transactions with the IRGC or its affiliates.

Last major action: 12/15/15 referred to House Financial Services.

15 DECEMBER 2015: QUARANTINING THE AYATOLLAH'S STATE-SPONSORED AGGRESSION AND MILITANCY (QASSAM) ACT

H.R. 4258, Peter J. Roskam (R-IL), 3 cosponsors.

Like H.R. 4257, this bill was designed to block Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps access to funds following the 7/14/15 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1. Specifically, it would direct the president to impose sanctions on any entities in which the IRGC owned, directly or indirectly, at least a 20% stake (existing law authorizes sanctions on entities that are 50%, or more, owned by the IRGC); order the treasury to establish and publish a list of entities that the IRGC influenced where it owned a 20% interest or less; and authorize state and local governments to adopt and enforce sanctions against the IRGC and its affiliates.

Last major action: 12/15/15 referred to House Financial Services.

16 DECEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION INTERPRETIVE NOTICE REGARDING LABELING ISRAELI PRODUCTS AND GOODS MANUFACTURED IN THE WEST BANK AND OTHER AREAS, AS SUCH ACTIONS UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

H. Res. 567, Nita Lowey (D-NY), 5 cosponsors.

In addition to expressing opposition to the European Union guidelines on labeling products imported from Israel's settlements, which the European Commission issued on 11/11/15 (see Update in *JPS* 45 [2]), this resolution urged the Commission to oppose the BDS movement, encouraged EU member-states to "exert prudence" in implementing the labeling guidelines, and urged the Obama administration to step up opposition to the BDS movement internationally, among other provisions.

Last major action: 12/16/15 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.



The Journal of Palestine Studies (ISSN 0377-919X, online ISSN 1533-8614) is published quarterly by the University of California Press, 155 Grand Avenue, Suite 400, Oakland, CA 94612-3764, for the Institute for Palestine Studies. See www.ucpressjournals.com/journal.php?j=jps for single issue and subscription orders, and claims information. Periodicals postage paid at Oakland, CA, and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to *Journal of Palestine Studies*, University of California Press, 155 Grand Avenue, Suite 400, Oakland, CA 94612. Please direct all questions regarding subscriptions to University of California Press at the address above or by email at customerservice@ucpress.edu. Domestic claims for non-receipt of issue must be made within 90 days of the mail date, overseas claims within 180 days. Mail dates can be checked here: <http://www.ucpressjournals.com/ucpress.asp?page=ReleaseSchedule>.

UC Press does not begin accepting claims for an issue until thirty (30) days after the mail date. Canadian GST 89626 2698 RT0001.

Correspondence with the editors should be directed to the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 3501 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007, jps@palestine-studies.org, (202) 342-3990. Opinions expressed in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* are solely those of their authors and do not reflect the opinions of the Institute for Palestine Studies. Quotations from articles and other passages from the *Journal* may not be reproduced for sales or advertising without the prior written permission of both author and publisher.

Copying notice: Permission to distribute electronically, republish, resell, license, or otherwise repurpose material from *JPS*, as well as requests for offprints, reprints, or photocopies for classroom use may be submitted through the University of California Press Web site at www.ucpress.edu/journals/rights.htm.

Articles appearing in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* are abstracted and indexed in the following select databases: Alternative Press Index; America: History and Life; Arts & Humanities Citation Index; CSA Political Science & Government; CSA Worldwide Political Science Abstracts; Current Contents; Ethnic NewsWatch; Geographical Abstracts; Index to Jewish Periodicals; International Bibliography of the Social Sciences; International Development Abstracts; International Political Science Abstracts; Middle East Abstracts; PAIS International; ProQuest Research Library; Social Sciences Citation Index; Social Services Abstracts; Sociological Abstracts. For complete abstracting and indexing information, please visit www.ucpress.edu/journals/jps.

Design: Orcada Media Group

Composition: diacriTech

Printing: Sheridan Press

Printed by The Sheridan Press on Forest Stewardship Council®-certified paper.