



# Congressional Monitor

## THE 115TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION: 3 JANUARY 2018–3 JANUARY 2019

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*Published annually, the Congressional Monitor summarizes the bills and resolutions pertinent to Palestine, Israel, or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict that were introduced during the previous session of Congress. The Monitor identifies major legislative themes related to the Palestine issue as well as initiators of specific legislation, their priorities, the range of their concerns, and their attitudes toward regional actors. It is part of a wider project of the Institute for Palestine Studies that includes a comprehensive database at [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org). The database contains all relevant legislation from 2001 to the present (the 107th through the 115th Congresses) and is updated on an ongoing basis. Material in this compilation is drawn from [congress.gov](http://congress.gov), the official government record of all congressional legislation.*

The 115th Congress opened on 1/3/17 and adjourned on 1/3/19, concluding 2 years of Republican control of both the executive and the legislative branches of the U.S. government (the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the presidency). This 1-party control did not result in a disproportionately productive legislative term, however. In the 2-year period, the 100 senators and 435 representatives collectively introduced 13,563 pieces of legislation, up slightly from the 12,073 introduced in the 114th Congress. At the same time, only 223 of those measures—some 1.6 %—carried provisions relevant to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, marking a decrease from the 317 relevant measures introduced during the 114th Congress.<sup>1</sup>

This year's Monitor includes the **62 relevant measures** introduced during the 115th Congress's **second session (3 January 2018–3 January 2019)** and the **15 relevant measures** introduced during the **first session (3 January 2017–3 January 2018)** that were given further consideration during the second.

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<sup>1</sup> Longtime readers of the Congressional Monitor should take note of the fact that this year's edition was produced using new editorial guidelines. In the past, the Monitor took a broad view of "relevance" and included measures relating only tangentially to Israel, the Palestinians, or the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In the current edition of the Monitor, measures dealing with topics such as the 7/14/15 Iran nuclear deal have been excluded in favor of more directly relevant measures.

## OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION

There are two main types of measures available to legislators attempting to shape future U.S. public policy: binding measures—bills and joint resolutions—that, if passed, carry the force of law, and nonbinding measures—simple and concurrent resolutions—that do not. The latter are typically used to “recognize,” “urge,” “encourage,” “affirm,” or “support” people, policies, and events. They are therefore seen as key indicators of congressional trends and priorities. Of the 77 measures under consideration here, 58 were binding (10 passed into law) and 19 nonbinding (4 passed).

Six of the 10 bills that passed into law were appropriations or authorizations bills. These are the large, multifaceted measures Congress uses to exert its constitutional authority over the federal government’s budget. Authorizations bills provide government agencies and programs with the legal authority to do their job, and they often include conditions and terms to regulate their operations. Appropriations bills allocate funding within the constraints of what has been previously authorized. Of the 6 appropriations and authorizations bills that passed into law during the second session of the 115th Congress, 3 carried provisions authorizing or appropriating military aid for Israel, including \$3.1 b. in direct support and more than \$700 m. for joint U.S.-Israeli missile defense programs (\*H.R. 1625 of 3/20/18, \*H.R. 5515 of 4/13/18, and \*H.R. 6157 of 6/20/18). The other 3 were stop-gap measures extending the previous year’s appropriations (\*H.R. 195 of 1/3/17, \*H.R. 1892 of 4/4/17, and \*H. J. Res. 143 of 12/3/18).

## MAJOR TRENDS

As has been the case since at least 2005, when the Congressional Monitor began tracking all U.S. legislation related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, relevant measures can be subdivided into 2 main categories: (1) those directly benefiting Israel, with military aid, nonmilitary support, or ceremonial recognition of Jewish and Israeli history; and (2) those undermining critics or opponents of Israel, including the Palestinians, the United Nations (UN), Iran, and in recent years, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement.

### BENEFITING ISRAEL

Down from 52 in the first session of the 115th Congress, 27 measures under consideration in the second session carried provisions designed to benefit Israel. For the most part, these 18 binding measures and 9 nonbinding measures can be further subdivided into the following categories.

**Maintaining or Increasing Military Support:** Each of the 6 appropriations and authorizations bills that passed into law fell into this category because they were vehicles for Congress’s annual allocation of military aid to Israel. The remaining 6 binding measures here would have directly increased aid to Israel or established new military cooperation programs. None of them passed

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\* Asterisks denote binding measures that passed into law and nonbinding measures that passed.

into law. The 2 nonbinding measures in this category encouraged the Trump administration to continue military cooperation with Israel in order to “counter Iran” (H. Res. 785 of 3/15/18) and called for the U.S. to ensure Israel’s security with the U.S. nuclear arsenal (H. Con. Res. 139).

**Offering Nonmilitary or Ceremonial Support:** Of the 6 nonbinding measures in this category, only one passed: commemorating Israel’s 70th anniversary (\*H. Res. 835 of 4/18/18). The 8 binding measures carried provisions upholding the prohibition on collecting and releasing detailed satellite imagery of Israel (S. 3277 of 7/25/18), reaffirming Israel’s right to self-defense (H. J. Res. 135 of 6/5/18), and enhancing joint law enforcement (H.R. 6998 of 9/28/18 and S. 3625 of 11/14/18), agricultural (S. 3042 of 6/11/18), and space programs (S. 2504 of 3/6/18, H.R. 5141 of 3/1/18, and S. 2497 of 3/5/18). None of them passed into law.

**Commemorating Jewish and Israeli History:** There was only one measure commemorating Jewish history under consideration this session. It would have congratulated the American Jewish Committee on its 112th anniversary (H. Res. 1166 of 11/30/18), and it did not pass.

## UNDERMINING ISRAEL’S ADVERSARIES

In line with the Trump administration’s efforts to bolster Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship, lawmakers kept up ongoing efforts to undermine Israel’s detractors whether across the Middle East, in the United States, or within multilateral institutions. Approximately two-thirds of the measures under consideration here—52 out of 77—carried provisions targeting the Palestinians, the BDS movement, Iran, the UN, Hezbollah, and other entities deemed to be opposing Israel.

### *Palestinians*

Down from 21 in the first session, only 12 measures under consideration in the second session of the 115th Congress carried provisions directly related to the Palestinians. Four of these passed into law: 2 appropriations bills allocate money in economic aid to the Palestinians, which include perennial conditions on the use of that aid (\*H.R. 1625 of 3/20/18 and \*H. J. Res. 143 of 12/3/18), 1 bill directs the president to impose sanctions on anyone connected to Hamas’s alleged use of human shields (\*H.R. 3342 of 7/20/17), and 1 bill requires the Palestinian leadership to choose whether or not to continue accepting U.S. aid or open themselves up to terrorism-related lawsuits from individual U.S. citizens (\*S. 2946 of 5/24/18).

### *The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement*

Congressional focus on BDS waned again this session, with only 6 measures under consideration carrying provisions targeting the movement. As in other recent congressional sessions, the bills targeted organizing efforts on college campuses across the country, authorized state and local governments to put in place their own anti-BDS bills, and imposed new anti-BDS regulations on trade in general. None of the 6 passed into law.

### *Iran*

Setting aside legislation dealing with Iran’s nuclear program and adherence to the 7/14/15 nuclear agreement—formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—the alleged threat

to Israel posed by Iran was a recurrent topic of legislation this session. Of the 21 measures considered here, 8 were nonbinding resolutions condemning Iran for human rights abuses, treatment of protesters, and imprisonment of U.S. citizens. Three of these passed: 1 encouraged the Iranian government to “take meaningful steps” to locate and return a U.S. citizen who went missing in the country in 2007 (\*S. Res. 85 of 3/9/17); 1 condemned the “state-sponsored persecution” of Iran’s Baha’i minority (\*H. Res. 274 of 4/25/17); and 1 directed the president to work with the UN to stop the Iranian government’s violations of human rights (\*H. Res. 676 of 1/5/18). The 13 binding measures largely followed along the same lines, imposing sanctions on Iran for human rights abuses and support for so-called proxy forces in Syria. Two of these bills passed into law: 1 directs the secretaries of state and defense to develop a strategy for countering “the destabilizing activities of Iran” (\*H.R. 5515 of 4/13/18); and 1 is an appropriations bill barring purchases of heavy water from Iran (\*H.R. 6157 of 6/20/18, specifically Section 8131).

### ***United Nations***

Pro-Israel lawmakers in the United States continued their efforts to undermine the UN or urge its reform in response to its alleged anti-Israel bias. In keeping with the Trump administration’s efforts to marginalize millions of Palestinian refugees around the world, they introduced 3 bills targeting the United Nation Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians in the Near East (UNRWA) (H.R. 5898 of 5/21/18, H.R. 6451 of 7/19/18, and S. 3425 of 9/6/18). They also introduced nonbinding measures condemning the UN General Assembly’s rejection of the Trump administration’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital (H. Res. 684 of 1/11/18) and calling for new legislation targeting the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) (H. Res. 728 of 2/7/18). None of these measures passed.

### ***Hezbollah***

While many of the bills to buttress Israeli security or sanction Iran mentioned Hezbollah, only 5 carried measures directly targeting the group. Two of these passed into law: 1 strengthens sanctions in connection with Hezbollah’s fundraising, recruitment, and alleged drug trafficking activities (\*S. 1595 of 7/20/17) and the second directs the president to impose sanctions on anyone he deems complicit in Hezbollah’s use of human shields (\*H.R. 3342 of 7/20/17).

## **NOTES OF 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 taking no action on it for 10 days after its presentation (“pocket veto”). Simple and concurrent resolutions have no legal force, regardless of their fate. 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 houses; 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 (39 of 77 this year), it goes no further.

## UNDERSTANDING THE CONGRESSIONAL MONITOR

Measures are listed in the order in which they were 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 115th Congress.

### Key:

- H.A. . . . . House Amendment
- H. Con. Res. . . . . House Concurrent Resolution
- H. J. Res. . . . . House Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
- H.R. . . . . House Bill (having the force of law)
- H. Res. . . . . Simple House Resolution
- S. . . . . Senate Bill (having the force of law)
- S.A. . . . . Senate Amendment
- S. Con. Res. . . . . Senate Concurrent Resolution
- S. J. Res. . . . . Senate Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
- S. Res. . . . . Simple Senate Resolution
- \* . . . . . Denotes resolutions that passed and bills that were enacted into law

Voice Vote: Vote taken verbally and therefore not recorded.

Vote Tally: Yea–Nay–Present

### **\*3 JANUARY 2017: MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

H.R. 195, Steve Russell (R-OK), no cosponsors.

When congressional leaders failed, for a fourth time, to reach a compromise on FY 2018 appropriations, the federal government shut down for 3 days on 1/20/2018–1/22/2018. Over the course of the weekend, they reached agreement on using this previously unrelated measure to pass another stop-gap funding measure, extending FY 2017 appropriations for all agencies and departments of the federal government, including those whose work is related to Israel/Palestine in some way, through 2/8/18 (see \*H.R. 601 of 1/23/17, \*H. J. Res. 123 of 12/4/17, and \*H.R. 1370 of 3/6/17 for the previous 3 stop-gap funding measures). FY 2018 appropriations ultimately passed into law on 3/23/18 (\*H.R. 1625 of 3/20/18).

*Last major action:* 1/22/18 became public law.

### 17 JANUARY 2017: COMBATING BDS ACT OF 2017

S. 170, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 48 cosponsors.

In an effort to undermine the growing movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel, this bill would authorize state and local governments to adopt laws barring contracts with persons or entities that engage in BDS. **See [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org) for a full summary.**

Although this measure gained little traction during the first session of the Congress, on 3/1/18, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) launched a campaign in support of it and another anti-BDS bill, the Israel Anti-Boycott Act (S. 720 of 3/23/17).

*See also:* similar bill H.R. 2856 of 6/8/17 at [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org).

*Last major action:* 1/17/17 referred to Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### 24 JANUARY 2017: COMBATING EUROPEAN ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2017

H.R. 672, Nita Lowey (D-NY), 34 cosponsors.

This bill requires the State Department to include a new section on anti-Semitism in Europe in its annual report on international religious freedom. Specifically, for each European country where threats to Jewish persons are particularly significant, this section is required to cover the security challenges of Jewish communities; U.S. efforts to partner with local law enforcement to combat anti-Semitic attacks; educational programming that highlights the values of pluralism and tolerance; and efforts by European governments to adopt and apply a working definition of anti-Semitism.

*See also:* identical bill S. 198 of 1/24/17.

*Last major action:* 12/22/18 passed in Senate by unanimous consent (5/17/17 passed in House by voice vote).

### \*31 JANUARY 2018: ANWAR SADAT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ACT

H.R. 754, Chris Stewart (R-UT), 291 cosponsors.

This law arranges for the posthumous award of a Congressional Gold Medal to former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat on the centennial of his birth, in recognition of “his achievements and heroic actions to attain comprehensive peace in the Middle East.”

*See also:* S. 266 of 2/1/17.

*Last major action:* 12/13/18 became public law (12/4/18 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 9/26/18 agreed to in House by voice vote).

### 2 FEBRUARY 2017: ANWAR SADAT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ACT

S. 266, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 71 cosponsors.

***See identical bill \*H.R. 754 of 1/31/17 for a full summary.***

*Last major action:* 8/22/18 passed in Senate by voice vote.

### \*9 MARCH 2017: A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO FULFILL REPEATED PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, THE LONGEST HELD UNITED STATES CIVILIAN IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

S. Res. 85, Bill Nelson (D-FL), 1 cosponsor.

Recognizing that 3/9/17 marked 10 years since former FBI agent Robert Levinson disappeared in Iran, this resolution urged the Iranian government to take “meaningful steps” to fulfill its promises to “assist in locating and returning” Levinson to the U.S., *inter alia*.

*Last major action:* 4/9/18 resolution agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

### 23 MARCH 2017: ISRAEL ANTI-BOYCOTT ACT

S. 720, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), 58 cosponsors.

Built on existing U.S. law barring participation in the Arab League boycott of Israel, this bill would block U.S. persons engaged in interstate or international commerce from complying with or supporting a boycott of Israel or Israeli businesses, including those operating in the settlements, called for by an international institution, such as the UN or EU. It would also block U.S. persons from providing or requesting information on any person’s business relationship with Israel. This provision was designed in response to the UNHRC’s creation of a “blacklist” of all Israeli and international firms operating directly or indirectly in the occupied Palestinian territories on 3/24/16 (see *JPS* 45[4]), and it would specifically apply to the BDS movement. **See [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org) for a full summary.**

After criticism from civil liberties groups undermined the bipartisan support for this bill in 2017, its supporters regrouped in early 2018. AIPAC launched a campaign (3/1/18) pushing for this and another anti-BDS bill (S. 170 of 1/17/17). Original sponsors Cardin and Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) then released an updated version of the bill on 3/3/18. The new draft affirmed that nothing in the bill “should be construed to diminish or infringe on any right protected under the First Amendment,” according to their 3/3/ press release. It also limited penalties for violations of its key provision to fines only (the original bill would have allowed for prison sentences of up to 20 years), and clarified a few other small issues. “I am confident this bill strikes the right balance between protecting U.S. businesses and our Israeli allies from unfair targeting by international organization, while upholding America’s commitment to free speech and individual liberty,” Portman said (3/3/17).

After Cardin and Portman released their amended text, 4 new cosponsors signed on to back the bill, including 1 Democrat—Senator Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota. The ACLU, one of the chief opponents of the original draft, sent a letter to the Senate on 3/6/17 contesting the new draft. “The proposed changes are improvements, but the revised bill continues to penalize participants in political boycotts in violation of the First Amendment. If it is enacted in this form and takes effect, we will strongly consider fighting it in court,” said Ben Wizner, the director of the ACLU’s Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project. The ACLU had challenged similar anti-BDS bills in 2 states in 2017 and 2018, receiving a favorable ruling in Arizona. As the session ended, Cardin unsuccessfully attempted to attach this measure to an omnibus appropriations bill, and 3 more senators signed on as cosponsors (Sens. Angus King [I-ME], Cindy Hyde-Smith [R-MS], and Cory Booker [D-NJ]).

*See also:* H.R. 1697 of 3/23/17.

*Last major action:* 3/23/17 referred to Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### 23 MARCH 2017: ISRAEL ANTI-BOYCOTT ACT

H.R. 1697, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 292 cosponsors.

**See [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org) for a full summary.**

*See also:* S. 720 of 3/23/17.

*Last major action:* 6/28/18 ordered to be reported from House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### **\*4 APRIL 2017: BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2018**

H.R. 1892, John Larson (D-CT), 16 cosponsors.

When congressional leaders failed, for a fifth time, to reach a compromise on FY 2018 appropriations, they used this measure to pass another stop-gap funding initiative. It extends FY 2017 appropriations to all agencies and departments of the federal government through 3/23/18 (see \*H.R. 601 of 1/23/17, \*H. J. Res. 123 of 12/4/17, \*H.R. 1370 of 3/6/17, and \*H.R. 195 of 1/3/17 for the previous 4 stop-gap funding measures). FY 2018 appropriations ultimately passed into law on 3/23/18 (\*H.R. 1625 of 3/20/18).

*See also:* \*S. Res. 139 of 4/25/17.

*Last major action:* 2/9/18 became public law.

#### **\*25 APRIL 2017: CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

H. Res. 274, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 133 cosponsors.

This resolution urged the president to demand the release of prisoners being held on account of their religion and to impose sanctions on Iranian officials responsible for serious human rights abuses. It also condemned the Iranian government's persecution of its Baha'i minority.

*Last major action:* 12/12/18 agreed to in House without objection.

#### **4 MAY 2017: SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2018**

H.R. 1911, Christopher Smith (R-NJ), 86 cosponsors.

This bill would promote to the rank of ambassador the special envoy in charge of monitoring and combatting anti-Semitism and direct the envoy to serve as the primary U.S. official coordinating efforts across the government to combat anti-Semitism.

*Last major action:* 9/13/18 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 393–2.

#### **24 MAY 2017: UNITED STATES-JORDAN DEFENSE COOPERATION EXTENSION ACT**

H.R. 2646, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 12 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this bill makes Jordan eligible for the streamlined sale of certain military articles through 12/31/22 and authorizes the president to establish and operate an enterprise fund to provide Jordan with assistance.

*Last major action:* 2/5/18 agreed to in House by voice vote.

#### **\*20 JULY 2017: HIZBALLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2018**

S. 1595, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 39 cosponsors.

Amending the Hizballah International Financial Prevention Act of 2015 (see \*H.R. 2297 of 11/17/15 at [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org)), this bill further strengthens sanctions on Hezbollah and its supporters.



In terms of new sanctions, the president is required to impose new restrictions on any foreign entity that knowingly provides fundraising and recruitment services for Hezbollah, including al-Manar TV, the Lebanese satellite television station affiliated with Hezbollah, broadcasting from Beirut, and any foreign government agency providing financial support or other assistance to Hezbollah. Finally, to undermine the organization's alleged narcotics trafficking, the president is required to block all transactions of Hezbollah property if such property is in the United States or comes into the possession of a U.S. citizen. All these restrictions are subject to a presidential national security waiver.

In terms of congressional oversight, the president and his deputies are required to report to Congress on: foreign persons that knowingly assist or otherwise support foreign persons assisting Hezbollah; financial institutions that are owned or organized under the laws of state sponsors of terrorism; Hezbollah's "racketeering" activities; efforts taken to combat contraband tobacco networks used by Hezbollah; the estimated net worth of Hezbollah's senior officials, including how they acquired and use their money; and the legal measures available to help target Hezbollah's global logistics networks.

*See also:* identical House bill H.R. 3329 of 7/20/17.

*Last major action:* 10/25/18 became public law (10/11/18 Senate agreed to House amendment by unanimous consent; 9/25/18 passed in House by voice vote; 10/5/17 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent).

#### **\*20 JULY 2017: SANCTIONING THE USE OF CIVILIANS AS DEFENSELESS SHIELDS ACT**

H.R. 3342, Mike Gallagher (R-WI), 26 cosponsors.

Initially focused solely on Hezbollah, the version of this bill that passed in Senate on 10/11/18, and was later voted into law, directs the president to impose sanctions on any Hamas or Hezbollah member or affiliate deemed responsible for or complicit in the use of human shields, as well as any foreign person or other entity deemed to have knowingly supported or directed such conduct. Sanctions in this case include blocking of U.S. property transactions and denial of access to the United States. The president would be permitted to waive sanctions on a case-by-case basis in the interest of national security.

Furthermore, the president was urged to submit a list of all foreign persons who knowingly ordered, controlled, or otherwise directed the use of human shields and to impose the same sanctions on them as outlined above.

*See also:* S. 3257 of 7/24/18 and H.R. 3542 of 7/28/18.

*Last major action:* 12/21/18 became public law (12/11/18 House agreed to Senate amendments without objection; 10/11/18 passed in Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent; 10/25/17 agreed to in House by voice vote).

#### **28 JULY 2017: HAMAS HUMAN SHIELDS PREVENTION ACT**

H.R. 3542, Joe Wilson (R-SC), 21 cosponsors.

This bill would direct the president to block U.S. property transactions and entry into the United States of any foreign person or entity that significantly facilitated, or provided material support for, Hamas's alleged use of human shields, or was responsible for or complicit in such conduct, including

members of Hamas. The president would be allowed to waive any of these sanctions for 120 days in the interest of national security.

Furthermore, this bill would urge the president to direct the U.S. ambassador to the UN to urge the UN Security Council (UNSC) to pass a resolution imposing multilateral sanctions related to Hamas and human shields.

*See also:* \*H.R. 3342 of 7/20/18 and H.R. 3257 of 7/24/18.

*Last major action:* 2/14/18 passed in House by yeay/nay vote, 415–0.

### 3 JANUARY 2018: CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS VIOLENCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS AND CALLING FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONCERNS OF THE CITIZENS OF IRAN

H. Res. 675, Jim Banks (R-IN), 8 cosponsors.

Introduced after a week of popular anti-government protests in Iran, this resolution condemned the Iranian government for oppressing its citizens, suppressing their communication, and funding terrorist organizations.

*See also:* identical measure S. Res. 367 of 1/4/18.

*Last major action:* 1/8/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### 4 JANUARY 2018: A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS VIOLENCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS AND CALLING FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONCERNS OF THE CITIZENS OF IRAN

S. Res. 367, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 15 cosponsors.

**See identical measure H. Res. 675 of 1/3/18 for a full summary.**

*Last major action:* 1/4/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

### 4 JANUARY 2018: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF ALL IRANIAN CITIZENS TO HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD

S. Res. 368, Bob Corker (R-TN), 44 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution urged the president and secretary of state to get the UNSC and UNHRC to condemn the Iranian government’s human rights abuses and to work with the international community to “ensure that violations of human rights are part of all formal and informal multilateral or bilateral discussions with and regarding Iran.”

*Last major action:* 1/4/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

### \*5 JANUARY 2018: SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAN TO FREE EXPRESSION, CONDEMNING THE IRANIAN REGIME FOR ITS CRACKDOWN ON LEGITIMATE PROTESTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H. Res. 676, Edward Royce (R-CA), 41 cosponsors.

This resolution urged the president and the State Department to use targeted sanctions and to work with the UN against the Iranian government’s human rights violations.

*Last major action:* 1/9/18 agreed to by yeay/nay vote, 415–2.

### 9 JANUARY 2018: IRAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOSTAGE-TAKING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

H.R. 4744, Michael McCaul (R-TX), 46 cosponsors.

Designed to provide “the Trump administration with the tools necessary to hold Iranian government officials responsible for human rights violations, corruption, and censorship,” according to a press release from McCaul’s office, this bill would expand and strengthen sanctions on Iranian human rights abusers. Specifically, it would direct the president to identify Iranian persons responsible for or complicit in the intimidation, abuse, extortion, detention, or trial of U.S. citizens or permanent residents in Iran or Iranian persons outside of Iran. Any such persons would be denied entry to the United States and blocked from making transactions of U.S. property. The president would be authorized to impose similar sanctions on the immediate family of any listed person as well.

*See also:* nearly identical bill S. 2365 of 1/30/2018.

*Last major action:* 4/26/18 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 410–2.

#### **11 JANUARY 2018: OBJECTING TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/RES/ES-10/19, WHICH CRITICIZES THE UNITED STATES’ RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

H. Res. 684, Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), 5 cosponsors.

This resolution affirmed U.S. president Trump’s 12/6/17 recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and called for the repeal of the UN General Assembly resolution condemning it.

*Last major action:* 1/11/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### **18 JANUARY 2018: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE COURAGEOUS WORK AND LIFE OF ARGENTINE PROSECUTOR ALBERTO NISMAN, AND CALLING FOR A SWIFT AND TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION INTO HIS TRAGIC DEATH IN BUENOS AIRES ON JANUARY 18, 2015**

H. Res. 704, Theodore Deutch (D-FL), 2 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution urged the president to continue to monitor Iran’s activities in Latin America as mandated by the Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act of 2012 (see \*H.R. 3783 of 12/28/13).

Like identical resolution S. Res. 354 of 12/7/17, it was introduced in response to the death of Argentine special prosecutor Alberto Nisman in 1/2015. Nisman was found dead in his home hours before he was set to defend his allegation that then pres. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner covered up Iran’s alleged involvement in the bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (Argentine Israelite Mutual Aid Association) in Buenos Aires in 1994.

*See also:* H. Res. 54 of 1/23/17.

*Last major action:* 1/18/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### **29 JANUARY 2018: IRANIAN LEADERSHIP ASSET TRANSPARENCY ACT**

S. 2353, Tom Cotton (R-AR), 11 cosponsors.

Like companion measure H.R. 1638 of 3/20/17, which passed in House on 12/13/17, this bill would require the Treasury to report to Congress annually on certain Iranian officials’ assets, including those held in U.S. and foreign financial institutions. The report would also be required to include a description of how these officials acquired and use these assets, recommendations for new U.S. sanctions to prevent Iran from using these assets to support its ballistic missile program

or human rights abuses, and a description of any new methods being used to evade money laundering, inter alia.

*Last major action:* 1/29/2018 referred to Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### 30 JANUARY 2018: IRAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOSTAGE-TAKING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

S. 2365, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 4 cosponsors.

**See nearly identical bill H.R. 4744 of 1/9/18 for a full summary.**

*Last major action:* 1/30/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

### 7 FEBRUARY 2018: REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND CONDEMNING THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FOR CERTAIN WASTEFUL AND ABUSIVE ACTIONS.

H. Res. 728, Joe Wilson (R-SC), 1 cosponsor.

Citing allegedly disproportionate targeting of Israel by the UNHRC, this resolution urged Congress to pass legislation expanding anti-boycott laws to include international organizations like the UN and EU and called on the UNHRC to be more competitive and transparent in its membership selection, inter alia.

*Last major action:* 2/7/18 referred to House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Financial Services.

### 15 FEBRUARY 2018: HEZBOLLAH KINGPIN DESIGNATION ACT

H.R. 5035, Ted Budd (R-NC), 2 cosponsors.

This bill would facilitate additional sanctions on Hezbollah by directing the president to determine whether the group qualified as a “significant foreign narcotics trafficker” and a “transnational criminal organization” under U.S. law. It would also direct the secretary of the Treasury to report to Congress with estimates of the total assets controlled by leaders of political parties or movements in the United States found to be linked to Hezbollah.

*Last major action:* 2/15/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### 27 FEBRUARY 2018: UNITED STATES-ISRAEL JOINT DRONE DETECTION COOPERATION ACT

H.R. 5117, Charlie Crist (D-FL), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would authorize the president to enter an agreement with the Israeli government to carry out research, development, testing, evaluation, and joint production of military technology that counters “unmanned aerial vehicles,” or drones, threatening the United States or Israel.

The full text of this bill was included in the United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5141 of 3/1/18).

*Last major action:* 2/27/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### 27 FEBRUARY 2018: DETERRING AND DEFEATING ROCKET AND MISSILE THREATS TO ISRAEL ACT OF 2018

H.R. 5126, Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), 8 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to provide “such sums as may be necessary” upon request from the Israeli government for the procurement of “missile defense systems, including the Iron Dome, David Sling, and Arrow systems, additional interceptors for those systems or any future missile defense systems, and missile defense development.” Within 10 days of receiving any such requests, the secretaries of defense and state would be required to report to Congress and justify an exception being made to the funding caps on annual U.S. military aid agreed upon in the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (see *JPS* 46 [2]).

*Last major action:* 2/28/18 referred to House Subcommittee on Strategic Forces.

## 28 FEBRUARY 2018: A JOINT RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS

S. J. Res. 54, Bernard Sanders (I-VT), 18 cosponsors.

In the context of this multifaceted joint resolution directing the president to withdraw the U.S. Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting Yemen, one provision concerns U.S.-Israeli military coordination. It stated, “Nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.” It was added by a vote of 99–0 during the Senate’s consideration in early 12/2018.

*Last major action:* 12/13/18 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 56–41.

## 1 MARCH 2018: IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS ECONOMIC EXCLUSION ACT

H.R. 5132, Edward Royce (R-CA), 221 cosponsors.

This bill would expand sanctions on Iran’s Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and increase congressional oversight of U.S. policy toward the IRGC. Specifically, it would require the president to report to Congress on foreign and domestic supply chains that significantly aid the IRGC; any Iranian state-owned entities, such as Mahan Air, that allegedly support so-called terrorist groups; and any companies worth more than \$100 m. that are also owned or controlled by the IRGC. It would also state Congress’s opposition to Iran’s membership of the World Trade Organization so long as Iran is officially designated a state sponsor of terror.

This bill was a key ask at AIPAC’s annual lobbying day in early 3/2018.

*See also:* similar bill S. 3516 of 9/26/18 and AIPAC’s other main legislative project H.R. 5141 of 3/1/18.

*Last major action:* 3/7/18 referred to House Subcommittee on Trade.

## 1 MARCH 2018: UNITED STATES-ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

H.R. 5141, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 302 cosponsors.

***See the Senate version of this bill S. 2497 of 3/5/18 for a full summary.***

As introduced, the 2 bills of the same name were effectively identical except for 1 provision. This version included a section directing the secretary of state to establish a grant-making program to support joint cybersecurity research and development with the Israeli government.

*Last major action:* 5/22/18 referred to House Subcommittee on Research and Technology.

## 5 MARCH 2018: UNITED STATES-ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

S. 2497, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 72 cosponsors.

This bill maintains U.S. military aid to Israel and expands joint security programs in a variety of ways. In terms of direct security assistance, it authorizes foreign military financing for Israel at the levels set out in the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (see *JPS* 46 [2]) between the 2 countries; extends the Israeli government's authority to access the war reserves stockpile in Israel and certain loan guarantees through FY 2023; and directs the president to report to Congress on the reasons why Israel has not yet been made eligible for a strategic trade authorization exemption. It also authorizes the president to conduct a joint assessment with the Israeli government of the quantity and type of precision-guided munitions that the Israeli army (IDF) would need to combat Hezbollah and Hamas and authorizes the president to transfer such munitions and related materials to Israel "as necessary for self-defense."

In terms of cooperative programs, it directs the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to continue working with the Israel Space Agency in pursuit of "peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest"; authorizes the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to reach a Memorandum of Understanding with Israel "in order to advance common goals on energy, agriculture and food security, democracy, human rights and governance, economic growth and trade, education, environment, global health and water sanitation"; and authorizes the president to make an agreement with Israel on joint research, development, testing, evaluation, and production of antidrone technology.

Finally, the bill directs the president to include consideration of cybersecurity, drones, and other emerging technologies and alleged threats to Israel from his report to Congress on Israel's "qualitative military edge" and reaffirms the U.S. policy to maintain Israel's "ability to counter and defeat any credible conventional military or emerging threat from any individual state or possible coalition of states or from non-state actors."

*Last major action:* 9/12/18 passed in House (8/1/18 passed in Senate).

## 6 MARCH 2018: UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL SPACE COOPERATION ACT

S. 2504, Gary Peters (D-MI), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would direct the administrator of NASA to continue working with the Israel Space Agency to "identify and cooperatively pursue peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest," while taking steps to protect U.S. intellectual property and trade secrets.

The text of this measure was included in the United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5141 of 3/1/18).

*See also:* H.R. 1159 of 2/16/17 and H.R. 5141 of 3/1/18.

*Last major action:* 3/6/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

## 8 MARCH 2018: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2018

S. 2528, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 4 cosponsors.

Reaffirming the rights of the Iranian people to freedom of speech and assembly, this bill would direct the secretary of state to work with relevant social media companies to build an “anonymized and public comprehensive archive of all social media communications, whether successfully transmitted or blocked by the Government of Iran, to and from protesters in Iran since [12/28/17].” The secretary would also be required to submit to Congress a strategy for potential public and private sector actions to prevent the Iranian government from shutting down internet access, as well as a report on the Iranian government’s actions in response to the wave of popular economic protests that swept Iran starting on 12/28/17 (see *JPS* 47 [3]).

*Last major action:* 3/8/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

**15 MARCH 2018: EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE CAPABILITIES TO COUNTER IRAN’S DESTABILIZING ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT SHARED INTERESTS, INCLUDING STABILITY AND SAFETY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

H. Res. 785, Michael Conaway (R-TX), 130 cosponsors.

This resolution called for continued U.S.-Israel cooperation to “counter Iran’s destabilizing activities and support shared interests, including stability and safety in the Middle East” and endorsed U.S. president Trump’s 12/6/17 recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, inter alia.

*Last major action:* 3/15/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

**\*20 MARCH 2018: CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018**

H.R. 1625, Edward Royce (R-CA), 40 cosponsors.

After congressional leaders failed to compromise on FY 2018 appropriations in 2017, they extended FY 2017 appropriations for all government programs and agencies through 1/19/18, then 2/8/18, and finally 3/23/18 before reaching an agreement (see \*H.R. 1370 of 3/6/17, \*H.R. 195 of 1/3/17, and \*H.R. 1892 of 4/4/17). This bill reflects the compromise they reached in the lead-up to the 3/23/18 deadline, including provisions dealing with military aid to Israel and economic aid for the Palestinians.

***Assistance to Israel***

No less than \$3.1 b. was made available in foreign military financing (FMF) for Israel, including \$815.3 m. to be spent outside the U.S. (This is a unique arrangement among all recipients of U.S. military aid; it effectively subsidizes the Israeli defense industry).

Up from \$600.735 m. from FY 2017, \$705.8 m. was allotted to U.S.-Israeli cooperative programs. From this total, \$92 m. was designated for Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system; \$221.5 m. was for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense Program (no more than \$120 m. of which would be obligated until the Trump administration reached an agreement for coproduction in the United States); \$310 m. was set aside for an upper-tier component of Israel’s missile defense architecture (\$120 m. of which was for coproduction of Arrow 3 missiles in the United States); and \$82.3 m. was for the Arrow System Improvement Program.

As in previous years, interest and earnings accrued by the Israeli Arab Scholarship Program’s endowment were authorized for expenditure.

Matching the appropriation from FY 2017, \$7.5 m. was designated for resettlement in Israel of immigrants from Eastern European countries.

Finally, Israel was an authorized recipient of financing for the procurement of certain military materials from U.S. commercial suppliers, but only if the president determined there were compelling foreign policy or national security reasons for not supplying such materials via government-to-government sale (Egypt was also made an authorized recipient in this provision).

### ***Funding for the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Programs in the West Bank and Gaza***

The State Department's budget request was the best indicator of the volume of aid the Palestinians could expect from the United States in 2018. As in previous years, no specific totals were released but financial support to the PA and for USAID programs serving the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza were authorized. The department put in for \$215 m. in Economic Support and Development Fund (ESDF) support, down from \$327.6 m. in FY 2017, to "improve the economic environment in the West Bank and Gaza to advance stability and allow Palestinians, particularly youth, to more fully realize their economic potential." In addition, the department requested \$35 m. from the overall request for International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) funds and \$1 m. from the request for Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR).

As in previous years, aid to the Palestinians was subject to a slew of restrictions and conditions. Prior to the transfer of any funds, the secretary of state would be required to certify that their purpose was to "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." All transfers were to be suspended if the Palestinians initiated or actively supported an International Criminal Court (ICC)-authorized investigation into alleged Israeli war crimes or if the Palestinians achieved the standing of a fully-fledged UN member state outside a negotiated settlement with Israel. The secretary of state would be permitted a national security waiver of this restriction, so long as he reported to Congress on how an exception would "assist in furthering Middle East peace." Likewise, the president was authorized to waive the ban on a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) office in the United States if he could certify to Congress that the Palestinians had not obtained member state status or equivalent standing at the UN or in any UN body and that they had not "taken any action [ . . . ] intended to influence a determination by the ICC to initiate a judicially authorized investigation" into alleged Israeli war crimes against Palestinians. If the president was unable to make these certifications, he was still permitted to waive the ban if he could certify that the Palestinians had entered into "direct and meaningful" negotiations with Israel.

Moreover, the amount of aid disbursed under the ESDF program was to be reduced by the amount paid out by the PA, the PLO, or any successor organization to Palestinians imprisoned by Israel on terrorism-related charges and to the families of Palestinians killed while attempting to commit so-called acts of terror during the previous calendar year. In a new provision this year, Congress attached the full text of the Taylor Force Act to this bill, barring the disbursement of any funds that "directly benefits" the PA unless the secretary of state could certify that the PA,



PLO, or any successor organization had ended the abovementioned payments (see H.R. 1164 of 2/16/17 at [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org) and the Update in *JPS* 47 [4] for details).

Finally, the secretary of state would be required to submit 2 reports to Congress: the first about assistance provided to the PA's security apparatus, including "detailed descriptions" of training, curriculum, and equipment provided, inter alia; the second detailing any "steps taken by the PA to counter incitement of violence against Israelis and to promote peace and coexistence with Israel."

### ***Support for Egypt***

Up to \$1.3 b. in FMF and up to \$112.5 m. in ESF was made available for Egypt, including no less than \$35 m. for higher education programs and no less than \$10 m. for scholarships to Egyptian students with high financial need.

As in recent years, this aid was subject to a series of restrictions and qualifications. Chief among them, the secretary of state would have to certify that the Egyptian government was "sustaining the strategic relationship with the U.S." and "meeting its obligations under the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty" prior to any transfers. The secretary was also directed to withhold an amount of ESF equivalent to the total expended by the United States for bail and by NGOs on legal and court fees in connection with so-called democracy-related trials in Egypt (as in previous years, 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). Finally, \$300 m. in FMF was to be withheld until such a time that the secretary could certify that Egypt was taking "sustained and effective" steps to "advance democracy and human rights," "release political prisoners and provide detainees with due process of law," "hold Egyptian security forces accountable," "investigate and prosecute extrajudicial killing and forced disappearances," and "provide regular access for U.S. officials to monitor such assistance in areas where the assistance is used." The secretary would be allowed to waive this certification requirement if he determined it was in the interest of national security.

An unspecified amount of ESF would be made available for loan guarantees to Egypt. The ESF appropriation listed above was also made available for the creation or operation of 1 or more "enterprise funds" for Egypt (see \*H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15 at [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org) for background on enterprise funds).

### ***Military and Economic Support for Jordan***

No less than \$1.525 b. was made available for aid to Jordan, including \$1.0842 b. in ESF and \$425 m. in FMF.

### ***Assistance to Lebanon***

Unspecified ESF, INCLE, and FMF was made available for Lebanon. The INCLE and FMF were designated for the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) for equipment and programs addressing "security and stability requirements in areas affected by the conflict in Syria." Furthermore, FMF were made available for programs that "professionalize the LAF and to strengthen border security and combat terrorism, including training and equipping the LAF to secure Lebanon's borders, interdicting arms shipments, preventing the use of Lebanon

as a safe haven for terrorist groups, and to implement [UNSC] Resolution 1701,” which called for a full cessation of Israeli-Lebanese hostilities in 2006, inter alia. No support for the LAF was to be made available until the secretary of state submitted a spend plan to Congress, including “actions to be taken to ensure equipment provided to the LAF is only used for the intended purposes.” Finally, none of the aforementioned aid would be made available if the ISF or LAF were controlled by a terrorist organization, an implicit reference to Hezbollah, which holds key posts in the Lebanese government and is also on the U.S. foreign terrorist organization list.

### ***Funding and Restrictions on Relevant Government Entities and International Programs/Agencies***

**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 were banned.

**Coups d’État:** Unless certified by the secretary of state that a democratically elected government had subsequently taken power, all assistance would be cut off to any country whose head of government was deposed by the military. This provision did not apply to programs promoting “democratic elections or public participation in the democratic process.”

**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 encouraged the Arab League to normalize relations with Israel, called on the president and secretary of state to help end the boycott, and urged the president to report to Congress annually on steps taken to do so.

**Palestinian Statehood:** No support was permitted for the establishment of a Palestinian state unless the secretary of state certified that certain conditions were met, namely that the governing entity was demonstrating a commitment to peaceful coexistence with Israel and pursuing counterterrorism measures in the West Bank and Gaza. Inter alia, the PA or the governing entity of a new Palestinian state would have to terminate all claims of “belligerency,” respect the “sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the area through the establishment of demilitarized zones and other measures,” and work toward establishing a “framework” to settle the refugee question. The president was permitted a national security waiver on this provision.

**Business with the PA in Jerusalem:** No funds appropriated in this bill were authorized for expenditure on a diplomatic mission of any kind in Jerusalem to conduct business with the PA or any successor government other than the U.S. consulate.

**Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC):** Funding of the PBC was 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 was required to certify that none of the aid would go to any person or group that had participated in or advocated for acts of terrorism and that all grantees had been thoroughly vetted. These provisions were subject to audit and investigation, for which up to \$500,000 would be appropriated to USAID. Furthermore, no aid was made available for “the purpose of recognizing or otherwise honoring individuals who commit, or have committed acts of terrorism” or, in a new provision this year, educational institutions named after such individuals.

**Limits on Aid to the PA:** Barring a presidential national security waiver, aid to the PA was 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.

**Prohibition of Assistance to the PLO and Hamas:** Aid transfers in support of the PLO were barred. No funds were permitted to help pay the salaries of PA employees in Gaza or to support Hamas, any power-sharing government of which Hamas was a member, any government resulting from an agreement with Hamas, or one in which Hamas exercised “undue influence.” The president was permitted to waive this restriction if he could certify that all ministers in such a power-sharing arrangement had 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 exercised the waiver, the secretary of state would have to submit to Congress a quarterly report on the power-sharing government and ensuring that its ministers were continuing to uphold the 2 principles. If the president could not provide said certification, aid may still be disbursed, but only to specific agencies and programs, including the office of the PA president.

**Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA):** Although neither the bill nor its explanatory materials included any specific appropriation for UNRWA, U.S. funding for UNRWA typically comes out of the appropriation for the MRA fund (\$2.431 b.). However, U.S. president Trump ordered punitive cuts to U.S. aid for UNRWA in 1/2018 (see *JPS* 47[3]), and it was unclear at the time of this bill’s passage how much, if any, U.S. aid would be transferred to the agency in 2018. Still, prior to the disbursement of any funds to UNRWA, the secretary of state would have to certify that the agency was using its local officers to inspect agency installations and reporting any inappropriate use; addressing any staff or beneficiary “taking steps to ensure” the content of all its education materials were consistent with values of human rights, dignity, and tolerance, as well as being free from incitement; avoiding financial institutions and other entities that would put the agency in conflict with U.S. law; and complying with the UN’s biennial audit requirements.

**UNHRC:** No funds were made available for support for the UNHRC unless the secretary of state determined that such support was in the interest of national security and that the UNHRC was taking “significant steps” to remove Israel as a permanent agenda item.

**Reconciliation Programs:** Up from \$26 m. in FY 2017, no less than \$30 m. was made available to support “people-to-people” reconciliation programs in areas of civil strife and war around the world.

**International Peacekeeping Activities:** Down from \$1.35466 b. in FY 2017, \$967.456 m. was made available for contributions to these activities. In contrast to previous years, the State Department did make specific requests for U.S. contributions to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Syrian-Israeli border. Instead, the department’s budget request included the following: “FY 2018 requirements pending negotiations on reducing overall UN peacekeeping budget levels or U.S. assessed contributions.”

**Complex Crises Fund:** Down from \$30 m. in FY 2017, \$10 m. was made available for this program, which has been used to address instability caused by political transitions in the Middle East.

**Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG):** \$797.986 m. was made available for the BBG to carry out “international communication activities, and to make and supervise grants for radio and television broadcasting to the Middle East.” The BBG was directed to notify Congress within 15 days if any of its broadcast entities were providing an open platform for designated terrorist groups.

*Last major action:* 3/23/18 became public law (3/23/17 resolving differences—Senate agreed to House amendments, 65–32; 3/22/18 resolving differences—House agreed to Senate draft, with amendment, 256–167; 2/28/18 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 5/22/18 passed in House by voice vote).

## 21 MARCH 2018: NUCLEAR COOPERATION REFORM ACT OF 2018

H.R. 5357, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 6 cosponsors.

This bill would amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which authorized the president to negotiate and implement nuclear cooperation agreements with other countries barring a congressional joint resolution of disapproval, to require a stronger congressional review process. Mainly, it would require Congress to pass a joint resolution of approval before the implementation of any such agreement. The bill would also prohibit any foreign aid to a country that the secretary of state determined to have supported the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, *inter alia*.

Ros-Lehtinen and her initial cosponsors submitted this bill amid reports that the Trump administration was pursuing a sale of nuclear reactors to Saudi Arabia, despite Saudi refusals to accept certain nonproliferation conditions. In her press release announcing the bill, Ros-Lehtinen framed the bill in that context: “Nuclear cooperation agreements—especially in an unstable region like the Middle East—are very serious issues for U.S. national security and should always contain restrictions on the enrichment and reprocessing necessary for a nuclear weapon.”

*Last major action:* 3/21/18 referred to House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Rules.

## 22 MARCH 2018: IRAN RESPONSIBLE REPORTING ACT OF 2018

H.R. 5394, Brendan Boyle (D-PA), no cosponsors.

Designed to “punish the widespread corruption” within Iran’s IRGC, according to a press release from Boyle’s office, this bill would direct the president to file a new report to Congress on other countries’ efforts to sanction Iran in connection with its human rights violations and ballistic missile program. It would also authorize the secretaries of state and the treasury to host an annual summit for representatives of all of Iran’s major trading partners “for the purpose of identifying and taking appropriate actions with respect to front companies and funding mechanisms” of the IRGC.

*Last major action:* 3/22/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## 22 MARCH 2018: A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES-EGYPT PARTNERSHIP AND THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO FREE, FAIR, CREDIBLE, AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 26, 2018

S. Res. 450, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

Introduced a week before Egypt’s presidential elections, this resolution expressed concern about intimidation and detention of “credible” opponents to Egyptian pres. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who was considered an overwhelming favorite for reelection. It also noted a lack of progress in Egypt’s efforts

to uphold human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law; and encouraged the president to appoint an assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs and a U.S. ambassador to Egypt.

*Last major action:* 3/22/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 11 APRIL 2018: COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE OPENING OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM

H. Res. 815, Joe Wilson (R-SC), no cosponsors.

In addition to commending President Trump for recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and relocating the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, this resolution encouraged other countries to move their embassies to Jerusalem.

*Last major action:* 6/4/18 referred to House Subcommittee on Middle East and Africa.

#### \*13 APRIL 2018: JOHN S. MCCAIN NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

H.R. 5515, Mac Thornberry (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This annual must-pass bill authorizes defense spending. It is a multifaceted piece of legislation on all aspects of the Defense Department's activities. Relevant provisions deal with military aid for Israel, a ballistic missile defense system for U.S. allies in the Middle East, and congressional oversight of the Obama administration's Iran policy.

#### ***Military Aid for Israel***

Reaffirming the 9/2016 U.S.-Israeli Memorandum of Understanding worth \$38 b. of U.S military aid to Israel over 10 years, this bill specifically authorized up to \$300 m. for co-development and coproduction activities on joint missile defense programs, including \$50 m. for the David's Sling Weapon System, \$80 m. for the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program, and \$70 m. for the Iron Dome. All of the abovementioned authorizations were made subject to existing bilateral agreements on coproduction of goods in the United States. Separately, the bill authorized up to \$50 m. to fund joint U.S.-Israeli anti-tunneling programs. Congress had previously authorized similar programs on joint missile defense and anti-tunneling initiatives.

The bill also extended access to war reserves stockpiles in Israel through 9/30/23 and authorized an additional \$1 b. in U.S. weapons to be added to those stockpiles.

For the first time, the secretary of defense was authorized to establish a joint U.S.-Israeli program to carry out research, development, testing, and evaluation of capabilities for countering unmanned aerial systems, aka drones.

The president was authorized to conduct a joint assessment with Israel on the quantity and type of precision-guided munitions that would be necessary for Israel to combat Hezbollah or Hamas in the event of a sustained confrontation with either group, including an estimate on the cost of such munitions.

#### ***Managing Relations with Iran***

The secretaries of defense and state are authorized to develop a strategy to counter "the destabilizing activities of Iran," with specific sections addressing countries in which Iran and its

proxies allegedly operate. They are also be required to include a description of a new cooperative framework that would facilitate joint efforts with U.S. allies across a variety of areas, such as intelligence, missile defense, and data sharing.

*Last major action:* 8/13/18 became public law (8/1/18 Senate agreed to conference report by yea/nay vote, 87–10; 6/18/18 passed in Senate with amendment by yea/nay vote, 85–10; 5/24/18 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 351–66).

#### 17 APRIL 2018: DISARM HIZBALLAH ACT

H.R. 5540, Thomas Suozzi (D-NY), 1 cosponsor.

In an effort to increase U.S. pressure on Hezbollah, this bill would direct the director of national intelligence to produce a “national intelligence estimate” on the group, including a full accounting of its rocket arsenal and an assessment of how it raises, holds, and spends money in the areas where the UN Interim Force in Lebanon is active, *inter alia*.

*Last major action:* 4/17/18 referred to House Committees on Intelligence and Foreign Affairs.

#### \*18 APRIL 2018: SUPPORTING ROBUST RELATIONS WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL BILATERALLY AND IN MULTILATERAL FORA UPON SEVENTY YEARS OF STATEHOOD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H. Res. 835, Virginia Foxx (R-NC), 61 cosponsors.

Introduced to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Israeli statehood, this resolution urges the UN to support Israel’s future candidacy for a seat on the UNSC and reiterates congressional support for a “sustainable two-state solution with the democratic, Jewish state of Israel and a demilitarized, democratic Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace and security.”

*See also:* S. Res. 502 of 5/9/18.

*Last major action:* 5/10/18 agreed to in House by voice vote.

#### 25 APRIL 2018: IRANIAN MILITARY AND TERROR FINANCING REPORTING ACT

H.R. 5612, Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), 3 cosponsors.

Until such time that the secretary of state determines that the Iranian government no longer provides support for international terrorism, this bill would direct the secretary to file an annual report on Iranian support for “military and terrorist activities” outside Iran. The report would have to include the amount of money Iran spent in the previous calendar year on supporting Hezbollah, the Houthis in Yemen, Hamas, “proxy forces” in Syria and Iraq, and any other entity deemed relevant, as well as the amount Iran spent on ballistic missile research and testing, and any other activities deemed “destabilizing to the Middle East region.”

*Last major action:* 4/25/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### 9 MAY 2018: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ROBUST RELATIONS WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL BILATERALLY AND IN MULTILATERAL FORA UPON SEVENTY YEARS OF STATEHOOD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

S. Res. 502, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 8 cosponsors.

**See similar measure \*H. Res. 835 of 4/18/18 for a full summary.**

*Last major action:* 5/9/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

## 21 MAY 2018: UNRWA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2018

H.R. 5898, David Cicilline (D-RI), 3 cosponsors.

Introduced 4 months after U.S. president Trump imposed punitive cuts on U.S. aid to UNRWA (see *JPS* 47 [3]), this bill would direct the secretary of state to submit to Congress a long-term funding and policy strategy toward the agency. The strategy would have to include anticipated U.S. contributions for the following 5 years; a list of all individuals and offices that review U.S. contributions to UNRWA; all metrics, data, and other information being used to review U.S. contributions to UNRWA; a description of any desired reforms the Trump administration had submitted to UNRWA or the UN as conditions for future funding; and an analysis of the national security impact of any changes to U.S. contributions to UNRWA.

*Last major action:* 6/28/18 ordered to be reported from House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## 23 MAY 2018: ANTI-SEMITISM AWARENESS ACT

S. 2940, Tim Scott (R-SC), 5 cosponsors.

Citing a number of reports of allegedly anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses across the United States, this bill would require the Department of Education to consider anti-Semitism when reviewing alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in all federal programs. For the purposes of this bill, anti-Semitism includes efforts to delegitimize or demonize Israel.

Because of the expansive definition of anti-Semitism, critics of the bill saw it as an effort to undermine or marginalize the growing BDS movement.

Concerns over free speech obstructed previous versions of this bill from progressing through Congress in late 2016 (see S. 10 and H.R. 6421 of 12/1/16 at [congressionalmonitor.org](http://congressionalmonitor.org)). Scott and his cosponsors therefore added a provision in this new version stipulating that “nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.”

*See also:* identical measure H.R. 5924 of 5/23/18.

*Last major action:* 5/23/18 referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## 23 MAY 2018: ANTI-SEMITISM AWARENESS ACT OF 2018

H.R. 5924, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 50 cosponsors.

**See identical measure S. 2940 of 5/23/18 for a full summary.**

*Last major action:* 10/19/18 referred to House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

## \*24 MAY 2018: ANTI-TERRORISM CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2018

S. 2946, Chuck Grassley (R-IA), 11 cosponsors.

This law amends the language in the Antiterrorism Act of 1992 to make it easier for U.S. citizens who are victims of terrorism abroad to obtain compensation or punitive damages from perpetrators in U.S. courts. It does so, in part, by requiring recipients of most types of U.S. aid, such as the Palestinians, to accept a new legal standard called “personal jurisdiction,” thus eliminating

exemptions for “acts of war,” and by permitting the payment of damages or compensation from funds otherwise frozen under U.S. sanctions law.

While the text of the law does not mention the Palestinians or the Arab-Israeli conflict, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) specifically cited the recent Supreme Court case *Sokolow v. PLO* in his press release announcing support for the measure. (After a U.S. District Court initially imposed \$655.5 m. in damages on the PLO in 2015, the Supreme Court upheld an appeals court’s decision to overturn the verdict in 4/2018. See *JPS* 47 [4] for more on the case.) “The history of Palestinian and Iranian terrorism against Americans is extensive, going decades and ranging from hijackings to suicide bombings and assassinations,” he wrote. “For too long American citizens have been disgracefully denied justice.” In explaining their support for this measure, numerous other representatives referred to the *Sokolow* decision as “flawed.”

After this bill passed into law, there was a spate of reports in late 11/2018 indicating that the Trump administration was attempting to block its implementation. The administration apparently did not realize until that point that the law forced the Palestinians to either accept U.S. aid or open themselves up to litigation in U.S. courts. They were reportedly worried that the Palestinians would reject the aid and, in so doing, compromise the IDF’s ongoing security coordination with PA security forces. Because the deadline for the Palestinians to make their decision under the law was 1/31/19, administration officials worked with Congress through the end of 2018 to legislate a solution that would allow coordination to continue unobstructed between PA security forces and the Israeli army.

*See also:* identical measure H.R. 5954 of 5/24/18.

*Last major action:* 10/3/18 became public law (9/13/18 passed in House without objection. 8/22/18 passed in Senate by voice vote).

#### 24 MAY 2018: ANTI-TERRORISM CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2018

H.R. 5954, Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), 7 cosponsors.

**See identical measure S. 2946 of 5/24/18 for a full summary.**

*Last major action:* 7/23/18 passed in House by voice vote.

#### 5 JUNE 2018: SUPPORTING ISRAEL’S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS BORDERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H. J. Res. 135, Lee Zeldin (R-NY), 12 cosponsors.

Introduced after months of near-daily protests along Gaza’s border, this resolution would urge the UN, the United States, and U.S. allies to support Israel in its “self-defense against Hamas” and reaffirm U.S. concern over the “dire humanitarian situation in Gaza caused by Hamas.”

*Last major action:* 6/5/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### 7 JUNE 2018: PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM TRANSPARENCY ACT

H.R. 6034, David Young (R-IA), 6 cosponsors.

This bill would require the secretary of state to submit an annual report to Congress on the curriculum used in schools “controlled” by the PA or UNRWA in the West Bank and Gaza.



The report would have to include a determination regarding certain passages in the textbooks that purportedly incite violence against Israel, inter alia.

*Last major action:* 6/7/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### 11 JUNE 2018: AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2018

S. 3042, Pat Roberts (R-KS), 1 cosponsor.

In the context of this broad, multifaceted agriculture bill, there was 1 provision making unspecified funds available to clarify the mission of the U.S.-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) Fund. The BARD Fund would be directed to accelerate the “demonstration, development, and application of agricultural solutions” relating to BARD Fund programs in drip irrigation, pesticides, aquaculture, livestock, poultry, disease control, and farm equipment; and encourage research collaborations in this area between the private and public sectors.

*Last major action:* 6/18/18 placed on Senate legislative calendar under general orders.

### 13 JUNE 2018: EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT

H.R. 6095, Ron DeSantis (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

Laying out a new U.S. policy to oppose restrictive trade practices or boycotts targeting U.S. allies and citizens, this bill would prohibit U.S. citizens from “knowingly” taking any of a series of specified actions in support of such a practice or boycott. The specified actions included refusing to do business with a person or company organized in a country friendly with the United States and refusing to employ persons originating from such countries, inter alia. Violations of this ban would be punishable with fines up to more than 5 times the value of the transaction or \$1m., whichever was greater, and as many as 10 years in prison, depending on the circumstances and intent of the perpetrator. Furthermore, any institution of higher education found to be knowingly supporting a boycott or restrictive trade practice targeting a U.S. ally would be blocked from receiving federal funding. The secretary of commerce would be permitted to waive this provision. Finally, any person deemed to suffer damages as a result of a violation of the aforementioned ban would be permitted to bring an action in U.S. district court.

In terms of oversight, the secretary of commerce would be required to report annually to Congress a list of each person participating in a commercial boycott against a U.S. ally and each institution of higher education that participated in an academic boycott.

Although this bill did not specifically name the BDS movement, its provisions were designed to undermine the movement’s most successful strategies.

*Last major action:* 10/19/18 referred to House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

### \*20 JUNE 2018: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019 AND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

H.R.6157, Kay Granger (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This annual bill funds Defense Department programs and activities in FY 2019, including joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs and other relevant military programs in the Middle East.

Because congressional leaders were unable to reach a compromise on appropriations for other departments of the government by the end of FY 2018 (in other words, 9/30/18), they also used it as a continuing resolution, extending FY 2018 funding through 12/7/18. For FY 2018 appropriations on programs relevant to the Palestinians and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict, see \*H.R. 1625 of 3/20/18 (for more on FY 2019 appropriations, see H. J. Res. 143 of 12/3/18).

### ***Israeli Cooperative Programs***

No less than \$500 m. was designated for supporting Israeli cooperative programs, including \$70 m. to the government of Israel for the Iron Dome missile defense system, \$187 m. for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense program (\$50 m. of this for coproduction in the United States), \$80 m. for coproduction of Arrow 4 Upper Tier interceptor systems in the United States, and \$163 m. for the Arrow System Improvement Program.

### ***Military Aid for Jordan***

Up to \$500 m. was made available to support Jordan's armed forces in enhancing border security.

In the provision appropriating funds for the so-called Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund, which was the primary funding mechanism for assistance to certain vetted groups in Iraq and Syria who are countering ISIS, the secretary of defense was permitted to use a portion of the \$1.352 b. appropriation to enhance border security of countries adjacent to conflict areas, including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Tunisia.

### ***Iran Policy Oversight***

None of the funds appropriated in this bill are available to purchase heavy water from Iran.

*Last major action:* 9/28/18 became public law (9/26/18 conference report agreed to in House. 9/18/18 conference report agreed to in Senate. 8/23/18 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 85–7. 6/28/18 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 359–49).

## **27 JUNE 2018: MATTHEW YOUNG POLLARD INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018 AND 2019**

H.R. 6237, Devin Nunes (R-CA), no cosponsors.

In this multifaceted bill, including provisions on various activities and programs relating to intelligence, there is 1 provision tasking the director of national intelligence to report to Congress on Iran's support for proxy forces in Syria, including Hezbollah, and on the threat posed to Israel and other U.S. allies in the Middle East.

*Last major action:* 7/12/18 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 363–54.

## **19 JULY 2018: UNRWA REFORM AND REFUGEE SUPPORT ACT OF 2018**

H.R. 6451, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), 13 cosponsors.

Part of the ongoing effort to undermine UNRWA, this bill would establish a new policy for the United States to only recognize a person as a Palestinian refugee if they resided in Mandatory Palestine between 6/1946 and 5/1948, were personally displaced in 1948, and did not accept any

offer of residency status or citizenship in another country, or if they are the spouse or minor child of such a person.

*Last major action:* 7/19/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### 19 JULY 2018: IRAN HOSTAGE ACT

S. 3243, Tom Cotton (R-AR), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would authorize the president to impose sanctions on Iranian persons responsible for or complicit in politically motivated harassment, abuse, extortion, arrest, trial, conviction, sentencing, or imprisonment of U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents. It further stipulated that such harassment, abuse, and so forth would not necessarily have to have occurred in Iran.

*Last major action:* 7/19/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 24 JULY 2018: STOP USING HUMAN SHIELDS ACT

S. 3257, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 51 cosponsors.

***See similar bill \*H.R. 3342 of 7/20/18 for a full summary.***

*See also:* H.R. 3542 of 7/28/18 and \*H.R. 3342 of 7/20/18.

*Last major action:* 10/3/18 placed on Senate calendar under general orders.

#### 25 JULY 2018: SPACE FRONTIER ACT OF 2019

S. 3277, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 2 cosponsors.

In the content of this large, multifaceted bill dealing with NASA and other U.S. space activities, there was 1 provision related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. In a section about “nongovernmental Earth observation activities,” the bill stipulated that nothing therein would affect the prohibition on collecting and releasing detailed satellite imagery of Israel. Since 1997, U.S. law has prohibited high-resolution satellite imagery of Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, forcing U.S.-based commercial satellite imagery services like Google Earth to offer only low-quality depictions of those areas.

*Last major action:* 12/21/18 failed in the House by yea/nay vote, 137–239 (12/20/18 passed in Senate by unanimous consent).

#### 26 JULY 2018: CONDEMNING IRANIAN STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLE’S DESIRE FOR A DEMOCRATIC, SECULAR, AND NON-NUCLEAR REPUBLIC OF IRAN

H. Res. 1034, Tom McClintock (R-CA), 104 cosponsors.

This resolution would condemn what it termed Iranian state-sponsored terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens and Iranian dissidents and support the Iranian people’s “legitimate and peaceful” protests against the Iranian government.

*Last major action:* 7/26/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### 6 SEPTEMBER 2018: PALESTINIAN ASSISTANCE REFORM ACT OF 2018

S. 3425, James Lankford (R-OK), no cosponsors.

This bill would reform U.S. support for the Palestinians, including that which is channeled through UNRWA, in a number of ways. First, it would establish a new policy to continue aid to

the Palestinians that addresses urgent humanitarian needs, promotes peace and improves security in the region, supports transparent and accountable government institutions, and privileges a private-sector economy. The new policy would also provide for continued assistance to the Palestinians based on general humanitarian, security, and economic needs and urge UNRWA to redefine the term “refugee” to be consistent with U.S. law, effectively restricting the number of people eligible for UNRWA services.

Under those new policy goals, the bill would suspend all U.S. support for UNRWA unless the secretary of state could certify that UNRWA was conducting proper inspections of all its operations; acting promptly to address any violations of its policies; implementing procedures to maintain the neutrality of its facilities, including a no-weapons policy; taking steps to ensure that materials in UNRWA schools do not incite violence or prejudice; taking steps to improve financial transparency; working to integrate Palestinian refugees into their local communities and labor force; and had adopted a definition of “refugee” that includes only individuals who were personally displaced in 1948 (Palestinian refugees who had acquired nationality in other countries and those living in the West Bank and Gaza would be excluded under this new definition as well). The president would be permitted to waive this certification requirement for a year if he determined that continued U.S. support for UNRWA was in the U.S. national interest. If the secretary was unable to make that certification and the president opted not to exercise that waiver authority, the secretary would be authorized to reprogram up to \$360 m. in aid designated for UNRWA. The secretary would be authorized to direct those funds to: the PA as a conduit for health, education, and other “necessary” services; certain vetted NGOs working in Gaza; the governments of countries where UNRWA operates for the types of services UNRWA provides; USAID, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, for Palestinians in Syria and Lebanon.

The secretary of state would be required to submit to Congress a new annual report on the number of people receiving UNRWA services who were personally displaced in 1948, who were descendants of such persons, and who were citizens of another country.

*Last major action:* 9/6/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

## 6 SEPTEMBER 2018: UNITED STATES-ISRAEL DIRECTED ENERGY COOPERATION ACT

H.R. 6725, Ted Lieu (D-CA), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would authorize joint U.S.-Israeli research, development, testing, and evaluation activities to establish “directed energy capabilities,” like microwaves and high-powered lasers, for national defense purposes. The secretary of defense would have to reach a memorandum of understanding with the Israeli government and certify to Congress that said memorandum provided for cost sharing and secured intellectual property rights before any of the abovementioned activities could begin. The secretary would also be authorized to provide maintenance and sustained support to Israel for research, development, testing, and evaluation activities related to directed energy capabilities.

*Last major action:* 9/6/18 referred to House Committee on Armed Services and House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## 12 SEPTEMBER 2018: IRAN PAYMENTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2018

H.R. 6774, Mike Bishop (R-MI), 14 cosponsors.

This bill would compel the director of national intelligence to determine whether or not the government of Iran had used any money derived from the sanctions relief under the 7/14/15 JCPOA, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, or any money from the \$1.7 b. cash payment from the United States in early 2016, to support a foreign terrorist organization, including Hamas or Hezbollah; engaged in violence against a U.S. national; conducted military operations in Syria; or facilitated illicit narcotics activities. If the director determined any of said moneys were used for said purposes, the secretary of state would be compelled to demand repayment from Iran.

*Last major action:* 9/12/18 referred to House Committee on Intelligence and House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### **26 SEPTEMBER 2018: IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS ECONOMIC EXCLUSION ACT**

S. 3516, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 8 cosponsors.

*See similar bill H.R. 5132 of 3/1/18 for a full summary.*

*Last major action:* 9/26/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### **26 SEPTEMBER 2018: EXPRESSING THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TO PURSUE AND ENTER INTO A MILITARY TREATY ALLIANCE OF EXTENDED DETERRENCE WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

H. Con. Res. 139, Michael Conaway (R-TX), 5 cosponsors.

This resolution called for the United States to pursue a military treaty alliance that would commit it to deploying its nuclear arsenal in order to ensure Israeli security. The resolution also called for the treaty to take effect when and if the secretary of defense certified to the president that Iran had developed a nuclear weapon.

*Last major action:* 9/26/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### **28 SEPTEMBER 2018: U.S.-ISRAEL COOPERATION EXPANSION ACT**

H.R. 6998, Mark Meadows (R-NC), 10 cosponsors.

Recognizing the “long history” of U.S.-Israeli law enforcement cooperation, this bill would convey Congress’s support for bilateral law enforcement training on best practices relating to counter terrorism, community policing, and managing mass casualties. It would also support continued efforts to enhance U.S. and Israeli embassies’ security with respect to “illicit cross-border tunneling and unmanned aerial systems.”

*See also:* S. 3625 of 11/14/18.

*Last major action:* 9/28/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### **4 OCTOBER 2018: PALESTINIAN PARTNERSHIP FUND ACT OF 2018**

S. 3549, Christopher Coons (D-DE), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize \$100 m. for the establishment of a Palestinian Partnership Fund, the dual purpose of which would be to facilitate and finance joint ventures in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza between Palestinian entrepreneurs and U.S., Israeli, and other Middle Eastern companies in the fields of technology and research and development, as well as people-to-people

exchanges to further joint community building, peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis.

Every year in which the United States contributes money to the fund, the secretary of state would be required to report to Congress on the results of such contributions.

*See also:* H.R. 7060 of 10/12/18.

*Last major action:* 10/4/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 12 OCTOBER 2018: PALESTINIAN PARTNERSHIP FUND ACT OF 2018

H.R. 7060, Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), 1 cosponsor.

***See similar measure S. 3549 of 10/4/18 for a full summary.***

*Last major action:* 10/12/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### 14 NOVEMBER 2018: UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION EXPANSION ACT

S. 3625, Orrin Hatch (R-UT), no cosponsors.

***See similar bill H.R. 6998 of 9/28/18 for a full summary.***

*Last major action:* 11/14/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 29 NOVEMBER 2018: A JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED EXPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT OF CERTAIN DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES

S. J. Res. 67, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This joint resolution would block the Trump administration's proposed sale of certain defense articles and services to the government of Egypt, including Apache Attack Helicopters and HELLFIRE missiles and launchers.

*See also:* S. J. Res. 68 of 11/29/18.

*Last major action:* 11/29/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 29 NOVEMBER 2018: A JOINT RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED EXPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT OF CERTAIN DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES

S. J. Res. 68, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

Like Paul's other Arab-Israeli conflict-related proposal of 11/29/18, this joint resolution would block the proposed sale of certain defense articles and services to the government of Egypt. The articles and services he specified in this measure included armor-piercing ammunition, tank rounds, and target practice ammunition.

*Last major action:* 11/29/18 referred to Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 30 NOVEMBER 2018: HONORING AND PRAISING THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE (AJC) ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 112TH ANNIVERSARY

H. Res. 1166, Al Green (D-TX), 8 cosponsors.

This resolution praised the American Jewish Committee for "its efforts regarding human rights worldwide, interfaith dialogue, and the promotion of Israel's security and place in the world."

*Last major action:* 11/30/18 referred to House Committee on Oversight and Government.

### **\*3 DECEMBER 2018: MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

H. J. Res. 143, Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), no cosponsors.

After congressional leaders failed to pass FY 2019 appropriations for most departments of the federal government before the end of FY 2018, they passed a continuing resolution to extend FY 2018 appropriations for those departments through 12/7/18 (see \*H.R. 6157 of 6/20/18 for the continuing resolution and \*H.R. 1625 of 3/20/18 for FY 2018 appropriations). When they again failed to reach a compromise, they passed this joint resolution, extending FY 2018 appropriation for those departments again, this time through 12/21/18.

Amid the ensuing negotiations over an omnibus appropriations bill in mid-12/2018, there were numerous reports that some members of Congress were working to include several of the major pro-Israel bills introduced earlier in the 115th Congress into this bill. These measures included the Israel Anti-Boycott Act (S. 720 and H.R. 1697 of 3/23/17), the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act (S. 2940 and H.R. 5924 of 5/23/18), and the Palestinian Partnership Fund Act (H.R. 7060 of 10/12/18 and S. 3549 of 10/4/18). However, congressional leaders ultimately rejected President Trump's demand for \$5 b. in funding for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, resulting in a government shutdown that lasted through the end of the session. Work on these measures and FY 2019 funding resumed in the opening weeks of the 116th Congress.

*Last major action:* 12/7/18 became public law (12/6/18 passed in Senate by voice vote; 12/6/18 passed in House without objection).

### **6 DECEMBER 2018: COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM AS THE CAPITAL OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

H. Con. Res. 144, Andy Biggs (R-AZ), 43 cosponsors.

Introduced on the 1-year anniversary of U.S. president Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, this resolution applauded the relocation of the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem on 5/14/18 and reaffirmed the "eternal" U.S.-Israel friendship.

*Last major action:* 12/6/18 referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

### **17 DECEMBER 2018: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE GOLAN HEIGHTS**

S. Res. 732, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution recognized that Israel's security "cannot be assured" without Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, and that it is in the national security interest of the United States to ensure Israel's security.

*Last major action:* 12/17/18 referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

### **20 DECEMBER 2018: END PALESTINIAN TERROR SALARIES ACT OF 2018**

S. 3801, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would direct the president to impose sanctions on any individual or entity of the PA, PLO, or any successor organization that authorizes or implements payments to Palestinians or the families of Palestinians who commit so-called acts of terrorism against Israelis.

*Last major action:* 12/20/18 referred to Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.