

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 285

Condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the Middle East by Hamas and other terrorist organizations and urging the European Union to classify the entire entity of Hamas as a terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH (for himself, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the Middle East by Hamas and other terrorist organizations and urging the European Union to classify the entire entity of Hamas as a terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States is currently engaged in a war against terrorism and Secretary of State Powell has stated that “there are no good terrorists”;

Whereas on its official list of “Terrorist Groups and Entities”, the European Union currently designates only the so-called military wing of Hamas, “Izz al Din al Qassem”, and not the entire entity of Hamas;

Whereas the failure by the European Union to designate the entire entity of Hamas on its official terrorist list is an obstacle to taking action against the financing of terrorism;

Whereas the United States Government currently classifies the entire entity of Hamas as a terrorist organization;

Whereas throughout the past decade of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Hamas and other terrorist organizations have continuously sought the failure of efforts toward peace through deadly terrorist attacks against civilians;

Whereas in the 107th Congress, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 392, in which it stated that “Hamas is engaged in an organized, systematic, and deliberate campaign of terror aimed at inflicting as many casualties as possible upon the Israeli population, with an ultimate goal of annihilating the State of Israel”;

Whereas on June 4, 2003, President Bush stated at the peace summit in Aqaba, Jordan, that “Prime Minister Abbas now leads the Palestinian Cabinet . . . [b]y his strong leadership, by building the institutions of Palestinian democracy and by rejecting terror, he is serving the deepest hopes of his people”;

Whereas on June 8, 2003, just days after the hopeful peace summit in Aqaba, Hamas collaborated with other terrorist organizations to commit an unprecedented joint terrorist operation with the clear intent of thwarting any efforts toward peace;

Whereas this first-ever joint terrorist attack by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade killed four Israeli soldiers;

Whereas on June 11, 2003, Hamas boastfully claimed credit for orchestrating and carrying out the bombing of a bus in Jerusalem which killed seventeen and wounded more than 100 individuals;

Whereas after these attacks, Abdul Aziz Rantissi, Hamas leader and spokesman, stated “[t]here will be no single Jew left in Palestine . . . [w]e will fight them with all the power that we have”;

Whereas even in the face of these deadly terrorist attacks by Hamas, Israel still followed through with its commitment to President Bush to begin dismantling illegal outposts in the West Bank;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation has discovered financial links between charitable organizations and Hamas that indicate the funneling of money to support terrorist activity;

Whereas Hamas is sponsoring the teaching of terrorism to Palestinian children and glorifying and inciting suicide bombing;

Whereas the international community, as reflected in, inter alia, United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1368, 1373, and 1377, is committed to fighting terrorism as well as reaching a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Middle East;

Whereas Hamas has rejected the current United States-led attempt at peace in the Middle East and reaffirmed its commitment toward the destruction of Israel;

Whereas in 2003 alone, Hamas has taken credit for the murder of 55 Israeli citizens;

Whereas President Bush stated that “the free world—those who love freedom and peace—must deal harshly with Hamas and the killers”; and

Whereas the European Union is holding a summit on June 20–21, 2003, in Thessaloniki, Greece, at which it can take appropriate action against Hamas: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the recent terrorist attacks per-
3 petrated by Hamas and other terrorist organizations
4 that intentionally sought to thwart the sincere ef-
5 forts of the United States and the world community
6 to move toward peace in the Middle East at the
7 hopeful summit in Aqaba, Jordan;

8 (2) urges the European Union to classify the
9 entire entity of Hamas as a terrorist organization
10 enabling it to take further action to prohibit any
11 funding from Europe to Hamas;

12 (3) urges the Palestinian Authority to combat
13 terrorism by establishing itself as the sole armed en-
14 tity within the Palestinian territories as soon as pos-
15 sible; and

16 (4) stands in solidarity with Israel as it takes
17 necessary steps toward peace and toward providing
18 security to its people.

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