

# CONGRESSIONAL MONITOR

THE 111TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION: 6 JANUARY–24 DECEMBER 2009

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**CongressionalMonitor.org**, the companion site to this *JPS* section, provides in-depth summaries of all bills and many resolutions listed here.

*Published each spring, the Congressional Monitor provides summaries of all relevant bills and resolutions (joint, concurrent, and simple) introduced during the previous session of Congress that mention, even briefly, Palestine, Israel, or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. It is part of a wider project of the Institute for Palestine Studies that includes the Congressional Monitor Database available at CongressionalMonitor.org. The database contains all relevant legislation from the 107th Congress through the first session of the 111th Congress (2001–2009) and will be updated on an ongoing basis to include legislation prior to 2001 and after 2009. The Monitor helps to identify major themes of legislation related to the Palestine issue as well as initiators of specific legislation, their priorities, the range of their concerns, and their attitudes toward the regional actors. Material in this compilation is drawn from [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov), where readers can also find a detailed primer on the legislative process entitled “How Our Laws Are Made.”*

The first session of the 111th Congress convened on 6 January 2009 and adjourned on 24 December of the same year. A total of 108 bills and resolutions relating to Palestine, Israel, or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict were introduced this session, representing roughly 1% of bills and resolutions introduced this term. Twenty-four of the 108 were passed.

Democrats enjoyed wide majorities in both chambers this session following victories in the fall 2008 elections, which also saw the election of Democrat Barack Obama as president. In 2009, Democrats held 59 seats in the Senate (supplemented by two Independent senators, who caucus with them) to the Republicans' 39, and 257 seats in the House to the Republicans' 178. In this session, a number of measures were introduced by conservative Republicans aimed at restricting U.S. relief efforts (such as aid for Gaza in the wake of Operation Cast Lead) and at pressuring the Obama administration to take a harder line toward Iran and other U.S. opponents in the region (see especially **H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09**, the **Peace Through Strength Act**). Many of these efforts dovetailed with aggressive Republican opposition to domestic Democratic legislative initiatives. Some, such as an amendment to prohibit

reconstruction assistance to Gaza until assurances could be secured that it would not be diverted to Hamas (**S. Amendment 631 to H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09**), drew support from some otherwise moderate Democrats. Other initiatives demonstrate the degree to which Democrats and Republicans remained in alignment with respect to Israel-Palestine.

### ***Bills and Joint Resolutions***

Sixty-three of the 108 measures introduced this session were bills or joint resolutions that have the force of law if passed. Six of these, each involving funding for Israel, were passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by President Obama. **The National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09)** granted legal authority for the Defense Department to conduct joint research and development with Israel for Israeli missile defense systems, while the **Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 3326 of 7/24/09)** provided funding for these programs (see “Notes on Legislative Procedure” below for more on the distinction between authorization and appropriation bills). The annual funding bill for U.S. agricultural agencies and programs (**H.R. 2997 of 6/23/09**) contained an earmark

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providing funding to the **Ohio-Israel Initiative**, a project promoting technical and economic cooperation between farmers and agriculture firms in Ohio and the Negev. The remaining three bills provided funding for the State Department and U.S. foreign assistance programs for fiscal year 2009 (**H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09** and **H.R. 2346 of 5/12/09**) and fiscal year 2010 (**H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09**). All three of these bills provided grants for Israel to purchase military equipment from the United States (and, significantly, from Israeli defense contractors; see these bills for explanation) at levels agreed to in the August 2007 Memorandum of Understanding between the two governments.

The foreign aid bills also provided assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and financed other aid programs in the West Bank and Gaza. The **Supplemental Appropriations Act (H.R. 2346 of 5/12/09)** provided a large aid package pledged by the Obama administration in the wake of Operation Cast Lead. Funding measures for West Bank and Gaza programs, especially for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and programs in Gaza, were passed despite repeated attempts by the Republican right to cut the funding entirely or greatly restrict it for fear that it would aid Hamas or other terrorist groups (see amendments **SA 631** and **SA 657** to **H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09** below, as well as H.R. 557 of 1/15/09, H.R. 1062 of 2/13/09, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09, and amendments 44, 60, and 83 to H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09 online at **Congressional-Monitor.org**).

*Congressional Priorities: Iran, Terrorism, and the Holocaust*

Of all the bills and joint resolutions relevant to Israel-Palestine introduced this session, 25 (40%) sought to provide military, financial, or diplomatic aid for Israel or to otherwise confer privileges on the Israeli government, Israeli citizens, or Israeli exports. In addition to the six bills passed into law, other bills sought to set U.S. policy to pursue a nuclear power cooperation agreement with Israel (H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09); amend U.S. arms export control laws to allow expedited arms sales to Israel (H.R. 2410 of 5/12/09 and H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09); provide diplomatic support for Israel at the United Nations, specifically in the Human Rights Council (**H.R. 2376 of**

**5/12/09**) and with regard to the Durban Review Conference (**H.R. 1920 of 4/2/09** and H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09); provide privileged immigration status for Israeli citizens seeking to conduct business in the United States (H.R. 4406 of 12/6/09); allow Israeli prescription medications to be imported to the United States (**S. 80 of 1/6/09**); exempt Israeli citizens from the prohibition on the U.S. government employing foreign nationals (**H.R. 3170 of 7/10/09**); and eliminate the duty on a type of Israeli tobacco (S. 2042 of 10/29/09).

Another major priority this session was Iran, with a number of bills introduced to impose sanctions aimed at stopping its nuclear program. Two of these bills, the Senate and House versions of the **Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (S. 908 of 4/28/09 and H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09)**, which would require the president to impose sanctions designed to cripple the Iranian economy, were the primary focus of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) lobbying efforts this session. These two bills had (and still have) overwhelming support in both chambers; their passage was delayed only to allow the Obama administration time to address Iran's nuclear program diplomatically. Other bills sought to declare U.S. policy to be in support of Israel's right to defend itself from Iran, where self-defense is interpreted to include a preemptive strike on Iran's nuclear facilities (H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09 and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09); or invoked the Iranian threat to Israel to authorize the Defense Department to develop ballistic missile defense systems for Israel (H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09, and **H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09**).

Twenty-two bills (35% of relevant bills) dealing with terrorism were introduced, the most important of which being the three appropriations bills passed into law providing aid to the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon (**H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09, H.R. 2346 of 5/12/09, and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09**). These bills provided money to train Palestinian security forces and to train and equip Lebanese security forces to conduct counter-terror operations. These bills also contained numerous provisions placing conditions on the aid to ensure that it does not go to terrorist groups. Other bills sought to impose sanctions on North Korea (**S. 837 of 4/20/09**, H.R. 1980 of 4/21/09, and S. 1416 of 7/8/09), Saudi

Arabia (**H.R. 1288 of 3/3/09**), and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (H.R. 2375 of 5/12/09), and to continue sanctions against Syria (H.R. 1206 of 2/26/09), until these countries ceased support for Hamas, Hizballah, and others; withhold funding for UNRWA until the secretary of state certifies that UNRWA does not employ or aid terrorists (H.R. 557 of 1/15/09); and prohibit funding for the UN Human Rights Council since it has failed to condemn nations that sponsor terrorism (**H.R. 2376 of 5/12/09**).

Thirteen bills (20% of relevant bills) dealt with the Holocaust, including three to allow U.S. courts to hear cases brought by Holocaust survivors or their heirs seeking restitution from railroads that transported people to concentration camps (S. 28 of 1/7/09 and H.R. 4237 of 12/8/09) or to recover unpaid Holocaust-era insurance policies (Title XV of H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09). Others sought to establish a commission to review the U.S. government's decision to deny asylum to Jewish and other refugees fleeing Europe during the Holocaust (**H.R. 1425** and S. 564 both of 3/10/09); encourage foreign governments to try or extradite Nazi war criminals (H.R. 1439 of 3/11/09 and S. 1704 of 9/24/09); or provide funding for Holocaust education programs (H.R. 2089 and S. 892 both of 4/23/09) or for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (**H.R. 1590 of 3/18/09**). Another cited Iranian pres. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's denials of the Holocaust as reason to impose crippling economic sanctions on Iran and ensure that the United States possesses the military means to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons (H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09).

#### *Simple and Concurrent Resolutions*

In addition to the measures that have the force of law if passed, 45 simple and concurrent resolutions were introduced this session. Simple resolutions (designated H./S. Res.) are debated and passed in only one chamber, while concurrent resolutions (designated H./S. Con. Res.) are debated and passed by both chambers. Neither type of resolution is presented to the president for signature or veto, and thus neither can become law. Pertinent here are resolutions used to express the views, opinions, and (on occasion) the demands of Congress. (Resolutions are also used to set parliamentary rules and procedures for each chamber.) A resolution passed in one

or both chambers not only represents the opinion of one chamber or the legislative branch as a whole, but in most cases the opinion of one or both political parties and their leadership. While not legally binding, then, resolutions can carry significant political weight.

When the 111th Congress convened, Operation Cast Lead was still underway, and four resolutions were introduced in the first four days of the session declaring "strong support for Israel," recognizing its right to defend itself from Hamas's "unceasing aggression," and condemning Hamas's rocket attacks. The two most important of these measures, **H. Res. 34** and **S. Res. 10** (both of 1/8/09), were introduced by the top Democratic leaders in the House and Senate and passed overwhelmingly within one day. One additional resolution called for an immediate ceasefire and for Israel and Hamas to allow unrestricted humanitarian assistance to Gazans (**H. Res. 66 of 1/15/09**). Later in the session another resolution was passed deeming the Goldstone report irredeemably biased and calling on the Obama administration to oppose it in all international fora.

The most common theme of resolutions this session, however, was Iran, with twelve introduced (27% of all relevant resolutions). Among these, four resolutions addressed the lack of religious freedom in Iran, with three condemning its persecution of its Baha'i minority as agents of Israel (**H. Res. 175 of 2/13/09**, S. Res. 71 of 3/9/09, and H. Res. 840 of 10/15/09) and two citing Ahmadinejad's denial of the Holocaust and statements against Israel as having created a climate of fear among Iranian Jews (H. Res. 33 of 1/8/09 and H. Res. 840 mentioned above). Two resolutions cited Iran's possession of ballistic missiles capable of striking Israel as justification for calls for President Obama to deploy ballistic missile defenses in Europe (H. Res. 319 of 4/2/09 and H. Res. 581 of 6/25/09), and one expressed support for Israel's right to defend itself from an imminent threat posed by Iran (H. Res. 557 of 6/18/09).

Eleven resolutions (24% of relevant resolutions) dealt with the Holocaust, with three urging European countries to compensate Holocaust victims for lost property (H. Con. Res. 89 of 3/30/09, S. Res. 153 of 5/19/09, and S. Con. Res. 23 of 5/19/09) and others commemorating specific events or individuals, and permitting the use of

the Capitol rotunda to hold a Holocaust remembrance ceremony.

Ten resolutions addressed the topic of terrorism, of which three passed. Four resolutions, mentioned above, addressed terrorism leading up to and during Operation Cast Lead. Further resolutions expressed support for Israel's right to defend itself from imminent threats from terrorist organizations and states that harbor them (H. Res. 557 mentioned above), called on the president to designate Venezuela as a state sponsor of terrorism for its support of Iran and Hizballah (H. Res. 872 of 10/27/09), and called on the secretary of state to take measures to certify that UNRWA is not using American funds to support terrorism (H. Con. Res. 29 of 1/28/09).

#### **Notes on Legislative Procedure**

In terms of process, for a bill to become law it must be agreed to in identical form by the House and the Senate, and signed by the president. The president may refuse to sign and thus veto a bill, but the veto can be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber. If Congress is not in session, the president can veto a bill simply by not taking action for ten days after its presentation. (This action is called a "pocket veto.") As already noted, simple or concurrent resolutions have no legal force if passed. Simple resolutions can be passed by either the House or the Senate, whereas both chambers must pass concurrent resolutions.

Among the most important bills passed by Congress are authorization and appropriations bills. Authorization bills provide the legal authority for federal agencies and departments to exist and carry out their various programs. Appropriations bills allow agencies to draw funds from the U.S. Treasury in order to pay for their activities.

#### **Understanding the Congressional Monitor**

Presented here is a list of all relevant bills and resolutions introduced in 2009. Measures are listed in the order in which they were first introduced, with a brief title provided after the date. The second line of each entry provides the bill or resolution number, the name and affiliation of the original sponsor, and the number of cosponsors.

Due to the large number of bills and resolutions introduced this session and to our space limitations, summaries are provided only for those bills that passed into law this

session or for bills or resolutions whose context or relevance is not clear. In-depth summaries of all bills and most resolutions are available at CongressionalMonitor.org, IPS's online database of bills and resolutions from 2001 forward dealing with Palestine, Israel, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For many bills and resolutions, a "See also" entry has been added to refer readers to similar or related measures. Under this entry, measures listed in boldface contain text that is similar or identical and also include a summary description.

The "Last major action" entry indicates where the bill or resolution stood at the end of the session in December 2009. Until the Congress ends in 2011 or the measure is passed or withdrawn, it remains "live" and can be amended repeatedly. Various versions of legislative initiatives are often in play simultaneously, and the differences are reconciled in the final passage. For example, the House version of the **Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09)** was amended by the Senate in March 2010 to include the text of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2009 (S. 2799 of 11/19/09), and is likely to be amended further and passed later in 2010.

#### **Key:**

Con. Res. ——— Concurrent Resolution  
 CRPH/S ——— Conference Report passed House/Senate; indicates that a compromise version of a bill has been passed (both chambers must pass identical versions of a bill prior to receiving the president's signature)  
 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)  
 SA ——— Senate Amendment  
 S. J. Res. ——— Senate Joint Resolution (having the force of law)  
 S. Res. ——— Simple Senate Resolution  
 Voice vote: Vote taken verbally and therefore not recorded  
 Vote tally: Yay-Nay-Present

An asterisk (\*) indicates measures that did not pass in the 110th Congress and have been reintroduced in the 111th. Past Congressional Monitors can be found online at CongressionalMonitor.org. A set

of frequently asked questions providing a detailed guide to the database and the legislative process can also be found at this site.

**6 January 2009: Expressing solidarity with Israel in its defense against terrorism in the Gaza Strip during Operation Cast Lead**

S. Res. 6, David Vitter (R-LA), no cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measures H. Res. 34 and S. Res. 10 of 1/8/09; related measures H. Res. 37 of 1/9/09, H. Res. 66 of 1/15/09, H. Res. 130 of 2/4/09, H. Res. 557 of 6/18/09, and H. Res. 867 of 10/23/09. Further provisions expressing Congress' support for Israel's right of self-defense also appear in H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09 and H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09.

*Last major action:* 1/6/2009 referred to Senate committee.

**6 January 2009: Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2009**

S. 80, David Vitter (R-LA), no cosponsors.

Would permit U.S. pharmacists, pharmacies, and drug wholesalers to import certain prescription medications from several countries, specifically including Israel.

*Last major action:* 1/6/09 referred to Senate committee.

**\*7 January 2009: Ensuring the neutrality of U.S. courts for claims against railroad companies involved in the Holocaust**

S. 28, Charles Schumer (D-NY), no cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 4237 of 12/8/09.

*Last major action:* 1/7/2009 referred to Senate committee.

**7 January 2009: Grieving for the loss of life that defined the Third Reich**

H. Con. Res. 7, Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), no cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 1/7/2009 referred to House committee.

**8 January 2009: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran's lack of protection for human rights creates poor conditions for religious freedom**

H. Res. 33, Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), no cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/19/09, H. Res. 364 of 4/27/09, and H.R. 3832 and H. Res. 840 both of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 1/8/09 referred to House committee.

**8 January 2009: Recognizing Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from Gaza during Operation Cast Lead**

H. Res. 34, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), 116 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. Res. 10 of 1/8/09; similar measure S. Res. 6 of 1/6/09; related measures H. Res. 37 of 1/9/09, H. Res. 130 of 2/4/09, H. Res. 557 of 6/18/09, and H. Res. 867 of 10/23/09. Provisions expressing Congress' support for Israel's right of self-defense also appear in H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09 and H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09.

*Last major action:* 1/9/09 passed in House 390-5-22.

**8 January 2009: Recognizing the right of Israel to defend itself against attacks from Gaza**

S. Res. 10, Harry Reid (D-NV), 34 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H. Res. 34 of 1/8/09; similar measure S. Res. 6 of 1/6/09; related measures H. Res. 37 of 1/9/09, H. Res. 66 of 1/15/09, H. Res. 130 of 2/4/09, H. Res. 557 of 6/18/09, and H. Res. 867 of 10/23/09. Provisions expressing Congress' support for Israel's right of self-defense also appear in H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09 and H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09.

*Last major action:* 1/8/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

**9 January 2009: Condemning Hamas for the recent attacks against Israel**

H. Res. 37, Mike Rogers (R-AL), 2 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures S. Res. 6 on 1/6/09; H. Res. 34 on 1/8/09, S. Res. 10 on 1/8/09, H. Res. 37 of 1/9/09, H. Res. 66 of 1/15/09, H. Res. 130 of 2/4/09, and H. Res. 867 of 10/23/09.

*Last major action:* 1/9/09 referred to House committee.

**\*9 January 2009: Calling on the president and the secretary of state to withhold United States funding for the Durban Review Conference**

H. Res. 42, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 58 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 1920 of 4/2/09, H.R. 2376 of 5/12/09, and H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09.

*Last major action:* 1/9/09 referred to House committee.

**\*9 January 2009: Western Hemisphere Counterterrorism and Nonproliferation Act of 2009**

H.R. 375, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 3 cosponsors.

The findings of this bill state that Hizballah has been active in Central and South America. The text of this bill was also included in H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09 and H. Con. Res. 156 of 6/17/09.

*Last major action:* 1/9/09 referred to House committee.

**\*9 January 2009: Recognizing the threat that the spread of radical Islamist terrorism and Iranian adventurism in Africa poses to the United States, our allies, and interests**

H. Con. Res. 16, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 25 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 1/9/09 referred to House committee.

**\*13 January 2009: Security through Termination of Proliferation Act (STOP ACT) of 2009**

H.R. 485, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), no cosponsors.

Seeks to impose further sanctions on Iran, Syria, North Korea, and countries who aid them with nuclear technology or transfer advanced missile systems to them.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 1206 of 2/26/09, S. 837 of 4/20/09, H.R. 1980 of 4/21/09, S. 908 of 4/28/09, H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09, H.R. 2290 of 5/6/09, H.R. 3611 of 9/22/09, H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09, and S. 2799 of 11/19/09.

*Last major action:* 3/16/09 referred to House subcommittee.

**15 January 2009: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the humanitarian crisis in Gaza**

H. Res. 66, Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), 10 cosponsors.

Cites the civilian death toll, especially among Palestinians, the temporary suspension of UNRWA and ICRC aid delivery, and the inability of ambulances to access injured Gazans during Operation Cast Lead.

Calls on Israel and Hamas to implement an immediate cease-fire and allow unrestricted humanitarian access to Gaza.

*See also:* related measures S. Res. 6 of 1/6/09, H. Res. 34 and S. Res. 10 both of 1/8/09, H. Res. 37 of 1/9/09, H. Res. 130 of 2/4/09, and H. Res. 867 of 10/23/09.

*Last major action:* 1/15/2009 referred to House committee.

**\*15 January 2009: United Nations Transparency, Accountability, and Reform Act of 2009**

H.R. 557, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 102 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H. Con. Res. 29 of 1/28/09, S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/19/09, H.R. 1920 of 4/2/09, H. Res. 364 of 4/27/09, H.R. 2376 of 5/12/09, H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09, Amendment 60 to H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, H.R. 3107 of 6/26/09, and H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09.

*Last major action:* 1/15/09 referred to House committee.

**26 January 2009: Egyptian Counterterrorism and Political Reform Act**

H.R. 696, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), no cosponsors.

Seeks to cut off all military aid to Egypt and expresses the sense of Congress that funds for military assistance to Egypt should instead be provided as economic assistance. The bill would further express the sense of Congress that "the agreement among the United States, Egypt, and Israel to decrease the overall amount of United States foreign assistance for both countries should continue."

*Last major action:* 1/26/09 referred to House committee.

**\*28 January 2009: Expressing the sense of Congress that the UN should take immediate steps to improve the transparency and accountability of UNRWA**

H. Con. Res. 29, Steven Rothman (D-NJ), 31 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 557 of 1/15/09 and H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09 for efforts to restrict U.S. contributions to UNRWA; and H.R. 2346 of 5/12/09 and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09 for requirements for the secy. of state to report on UNRWA activities.

*Last major action:* 1/28/09 referred to House committee.

**4 February 2009: Expressing support for the appointment of former Senator George Mitchell as Special Envoy for Middle East Peace**

H. Res. 130, William Delahunt (D-MA), 105 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures S. Res. 6 of 1/6/09, H. Res. 34 and S. Res. 10 both of 1/8/09, H. Res. 37 of 1/9/09, H. Res. 66 of 1/15/09, and H. Res. 867 of 10/23/09.

*Last major action:* 2/4/09 referred to House committee.

**\*11 February 2009: Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2009**

S. 416, Diane Feinstein (D-CA), 25 cosponsors.

Would prohibit funds being expended by any federal department or agency for the use of cluster munitions unless they have a 99% or higher functioning rate and are used against clearly defined military targets and not against areas where civilians are present or that are "normally inhabited by civilians." Would require the president to submit a plan for the cleanup of any unexploded munitions within 90 days of their use. Congressional action on cluster munitions began after the war between Hizballah and Israel in 2006, during which the Israeli army and air force fired cluster munitions containing 4 m. submunitions into southern Lebanon.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 981 on 2/11/09; and related measures H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09, H.R. 2346 of 5/12/09, H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, S. 1434 of 7/9/09, and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09.

*Last major action:* 2/11/09 referred to Senate committee.

**\*11 February 2009: Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2009**

H.R. 981, James McGovern (D-MA), 32 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. 416 on 2/11/09; and related measures H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09, H.R. 2346 of 5/12/09, H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, S. 1434 of 7/9/09, and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09.

*Last major action:* 2/11/09 referred to House committee.

**13 February 2009: Acknowledging the growing threat of anti-Semitism throughout South America, namely in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Argentina**

H. Res. 174, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), 14 cosponsors.

Cites the expulsion of Israeli ambassadors from Venezuela and Bolivia, among other incidents.

*See also:* similar measure H. Con. Res. 124 of 5/12/09; related measures S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/19/09, H.R. 1920 of 4/2/09, H. Res. 364 of 4/27/09, and H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09.

*Last major action:* 2/13/09 referred to House committee.

**13 February 2009: Condemning the government of Iran for persecution of its Baha'i minority**

H. Res. 175, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 75 cosponsors.

Cites the arrest and trial of seven Baha'i leaders for charges of espionage for Israel.

*See also:* companion measure S. Res. 71 of 3/9/09; related measure H. Res. 840 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 10/22/09 passed in House 407-2.

**\*13 February 2009: Permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust**

H. Con. Res. 54, Henry Waxman (D-CA), 2 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 4/1/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent (3/31/09 passed in House by voice vote).

**13 February 2009: United States Foreign Assistance Partner Vetting System Act of 2009**

H.R. 1062, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 23 cosponsors.

Would prohibit any organization with an employee or affiliate found to be a supporter or a member of a designated foreign terrorist organization from receiving U.S. foreign assistance. Would require the secy. of state to implement a system to collect personal information on all recipients of U.S. foreign aid, including those employed by or affiliated with any organization receiving U.S. funds.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 557 of 1/15/09; amendments SA 631 and SA 657 to H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09; H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09; and amendments 44 and 60 to H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09.

*Last major action:* 2/13/09 referred to House committee.

### 23 February 2009: Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

H.R. 1105, David Obey (D-WI), no cosponsors.

This bill provides regular appropriations, which allow federal agencies to draw funds from the U.S. Treasury, for the entire federal government, save for the depts. of defense, homeland security, and activities involving military construction and veterans affairs, for fiscal year 2009, which began on 1 October 2008. Prior to passage of this bill the government had been funded only through 6 March 2009 by a stop-gap funding measure called a continuing resolution, which did not provide new budget authority and prevented government agencies from spending funds on anything not approved for FY2008 (for more details on the continuing resolution see *JPS* 152). The bill, reflective of Democratic spending priorities, had already been negotiated and agreed to by key Democrats in the House and Senate prior to introduction and was eventually passed without formal committee review and with very limited debate. Relevant provisions of the bill provide funding for Israel and the West Bank and Gaza under the following spending accounts:

#### Foreign Military Financing (FMF):

Grants Israel \$2.38 b. to purchase U.S.-produced weapons, defense equipment, defense services, and military training, with the option of using \$670.65 m. of these funds to purchase Israeli weapons and military equipment. (No other recipient of FMF is permitted to spend the funds on its own equipment.) The funds are to be disbursed in full within 30 days of passage of the bill into an interest bearing account with the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank. Early dispersal of the funds allows Israel to earn maximum interest on the funds it receives. (Other recipients of FMF typically receive it in installments throughout the fiscal year.) The interest accrued cannot be used to purchase Israeli equipment.

Allows FMF grants to Lebanon only to professionalize the Lebanese army, strengthen border security to prevent arms shipments, prevent the use of Lebanon as a safe haven for terrorist groups, and implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 war between Israel and Hizballah.

#### Migration and Refugee Assistance

(MRA): Provides \$30 m. for assistance for

refugees resettling in Israel. These funds are delivered through a grant to the United Israel Appeal, which in turn helps finance programs of the Jewish Agency for Israel to settle Russian, Eastern European, and more recently, Ethiopian Jews inside Israel.

**Dept. of Energy's International Renewable Energy Program:** Provides \$2 m. for U.S.-Israeli renewable energy programs. (For more details on these programs see H.R. 6 of 1/12/07 in *JPS* 147.)

**Economic Support Funds (ESF):** Provides \$75 m. in funding for United States Agency for International Development (USAID) programs in the West Bank and Gaza, \$3 m. of which is for local nongovernmental organizations to strengthen civil society and improve social services for the Palestinian people. Other projects include training judges and encouraging judicial independence; fostering economic growth through microloans and support for agricultural enterprises and microenterprises; and providing humanitarian assistance to refugees not served by UNRWA. \$2 m. of these funds may be used for administrative expenses of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to carry out its programs there.

**International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement:** Provides \$25 m. to train Palestinian security forces.

The bill also carries over several **annual provisions and prohibitions:**

- Funding for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is conditioned on the State Dept. certifying to Congress that Israel is "not being denied its right to participate in the activities" of the Agency.
- **Section 7007** prohibits any funds made available in the bill from being used for assistance or reparations to the government of Syria.
- **Section 7013** withholds a portion of future assistance to any country that collects taxes on U.S. assistance, specifically mentioning the West Bank and Gaza.
- **Section 7034** grants the president the authority to waive a provision in the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 prohibiting the Palestinian Liberation Organization from establishing an office in the United States if he determines it to be in the national security interest of the United States. The

president has waived this provision every six months since 1994.

- **Section 7035** states the sense of Congress that the Arab League boycott of Israel should end, that relations between Arab states and Israel should be normalized, and that the United States should vigorously oppose the boycott.
- **Section 7036** prohibits U.S. assistance for the establishment of a Palestinian state unless the secy. of state certifies that certain conditions are met, including, inter alia, that the PA is working toward peaceful coexistence with Israel, peace in the Middle East, and the dismantling of terrorist infrastructures, and that it is cooperating with Israeli security organizations.
- **Section 7037** prohibits appropriating any funds for any U.S. agency in Jerusalem, except the U.S. consulate, that conducts business with the PA or any successor government.
- **Section 7038** prohibits any U.S. funding for the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.
- **Section 7039** sets forth oversight and vetting clauses to ensure that ESF funds do not serve terrorist activity. Prohibits U.S. security assistance to the West Bank and Gaza until the secy. of state reports to the relevant committees on PA compliance with certain benchmarks. Permits \$500,000 to be used by USAID for audits to ensure compliance with these provisions.
- **Section 7040** prohibits funding for the PA without a waiver by the president stating that providing the funds is in the national security interests of the United States. The waiver must be accompanied by a report detailing the justification for the funds, the purposes for which the funds will be spent, and the steps the PA has taken to arrest terrorists and dismantle terrorist infrastructure. The secy. of state must also certify that the PA has established a single treasury account for all PA expenses, eliminated all parallel accounts, and established a single civil service roster and payroll. Funds may not be spent for assistance to any PA personnel located in Gaza, Hamas, any entity Hamas controls, or any power-sharing government including Hamas unless the president certifies in

writing and reports to the House and Senate appropriations committees that Hamas has accepted Israel's right to exist and has agreed to abide by all past agreements and understandings with between the PA, Israel, the United States and the international community, including the road map.

- **Section 7056** prohibits the sale or transfer of cluster munitions to any foreign country unless the weapons have a 1% or lower dud rate and the sale or transfer is conditioned on the weapons being used only against military targets.
- **Section 7085** permits U.S. financing for Israel to procure defense articles by leasing them from U.S. commercial suppliers.

The bill's explanatory statement, submitted by Rep. David Obey (D-WI), chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, detailed the following appropriations, recommendations, and requirements:

- Provides \$375,000 for the **Israeli Arab Scholarship Program** and \$5 m. for the **Middle East Regional Cooperation Program** to "promote technical cooperation between Arab and Israeli scientists, students, and communities on topics relevant to development in the Middle East."
- Directs the State Dept. to submit a report to the committees on appropriations on the voting practices of UN member states on matters regarding Israel and other issues, and directs the secy. of state to work closely with UNRWA and host governments to "develop a strategy for identifying individuals known to have engaged in terrorist activities."
- For the USAID programs in Israel and Palestine: requires USAID to submit a report on the efficacy of its pilot program in the West Bank and Gaza for vetting to ensure that USAID funds are not diverted to international terrorist organizations, but also states that the vetting procedures should not dissuade "legitimate" partners from participating in USAID programs; recommends that USAID consider providing assistance to nongovernmental organizations to increase their capacity to meet

“the humanitarian and psycho-social needs of the affected population in Sderot and Western Negev,” including training emergency response teams; recommends that USAID consider funding the work of the First Regional Cooperative Program for Health to be conducted by the Hebrew University’s Kuvim Center, Al Quds University, and St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem; and that USAID and the State Dept. continue to support reform efforts of the PA.

- Directs the U.S. Export-Import Bank to submit a report on the potential for creating a credit export facility for the PA in order to finance the import of U.S. goods and services into the Palestinian territories.

Relevant Senate amendments to H.R. 1105:

(1) SA 627, submitted 3/3/09, John Ensign (R-NV), no cosponsors: Finds that the UN dispatched a team to investigate the damage done to a UN building during the war in Gaza (27 December 2008—18 January 2009), but initiated no investigation into Hamas’s activities during the war; withholds \$382.35 m. from U.S. contributions to the UN until the secy. of state certifies that the UN has launched an investigation into the attacks against Israel since its withdrawal from Gaza, and the allegations that Hamas used territory near the damaged UN building to attack the Israel Defense Forces. The amendment was not considered by the Senate.

(2) SA 629, submitted 3/3/09, Jon Kyl (R-AZ), no cosponsors: On 27 January 2009, President Obama signed Presidential Determination No. 2009-15, which approved a \$20.3 million drawdown from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (ERMA) to assist Palestinian refugees and conflict victims in Gaza. Subsequently, a rumor was spread on the Internet that these funds would be used to resettle Palestinians from Gaza in the United States. In response to these rumors Senator John Kyl submitted this amendment, which prohibits any funds from being used to resettle anyone from Gaza in the United States. After receiving written assurance from the State Dept. that the ERMA funds would be used solely for humanitarian assistance within Gaza,

Sen. Kyl withdrew the amendment on 10 March 2009.

(3) SA 630, submitted 3/3/09, Jon Kyl (R-AZ), no cosponsors: Requires the secy. of state to submit a report to Congress on whether additional FMF aid to Egypt could be used to halt smuggling along the Egypt-Gaza border. Rejected in the Senate on 3/9/09, 34-61.

(4) SA 631, submitted 3/3/09, Jon Kyl (R-AZ), no cosponsors: Prohibits U.S. funding for Gaza reconstruction until the secy. of state certifies that no funds will be diverted to Hamas or entities controlled by Hamas. Rejected in Senate on 3/9/09, 39-56.

(5) SA 657, submitted 3/4/09, Jim Demint (R-SC), no cosponsors: Prohibits any funding for the PA or any entity receiving assistance from the United States for humanitarian relief, reconstruction, or assistance in Gaza until the secy. of state certifies that none of these funds are being used to support a terrorist organization. The amendment was not considered by the Senate.

*See also:* related measure H.R. 2346 of 5/12/09 for FY2009 supplemental appropriations.

*Last major action:* became public law 111-8 (3/10/09 passed in Senate by voice vote; 2/25/09 passed in House 245-178).

#### **\*26 February 2009: Syria Accountability and Liberation Act**

H.R. 1206, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 83 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 485 on 1/13/09, S. 837 of 4/20/09, H.R. 1980 of 4/21/09, H.R. 2290 of 5/6/09, H.R. 2375 of 5/12/09, H.R. 3107 of 6/26/09, S. 1416 of 7/8/09, and H. Res. 872 of 10/27/09.

*Last major action:* 7/23/09 referred to House subcommittee.

#### **26 February 2009: Calling on the Egyptian government to respect human rights and freedom of religion and expression**

H. Res. 200, Frank Wolf (R-VA), 29 cosponsors.

Cites Egypt’s significant role in the Middle East peace process, the regular appearance of material vilifying Jews in the state-controlled and semiofficial media, and the excessive use of force by Egyptian security against African migrants at the Egypt-Israel border. Encourages Egypt and all

other parties concerned to increase efforts to stop smuggling through tunnels into Gaza.

*Last major action:* 2/26/09 referred to House committee.

**3 March 2009: Saudi Arabia Accountability Act of 2009**

H.R. 1288, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), 4 cosponsors.

Seeks to impose sanctions against Saudi Arabia to stop Saudi support for terrorist organizations.

*See also:* related measures S. 837 of 4/20/09, H. R. 1980 on 4/21/09, H.R. 2375 of 5/12/09, S. 1416 of 7/8/09, and H. Res. 872 of 10/27/09.

*Last major action:* 8/19/09 referred to House subcommittee.

**9 March 2009: Condemning the government of Iran for its persecution of its Baha'i minority**

S. Res. 71, Ron Wyden (D-OR), 17 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure **H. Res. 175 of 2/13/09**; related measure H. Res. 840 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 12/1/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

**9 March 2009: Recognizing the 188th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy**

H. J. Res. 39, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 37 cosponsors.

Cites Greece's "excellent relations" with Israel.

*See also:* identical measure H. Res. 273 on 3/19/09 and companion measure S. Res. 82 on 3/23/09.

*Last major action:* 3/9/09 referred to House committee.

**\*10 March 2009: Wartime Treatment Study Act**

H.R. 1425, Robert Wexler (D-FL), 25 cosponsors.

Seeks to create a commission to review the U.S. government's decision to refuse entry to Jewish and other refugees fleeing persecution or genocide in Europe in the period from 9/1/1939 to 12/31/1945.

*See also:* companion measure S. 564 on 3/10/09.

*Last major action:* 10/21/09 ordered to be reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary.

**\*10 March 2009: Wartime Treatment Study Act**

S. 564, Russ Feingold (D-WI), 6 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 1425 on 3/10/09.

*Last major action:* 3/10/09 referred to Senate committee.

**\*11 March 2009: World War II War Crimes Accountability Act of 2009**

H.R. 1439, Steve Israel (D-NY), no cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. 1704 of 9/24/09

*Last major action:* 4/27/09 referred to House subcommittee.

**12 March 2009: To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Holocaust survivor Rabbi Arthur Schneier**

H.R. 1484, Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), no cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 3/12/09 referred to House committee.

**\*18 March 2009: Support for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews Act, 2009**

H.R. 1590, Christopher Smith (R-NJ), 27 cosponsors.

Would authorize the secy. of state to provide \$5 m. to the museum.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 2089 and S. 892 both of 4/23/09.

*Last major action:* 3/18/09 referred to House committee.

**19 March 2009: A bill to seek the establishment of and contributions to an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace**

H.R. 1605, Joseph Crowley (D-NY), 5 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 3/19/09 referred to House committee.

**19 March 2009: Recognizing the 188th anniversary of the independence of Greece**

H. Res. 273, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 39 cosponsors.

Cites Greece's "excellent relations" with Israel.

*See also:* identical measure **H. J. Res. 39 of 3/9/09** and companion measure S. Res. 82 on 3/23/09.

*Last major action:* 3/25/09 passed in House 423-0.

**19 March 2009: Condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and reaffirming the support of Congress for the mandate of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism**

S. Con. Res. 11, Susan Collins (R-ME), 84 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H. Res. 364 of 4/27/09; related measures H. R. 557 of 1/15/09, H. Res. 174 of 2/13/09, H.R. 1920 of 4/2/09, and H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09.

*Last major action:* 7/21/09 referred to House committee (7/20/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent).

**23 March 2009: Recognizing the 188th anniversary of the independence of Greece**

S. Res. 82, Arlen Specter (R-PA), 40 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measures **H. J. Res. 39 of 3/9/09** and H. Res. 273 of 3/19/09.

*Last major action:* 3/23/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

**\*23 March 2009: Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking (PACT) Act, 2009**

H.R. 1676, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), 3 cosponsors.

Regulates the sale of cigarettes over the Internet, increases penalties for cigarette smuggling, and creates new legal mechanisms to increase the collection of cigarette taxes because, among other reasons, "Hezbollah, Hamas, al Qaeda, and other terrorist organizations have profited from trafficking in illegal cigarettes."

*See also:* companion measure S. 1147 of 5/21/09; and related measure H.R. 2134 of 4/28/09.

*Last major action:* 6/1/09 referred to Senate committee (5/21/09 passed in House 397-11).

**24 March 2009: Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel**

H. Res. 282, Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), 27 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 3/31/09 passed in House 418-1.

**24 March 2009: Honoring Holocaust Memorial Center founder Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzweig**

H. Res. 283, Gary Peters (D-MI), 50 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 5/4/09 passed in House by voice vote.

**30 March 2009: Supporting the goals and objectives of the Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets**

H. Con. Res. 89, Robert Wexler (D-FL), 28 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. Con. Res. 23 of 5/19/09; and related measure S. Res. 153 of 5/19/09.

*Last major action:* 7/6/09 referred to Senate committee (6/26/09 passed in House by unanimous consent).

**\*2 April 2009: Durban Review Conference (Durban II) Funding Prohibition Act of 2009**

H.R. 1920, Scott Garrett (R-NJ), 6 cosponsors.

Would withhold the amount of funds that would be used for the Durban II conference from the U.S. contribution to the UN.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 557 of 1/15/09, S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/19/09, H. Res. 364 of 4/27/09, H.R. 2376 of 5/12/09, H.R. 3107 of 6/26/09, and H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09.

*Last major action:* 4/2/09 referred to House committee.

**2 April 2009: Encouraging the negotiation of an "Incidents at Sea Agreement" between the United States and Iran**

H. Con. Res. 94, John Conyers (D-MI), 34 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 4/2/09 referred to House committee.

**2 April 2009: Urging the president to take all necessary steps to deploy a missile defense system in Europe**

H. Res. 319, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, 27 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 2845 of 6/12/09 and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 4/30/09 referred to House subcommittee.

**20 April 2009: North Korea Sanctions Act of 2009**

S. 837, Sam Brownback (R-KS), 7 cosponsors.

Would require the secy. of state to designate North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism and would allow the president to waive the designation upon certification

that, inter alia, North Korea has not transferred missile or nuclear technology to Iran or Syria and has not trained, harbored, supplied, or financed Hamas or Hizballah for the previous five years.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 1980 of 4/21/10; similar measure S. 1416 of 7/8/09; and related measures H.R. 485 on 1/13/09, H.R. 1260 of 2/26/09, H.R. 1288 of 3/3/09, H.R. 2375 of 5/12/09, and H. Res. 872 of 10/27/09.

*Last major action:* 4/20/09 referred to Senate committee.

**21 April 2009: North Korea Sanctions and Diplomatic Nonrecognition Act of 2009**

H.R. 1980, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 22 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. 837 on 4/20/09; similar measure S. 1416 of 7/8/09; and related measures H.R. 485 on 1/13/09, H.R. 1260 of 2/26/09, H.R. 1288 of 3/3/09, H.R. 2375 of 5/12/09, and H. Res. 872 of 10/27/09.

*Last major action:* 4/21/09 referred to House committee.

**\*23 April 2009: Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act**

H.R. 2089, Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), 13 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. 892 of 4/23/10; and related measure H.R. 1590 of 3/18/09.

*Last major action:* 6/4/09 referred to House subcommittee.

**\*23 April 2009: Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act**

S. 892, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), no cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 2089 of 4/23/10; and related measure H.R. 1590 of 3/18/09.

*Last major action:* 4/23/09 referred to Senate committee.

**23 April 2009: Recognizing the 70th anniversary of the tragic date when the M.S. St. Louis, a ship carrying Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, returned to Europe after its passengers were refused admittance to the United States**

S. Res. 111, Herb Kohl (D-WI), 3 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 5/19/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

**27 April 2009: Condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and reaffirming the support of Congress for the mandate of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism**

H. Res. 364, Ron Klein (D-FL), 48 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/19/10; related measures H.R. 557 on 1/15/09, H. Res. 174 on 2/13/09, H. R. 1920 on 4/2/09, H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09, and H. Res. 840 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 4/27/09 referred to House committee.

**28 April 2009: Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel**

H. Con. Res. 111, Scott Garrett (R-NJ), 62 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 5/5/09 referred to Senate committee (passed in House 394-0).

**28 April 2009: To establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission**

H.R. 2134, Elliot Engel (D-NY), 30 cosponsors.

The commission would review U.S. policy aimed at reducing the supply of illegal drugs in the western hemisphere. The bill finds that Hizballah, other extremist groups, and their supporters use drug trafficking to finance terrorist activities.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 1676 of 3/23/09 and S. 1147 of 5/21/09.

*Last major action:* 12/9/09 referred to Senate committee (12/8/09 passed in House by voice vote).

**28 April 2009: Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act**

S. 908, Evan Bayh (D-IN), 76 cosponsors.

Would require the president to impose sanctions on any person or company that he finds to have provided refined petroleum products to Iran or provided support for the expansion of Iran's domestic petroleum refining industry.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09; similar measures H.R. 3238 of 10/15/09 and S. 2799 of 11/19/09; and related measure H.R. 485 of 1/13/09.

*Last major action:* 4/28/09 referred to Senate committee.

### 30 April 2009: Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act

H.R. 2194, Howard Berman (D-CA), 339 cosponsors.

This bill and its companion measure **S. 908 of 4/28/09** were the top legislative priorities for AIPAC in 2009. The House version of the bill would require the president to submit a report to Congress detailing Iran's use of Hizballah to support acts of international terrorism and to develop its weapons of mass destruction programs.

*See also:* companion measure **S. 908 of 4/28/09**; similar measures H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09, S. 2799 of 11/19/09; and related measure H.R. 485 of 1/13/09.

*Last major action:* 12/15/09 passed in House 412-12-4.

### \*6 May 2009: Directing the president to transmit to Congress a report on anti-American incitement to violence in the Middle East

H.R. 2278, Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), 2 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 12/9/09 referred to Senate committee (12/8/09 passed in House 395-3-9).

### 6 May 2009: International Uranium Extraction and Milling Control Act of 2009

H.R. 2290, Brad Sherman (D-CA), 2 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 485 of 1/13/09, H.R. 1206 of 2/26/09, S. 837 of 4/20/09, H.R. 1980 of 4/21/09, H.R. 3107 of 6/26/09, and S. 1416 of 7/8/09.

*Last major action:* 5/6/09 referred to House committee.

### 6 May 2009: Celebrating the life of President Gerald R. Ford

H. Res. 409, Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), 53 cosponsors.

Cites Ford's efforts to establish a framework for a lasting peace between Israel and Egypt.

*Last major action:* 5/6/09 referred to House committee.

### 12 May 2009: Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009

H.R. 2346, David Obey (D-WI), no cosponsors.

This bill provides the supplemental funding requested by President Obama to continue the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

through FY2009. Included with the war funding is much of Obama's request for aid to the West Bank and Gaza in the wake of Operation Cast Lead, pledged by Secy. of State Hillary Clinton at a donor's conference in Sharm al-Shaykh on 2 March 2009. \$31 m. of the \$150 m. requested for Migration and Refugee Assistance was not included. Most of the aid is to be channeled to the PA and to U.S. programs in the West Bank in order to improve services (e.g., health, water, sanitation, and education), promote economic development and investment, and increase public confidence in PA institutions. The bill does include money for humanitarian and reconstruction aid that will bypass Hamas and be delivered directly by USAID, NGOs, and UN agencies operating in Gaza. Also included is a Foreign Military Financing grant to Israel.

The aid is appropriated to the following spending accounts:

**Economic Support Fund (ESF):** Provides a total of \$551 m. for the West Bank and Gaza. While the bill itself does not specify how the funds are to be spent, President Obama's supplemental funding request and the supplemental funding justification provided to Congress by the State Dept. and USAID provide a breakdown of how the funds are intended to be used.

\$395 m. is for the West Bank: \$200 m. for cash transfer to the PA treasury account (the United States retains prior approval of any transactions from the account and a three-year power of audit over these funds). The remainder is for USAID programs carried out by NGOs operating in the West Bank: \$93 million for institutional capacity building, education, and social services; \$60 million to promote economic growth; \$30 m. to support governance and rule of law; and \$12 m. for humanitarian assistance.

\$156 m. is for Gaza: \$61 m. for immediate humanitarian and food relief; \$54 m. to restore essential education and health services provided by NGOs and private organizations; \$20 m. to repair household level agriculture infrastructure, increase domestic food supply, and reduce the cost of food; \$6 m. for community improvement and rebuilding projects in "non-Hamas municipalities and communities"; and \$15 m. to replenish USAID West Bank

program funds that were granted to NGOs for humanitarian assistance during and immediately after Operation Cast Lead. The State Dept. and USAID funding justification states that "implementation of programs in Gaza is dependent on the establishment of a durable ceasefire, the creation of an operating environment in which Hamas does not interfere with [U.S.]-funded programs and activities, and the ability to move essential materials and commodities into Gaza."

The bill stipulates that from the above funds \$2 m. is to be transferred to the Office of Inspector General of USAID and \$1 m. is to be transferred to the State Dept.'s Office of Inspector General, all for oversight of programs in the West Bank and Gaza. None of this aid may be used to pay salaries of PA personnel in Gaza.

**International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE):** Provides \$109 m. to "train, equip, and garrison the Presidential Guard and Special Battalions of the National Security Forces to crackdown on terrorism" and "bolster and backstop the efforts of the Palestinian Civilian Police to maintain law and order." The secy. of state is required to submit a report on the training, curriculum, and equipment provided; an assessment of the effectiveness of the training and performance after completion of the training; and an assessment of factors that limit the capabilities of the forces trained.

**Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR):** Provides \$50 m. to Egypt to enhance security along the Gaza border. The bill directs the secy. of state to "work assiduously to facilitate the regular flow of people and licit goods" in and out of Gaza at the border crossings, and the conference committee report on the bill (report number 111-151) requires the secretary to submit a report within 45 days, and every 90 days thereafter until 10 September 2010, detailing the progress made in this effort.

**Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA):** Provides up to \$119 m. to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for activities in the West Bank and Gaza. The secy. of state must submit a report within 45 days on whether UNRWA is (1) inspecting its installations in the West Bank and Gaza and reporting any inappropriate use; (2) dealing with any

staff or beneficiary violations of its policies, specifically including its policies on neutrality and impartiality of employees; (3) taking the necessary steps to ensure that U.S. funding is not being used to assist any refugee receiving military training by any "guerilla type organization" or who has engaged in any act of terrorism; (4) continuing to report to the Dept. of State on the actions it has taken to ensure its compliance with the terms in item (3); (5) taking steps to "improve the transparency of all educational materials" used in UNRWA administered schools; (6) using curriculum materials that promote tolerance, nonviolent conflict resolution, and human rights in all of the schools and summer camps it supports; (7) not engaging in operations with financial institutions suspected by the United States of supporting terrorism, enhancing its "transparency and financial due diligence," and working to diversify its banking operations; (8) complying with the UN Board of Auditors requirements and implementing the Board's recommendations.

Provides \$10 m. to USAID for operating expenses in the West Bank and Gaza.

**Foreign Military Financing (FMF):** The bill also provides Israel with \$555 m. in FMF grants to be disbursed by 10/30/09. \$145.965 m. of these funds may be used to purchase Israeli defense articles and services. The conference committee report states that these funds are provided as a portion of President Obama's FY2010 budget request and are not granted in addition to the funds requested for Israel for FY2010. The bill withholds FMF grants to Lebanon until the secy. of state reports on the vetting procedures in place to ensure that none of the funds are provided to individuals or organizations with links to terrorist organizations such as Hizballah and that mechanisms to monitor use of the funds are in place.

Section 1107 of the bill prohibits U.S. assistance to Hamas, any Hamas-controlled entity, or power-sharing government including Hamas unless the president certifies that all of the members of that government have publicly accepted Israel's right to exist and agree to abide by all past agreements and understandings between the PA, Israel, the United States, and the international community, including the road map. This new language was requested by the Obama administration to allow funding for

the PA to continue in the event that reconciliation talks between Fatah and Hamas were successful. In previous bills (see section 7040 of **H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09**), funding for a unity government was prohibited until Hamas *as an organization* agreed to these conditions. The conference committee report states that this public acceptance should be given in writing by all members of the government. The secy. of state must also submit a report within 120 days of the presidential certification, and quarterly thereafter, indicating whether the members of the power-sharing government are continuing to comply with the above conditions; detailing the amount, purposes, and delivery mechanism of any U.S. assistance; and providing a full accounting of any direct support of the government. The bill also keeps in place all other conditions on funding for the West Bank and Gaza contained in sections **7013** and **7035-7040** of **H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09**.

There was one relevant Senate amendment to the bill:

- SA 1145, submitted 5/20/09, Jon Kyl (R-AZ), no cosponsors: Requires the secy. of state to submit a report detailing assessed damages to U.S. funded projects and programs in Gaza “caused when Hamas broke the cease-fire with Israel from December 2008 to January 2009.” The report must include an estimate of the amounts expended on these programs and cost estimates for the repair of any damage; a determination of whether these projects and programs were used by Hamas to launch rockets, “shelter Hamas terrorists,” store ammunition, or for any other purpose; and a description of the damages to UN facilities in Gaza and, if known, the party responsible for the damage. This measure was ordered tabled and was not considered by the Senate.

*See also:* companion measure S. 1054 of 5/14/09.

*Last major action:* 6/24/09 became public law 111-32 (6/18/09 CRPS 91-5; 6/16/09 CRPH 226-202).

**12 May 2009: Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Designation Implementation Act**

H.R. 2375, Brad Sherman (D-CA), 5 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 1260 of 2/26/09, H.R. 1288 of 3/3/09, S. 837 of 4/20/09, H.R. 1980 of 4/21/09, S. 1416 of 7/8/09, and H. Res. 872 of 10/27/09.

*Last major action:* 8/19/09 referred to House subcommittee.

**\*12 May 2009: To withhold United States funding from the United Nations Human Rights Council**

H.R. 2376, Cliff Stearns (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

Finds that the UN Human Rights Council has “failed to condemn countries that sponsor terrorism (a glaring affront to human rights), including Iran, Syria, and North Korea”; devoted 30% of its country specific resolutions to vilifying Israel while overlooking human rights abuses throughout the Middle East and other persistent human rights violators. Also finds that the UN Human Rights Council has discriminated against Israel by denying it full participatory rights in meetings of the council while permitting non-UN members such as the Palestinian observer to participate in these meetings. Expresses the sense of Congress that Israel should be allowed full participation in all operations associated with the Council.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 557 of 1/15/09, H.R. 1920 of 4/2/09, H.R. 3107 of 6/26/09, and H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09.

*Last major action:* 5/12/09 referred to House committee.

**12 May 2009: Expressing the support of Congress for the Jewish community in Venezuela**

H. Con. Res. 124, Connie Mack (R-FL), 28 cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measure H. Res. 174 of 2/13/09; related measure S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/19/09.

*Last major action:* 5/12/09 referred to House committee.

**14 May 2009: Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011**

H. R. 2410, Howard Berman (D-CA), no cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measure H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09; related measures H.R. 557 of 1/15/09, H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09, H.R. 3081 and H.R. 3107 both of 6/26/09, S. 1390 and S. 1391 both of 7/2/09, H.R. 3160 and S. 1434 both of 7/9/10, and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/10.

*Last major action:* 6/22/09 referred to Senate committee (6/10/09 passed in House 235-187).

**14 May 2009: Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009**

S. 1054, Daniel Inouye (D-HI), no cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure **H. R. 2346 of 5/12/09.**

*Last major action:* 5/14/09 placed on Senate legislative calendar for further action by the whole Senate.

**19 May 2009: FY2010 Dept. of State Authorization**

H. R. 2475, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), no cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measure H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09; related measures H.R. 375 of 1/9/09, H.R. 557 of 1/15/09, H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09, S. 1390 and S. 1391 both of 7/2/09, H.R. 3160 and S. 1434 both of 7/9/10, and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/10.

*Last major action:* 5/19/09 referred to House committee.

**\*19 May 2009: Expressing the sense of the Senate on the restitution of or compensation for property seized during the Nazi and Communist eras**

S. Res. 153, Bill Nelson (D-FL), 3 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H. Con. Res. 89 of 3/30/09 and S. Con. Res. 23 of 5/19/09; and similar provisions in H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09 and H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09.

*Last major action:* 6/18/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

**19 May 2009: Supporting the goals and objectives of the Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets**

S. Con. Res. 23, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), 8 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H. Con. Res. 89 of 3/30/09; related measure S. Res. 153 of 5/19/09.

*Last major action:* 6/19/09 referred to House committee (6/18/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent).

**\*21 May 2009: Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking (PACT) Act, 2009**

S. 1147, Herb Kohl (D-WI), 19 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure **H.R. 1676 of 3/23/09;** and related measure H.R. 2134 of 4/28/09.

*Last major action:* 11/19/09 placed on Senate legislative calendar for further action by the whole Senate.

**2 June 2009: National Defense Authorization Act for 2010**

H.R. 2647, Ike Skelton (D-MO), 1 cosponsor.

This annual bill provides the legal authority, or "authorization," to the Dept. of Defense to carry out its activities. The bill authorizes a total of \$144.634 m. for the Israeli ballistic missile defense systems being jointly developed by the United States and Israel, though this amount is nonbinding. The total includes a \$25 m. increase over the president's funding request to support the development of the "David's Sling" short-range ballistic missile defense program. The report of the House Committee on Armed Services (report number 111-166) accompanying the bill expresses the Committee's support for development of the Arrow-3, a new component of Israel's ballistic missile defense systems. The report also expresses the committee's concern that development of the system is technologically risky and directs the secy. of defense to submit a report by 15 April 2010 describing the progress made on developing the Arrow-3, whether the program is proceeding on schedule, and the alternative missile systems the Defense Dept. is considering to provide Israel should the Arrow-3 prove unworkable. To that end, the committee approved the U.S. Missile Defense Agency request for \$50 m. to pursue the development of a land-based version of the existing ship-launched Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) ballistic missile defense system in use by the U.S. Navy. The SM-3 is being developed specifically both for the U.S. military and as a back-up system for Israel should development of the Arrow-3 fail.

Further, the bill expresses the sense of Congress that "Israel is one of the strongest allies of the United States" and faces common enemies and that the United States "remains vigorously committed to supporting Israel's welfare, security, and survival as a democratic state and should "continue to provide critical assistance needed to address existential threats." It also requires the secy. of defense to submit an annual report to Congress assessing Iran's military strategy toward Israel, the effectiveness of its military forces

facing Israel, and its support of Hamas and Hizballah.

*See also:* companion measures S. 1390 and S. 1391 of 7/2/09; and related measures H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09, H.R. 2845 of 6/12/09, H.R. 3326 of 7/24/10, and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 10/28/09 became public law 111-84 (10/22/09 CRPS 68-29; 10/8/09 CRPH 281-146).

**2 June 2009: Recognizing the significant contributions of Hillel to college campus communities in the United States and around the world**

H. Res. 493, Ron Klein (D-FL), 40 cosponsors.

Cites the Jewish campus organization Hillel as having been at the forefront of educating students about Israel on U.S. college campuses.

*Last major action:* 6/15/09 passed in House by voice vote.

**4 June 2009: Intelligence Authorization Act for FY2010**

H.R. 2701, Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), no cosponsors.

One section of the bill requires the Director of National Intelligence to submit a report every 180 days assessing the nuclear weapons programs of Syria, Iran, and North Korea.

*Last major action:* 7/8/09 reported to full House for consideration.

**4 June 2009: Commending efforts to teach the history of both Israelis and Palestinians to students in Israel and the West Bank in order to foster mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance**

H. Res. 511, Jim Moran (D-VA), 26 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 6/4/09 referred to House committee.

**11 June 2009: Commending the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions for calling upon all nations to live in peace and mutual understanding**

H. Res. 535, Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa), 27 cosponsors.

Cites the participation of Israeli religious leaders in the Congress of Leaders.

*Last major action:* 7/30/09 passed in House by voice vote.

**12 June 2009: Protect the Homeland from North Korean and Iranian Ballistic Missiles Act**

H.R. 2845, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 9 cosponsors.

Cites Iran's test of a missile that can reach Europe, Israel, and U.S. forces deployed in the Persian Gulf. Would direct the secy. of defense to deploy further ballistic missile defenses in the United States and authorize \$500 m. for U.S. missile defense programs for 2010.

*See also:* similar measure H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09; and related measures H. Res. 319 of 4/2/09, H.R. 2845 of 6/12/09, H. Res. 581 of 6/25/09.

*Last major action:* 6/24/09 referred to House subcommittee.

**\*17 June 2009: Condemning the attack on the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994**

H. Con. Res. 156, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 30 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measure H.R. 375 of 1/9/09.

*Last major action:* 7/20/09 referred to Senate committee (7/17/09 passed in House by voice vote).

**18 June 2009: Expressing support for Israel's right to defend itself**

H. Res. 557, Pete Sessions (R-TX), 96 cosponsors.

*See also:* similar provision in H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09 and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09; related measures S. Res. 6 of 1/6/09, H. Res. 34 of 1/8/09, and S. Res. 10 of 1/8/09.

*Last major action:* 6/18/09 referred to House committee.

**23 June 2009: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010**

H.R. 2997, Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), no cosponsors.

Provides \$700,000 for the Ohio-Israel Agriculture Initiative. Funds were earmarked by Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and George Voinovich (R-OH). Senator John McCain (R-AZ) submitted an amendment, SA 2034, on 7/30/09 which would have eliminated funding for the project, but the amendment was not considered by the Senate.

*Last major action:* 10/21/09 became public law 111-80 (10/8/09 CRPS 76-22; 9/30/09 CRPH 263-162).

**25 June 2009: Urging the president to deploy a missile defense system in Europe**

H. Res. 581, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 49 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 2845 of 6/12/09, H. Res. 557 of 6/18/09, and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 8/3/09 referred to House subcommittee.

**26 June 2009: State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, FY2010**

H. R. 3081, Nita Lowey (D-NY), no cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. 1434 of 7/9/10 of 7/9/09; similar measure H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09; and related measures H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09, H.R. 2410 of 5/14/10, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/10, and H.R. 3160 of 7/9/09.

*Last major action:* 7/13/09 placed on Senate legislative calendar for further action by the whole Senate (7/9/09 passed in House 318-106).

**26 June 2009: Stop Nuclear Assistance to State Sponsors of Terrorism Act of 2009**

H.R. 3107, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 10 cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measures Amendment 182 to H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09, Amendment 67 to H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09; and related measures H.R. 557 of 1/15/09, H.R. 1206 of 2/26/09, H.R. 1920 of 4/2/09, H.R. 2290 of 5/6/09, H.R. 2376 of 5/12/09, and H.R. 3231 of 7/16/09.

*Last major action:* 6/26/09 referred to House committee.

**2 July 2009: National Defense Authorization Act, FY2010**

S. 1390, Carl Levin (D-MI), no cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure **H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09**; similar measure S. 1391 of 7/2/09; and related measures H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09, H.R. 2845 of 6/12/09, H.R. 3326 of 7/24/10, and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 7/28/09 held at House desk (7/23/09 passed in Senate 87-7).

**2 July 2009: Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010**

S. 1391, Carl Levin (D-MI), no cosponsors.

Relevant provisions are identical to S. 1390 of 7/2/09.

*See also:* companion measure **H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09**; similar measure S. 1390 of 7/2/09; and related measures H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09, H.R. 2845 of 6/12/09, H.R. 3326 of 7/24/10, and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 7/30/09 held at House desk (7/23/09 passed in Senate by voice vote).

**8 July 2009: North Korea Accountability Act of 2009**

S. 1416, Sam Brownback (R-KS), 3 cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measures **S. 837 of 4/20/09** and H.R. 1980 of 4/21/09; and related measures H.R. 485 of 1/13/09, H.R. 1260 of 2/26/09, H.R. 1288 of 3/3/09, H.R. 2290 of 5/6/09, and H.R. 3107 of 6/26/09.

*Last major action:* 7/8/09 referred to Senate committee.

**9 July 2009: Making appropriations for assistance to Israel for FY 2010**

H.R. 3160, Christopher Smith (R-NJ), no cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measures H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, S. 1434 of 7/9/09, and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09; and related measure H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09.

*Last major action:* 7/9/09 referred to House committee.

**9 July 2009: Department of State, Foreign operations, and Related Programs Appropriations, FY2010**

S. 1434, Patrick Leahy (D-VT), no cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09; similar measure H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09; and related measures H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09, H.R. 2410 of 5/14/10, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/10, and H.R. 3160 of 7/9/10.

*Last major action:* 7/9/09 placed on Senate legislative calendar for further action by the whole Senate.

**10 July 2009: Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2010**

H.R. 3170, José Serrano (D-NY), no cosponsors.

Would grant an exception to citizens of Israel, among others, from the prohibition on the U.S. government employing non-U.S. citizens.

*Last major action:* 7/20/09 placed on Senate legislative calendar for further action by the whole Senate (7/16/09 passed in House 219-208-1).

#### **16 July 2009: Durban Taxpayer Refund Act of 2009**

H.R. 3231, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 36 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 557 of 1/15/09, S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/19/09, H.R. 1920 of 4/2/09, H. Res. 364 of 4/27/09, H.R. 2376 of 5/12/09, and H.R. 3107 of 6/26/09.

*Last major action:* 7/16/09 referred to House committee.

#### **16 July 2009: Honoring the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation**

H. Res. 654, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), 27 cosponsors.

Cites the longstanding relationship between the states of the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, which includes Israel. Honors Israel and the other members of the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation for their participation in the OSCE.

*Last major action:* 7/22/09 passed in House by voice vote.

#### **22 July 2009: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010**

H.R. 3288, John Olver (D-MA), no cosponsors.

This omnibus bill provides funding for most government agencies for FY2010. Except funding for one program under Military Construction, all other funding levels and provisions are from the Dept. of State and Foreign Operations section of the bill.

*For Israel, aid is appropriated to the following accounts:*

**Military Construction:** The bill provides \$68.5 m. for construction of a facility to pursue the development of a land-based version of the existing ship-launched Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) ballistic missile defense system. The land-based SM-3 is being developed specifically both for use by the

U.S. military and as a back-up system for Israel should development of the system specifically for Israel, the Arrow-3, fail. See **H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09**, S. 1390 of 7/2/09, and **H.R. 3326 of 7/24/09** for further details on the SM-3 and funding for U.S.-Israeli missile defense systems.

**Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA):** Provides \$25 m. to the United Israel Appeal, which in turn helps finance programs of the Jewish Agency for Israel that aim to integrate Jewish migrants into Israeli society by funding their transportation to Israel, Hebrew language instruction, and vocational training.

**Foreign Military Financing (FMF) Program:** Provides \$2.22 b. for Israel to purchase U.S.-produced weapons, defense equipment, defense services, and military training with the option of using \$583.86 m. of these funds to purchase Israeli weapons and military equipment. The funds are to be disbursed by 15 January 2010 into an interest bearing account with the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank.

In addition, the bill adds \$500,000 to the president's request for International Military Education Training assistance to Egypt to fund a combined military training program for Egyptian and Israeli students.

U.S. funding for the IAEA is available unless the secy. of state determines that Israel is being denied its right to participate in the Agency's activities. Previously, U.S. funding for the IAEA was withheld until the secy. of state reported that Israel was not being denied participation.

*For the West Bank and Gaza:*

**Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related (NADR) Programs:** Provides \$2.5 m. for PA security forces. The State Dept. requested \$2 m. of this for anti-terrorism training and \$500,000 to assist in detecting and dismantling terrorist financial networks.

**Economic Support Funds (ESF):** The bill fully funds the State Dept. request for \$400.4 m. for the West Bank and Gaza. No more than \$150 m. of this can be transferred directly to the PA treasury, and up to \$2 m. can be used for USAID administrative expenses. The remaining funds are for USAID programs in the West Bank and Gaza that are carried out by NGOs operating there. According to the State Dept. request, \$59 m. is for efforts aimed at improving health care, including building and renovating

health care facilities as requested by the PA; \$25 m. is for improving water and sewer infrastructure and other social services; and \$9.5 m. is for education programs designed to support the PA's Education Development Strategic Plan by applying aspects of the U.S. private school pilot program in the West Bank and Gaza to the public school system there.

\$95 m. is for various types of economic assistance, including \$50 m. for infrastructure projects (especially transportation improvement), \$2 m. in microloans and microfinancing, \$9 m. to assist in exports of agricultural products, and unspecified amounts to improve the flow of Palestinian exports at border crossings (namely by improving Palestinian security inspection and cargo consolidation on the Palestinian side of the border), improving the availability of investment capital, and eliminating PA regulatory constraints.

\$38 m. is for governance programs, including \$13 m. to train members of the Palestinian judiciary; \$9 m. to improve civil society participation in the justice sector; and undesignated amounts for technical assistance to "local municipalities not controlled by foreign terrorist organizations in Gaza," training of local media to report on PA actions, assisting local civil society organizations, and improving PA ministries' capacity to provide basic services.

\$23.9 m. is to provide humanitarian assistance commodities (e.g., pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies) to the PA Ministry of Health and NGOs operating in the West Bank and Gaza and to provide food assistance to non-refugee families there.

**International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INCLE):** Provides \$100 m. for the PA, of which \$96 m. is, according to the State Dept., to provide training, nonlethal equipment, and garrisons for PA security services. The remainder is for programs to improve human rights and the rule of law and to encourage an independent judiciary within the PA.

**Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA):** Provides the president with \$1.685 b. to meet the needs of refugees worldwide. Though funding for UNRWA is not addressed specifically, it is from this account that yearly U.S. contributions to UNRWA are made. The bill continues the requirement for the secy. of state to **report** on UNRWA's efforts to ensure that it

is acting in full compliance with U.S. laws contained in **H.R. 2346 of 5/12/09** under the MRA heading.

*For Lebanon:*

The bill also fully funds the State Dept.'s request for \$238 m. in economic and security aid to Lebanon. The \$109 m. in ESF provided by the bill was requested for programs to strengthen Lebanese democratic and judicial institutions in order to "decrease Hizballah's ability to undermine the political process" and to increase Lebanese government services to supersede services provided by Hizballah. The \$129 m. provided for security assistance (FMF, INCLE, and NADR funds) was requested to train and equip Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces to counteract Hizballah and to promote Lebanese control over Palestinian refugee camps to prevent their use as bases to attack Israel. This last includes a community policing training program for use in the refugee camps, with a pilot program planned in Nahr al-Barid.

The \$100 m. in FMF assistance is permitted only to "professionalize the Lebanese Armed Forces and to strengthen border security and combat terrorism, including training and equipping the Lebanese Armed Forces to secure Lebanon's borders, interdicting arms shipments, preventing the use of Lebanon as a safe haven for terrorist groups and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701 [the resolution ending the 2006 war with Israel]."

*Peacekeeping Operations:*

Provides \$26 m. for the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai, which supervises the implementation of 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

*Regional Programs:*

Provides \$375,000 for the **Israeli Arab Scholarship Program** for grants to Israeli Arabs to study in the United States; \$5 m. for the **Middle East Regional Cooperative Program**, which focuses on promoting scientific cooperation between Arab and Israeli researchers; and \$10 m. for reconciliation programs between Arabs and Israelis.

The bill also contains a general clause stating that all funds provided to Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and to the West Bank and

Gaza should be made available in a manner to further peace in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians.

The conference committee that reconciled the differences between the House's Dept. of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, and its Senate companion measure, S. 1434 of 7/9/09, directed in its report (report number 111-366) that the secy. of state report to Congress on efforts being made to expand programs for Palestinian students to study abroad and participate in student exchange programs, especially in the United States. Further, the secy. of state must report within 180 days of the bill's passage on international participation, including by Arab states, in the economic development of the West Bank and support for the PA.

Finally, the bill carries over the annual provisions and prohibitions contained in sections 7007, 7013, 7034-7039, 7056, and 7085 of H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09. The bill carries over the prohibition of funding for the PA contained in section 7040 of H.R. 1105 with an amendment granting the president the authority to provide funding to a power-sharing government in which Hamas is a member. The authority is granted only if the secy. of state certifies to the House and Senate appropriations committees that all of the members of that government have publicly accepted Israel's right to exist and agree to abide by all past agreements and understandings between the PA, Israel, the United States and the international community, including the road map.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09, H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, and S. 1434 of 7/9/09.

*Last major action:* 12/16/09 became public law 111-117 (12/13/09 CRPS 57-35; 12/10/09 CRPH 221-202-1).

#### **24 July 2009: Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010**

H.R. 3326, John Murtha (D-PA), no cosponsors.

This is the annual funding bill for the Dept. of Defense. It includes a total of \$202.434 m. for Israeli missile defense systems being jointly developed by the United States and Israel, an increase of \$82.8 m. over the president's budget request. This also represents a sharp increase in yearly funding, which from FY2002 to FY2008 fluctuated between \$130 m. and \$155 m.

and in FY2009 increased to \$177.2 m. The additional funds were requested by Steve Rothman (D-NJ) and approved by the bill's sponsor and chairman of the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee John Murtha (D-PA). Of the total provided, \$80.092 m. is for the "David's Sling" Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense system, including research and development for cruise missile defenses; \$50.036 m. is for research and development of the Arrow-3 missile system; and a total of \$72.306 m. is for the Arrow-2 missile system, \$25 m. of which is for production of Arrow-2 missiles and components. Funds made available here for production of missiles and missile components can be transferred to other appropriations available for procurement of other weapons and equipment. In its report on the bill (report number 111-230), the House Committee on Appropriations directs the Dept. of Defense to submit a report to the Senate and House defense committees by 1/29/10 detailing the progress made in developing the Arrow-3 and whether development is proceeding on schedule. Both the Senate and House defense committees have noted their concern that developing the Arrow-3 is technically risky and, if development fails, could leave Israel without a long-range missile defense system. The explanatory statement reconciling the House and Senate versions of this bill allows an unspecified amount for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency to begin development of a land-based version of the existing SM-3 missile system (for which the MDA requested \$50 m.), which is intended for use by the U.S. military and as a back-up system for Israel should development of the Arrow-3 fail. See H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09 and S. 1390 of 7/2/09 for more details on the Arrow-3 and SM-3 programs and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09 for more on funding for the SM-3 program.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 2647 of 6/2/09, S. 1390 and S. 1391 of 7/2/09, and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 12/19/09 became public law 111-118 (12/19/09 passed in Senate 88-10; 12/16/09 passed in House 395-34).

#### **30 July 2009: Jerusalem Embassy and Recognition Act, 2009**

H.R. 3412, Dan Burton (R-IN), 5 cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measures H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09, Amendment 38 to H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09, Amendment 87 to H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, and S. 2737 of 11/5/09.

*Last major action:* 7/30/09 referred to House committee.

**10 September 2009: Commending those on the front lines in the war against terrorism**

H. Res. 731, Yvette Clarke (D-NY), 20 cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 10/1/09 passed in House by voice vote.

**15 September 2009: Enhancing the reporting requirements on the status of the Arab League trade boycott of Israel**

S. 1671, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 2 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 4046 of 11/6/09; and related measures H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09, H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, S. 1434 and H.R. 3160 both of 7/9/09, and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09.

*Last major action:* 9/15/09 referred to Senate committee.

**\*22 September 2009: Limiting the Intrusive Miles of International Terrorist Sponsors Act (LIMITS Act of 2009)**

H.R. 3611, Paul Broun (R-GA), 49 cosponsors.

Would direct the president to restrict the travel of officials and representatives of countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism (including Syria and Iran) to the UN complex in New York City.

*See also:* related measure H.R. 485 of 1/13/09.

*Last major action:* 9/22/09 referred to House committee.

**\*24 September 2009: World War II War Crimes Accountability Act of 2009**

S. 1704, Bill Nelson (D-FL), 2 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure H.R. 1439 of 3/11/09.

*Last major action:* 9/24/09 referred to Senate committee.

**25 September 2009: Encouraging the people of the United States to reflect on and remember the men and women of Poland who acted to save their Jewish countrymen from extermination by Nazi Germany**

S. Res. 289, Arlen Specter (D-PA), no cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 9/25/09 referred to Senate committee.

**14 October 2009: Honoring the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Jordan**

H. Res. 833, Adam Schiff (D-CA), 34 cosponsors.

Cites King Hussein's engagement "with successive Israeli prime ministers in the search for peace" and his signing of a peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

*See also:* companion measure S. Res. 376 of 12/16/09.

*Last major action:* 11/7/09 passed in House by voice vote.

**15 October 2009: Peace Through Strength Act of 2009**

H.R. 3832, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 25 cosponsors.

Would impose trade sanctions on firms that trade with Iran similar to those in the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (see **S. 908 of 5/28/09**); declares that the United States is "wholly capable, willing, and ready to use military force to prevent Iran from obtaining or developing a nuclear weapons capability"; and directs the secy. of defense to develop and maintain viable military options to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Among a list of 70 findings of Congress are an assertion of Iran's support for Hizballah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad; a listing of the various missiles that Iran has tested and deployed that can strike Israel; statements by President Obama and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the dangers to Israel of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon; and the assertion that Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's remarks denying the Holocaust and calling for Israel to be "wiped off the map" have created a climate of fear among Iran's Jewish community. States that the policy of the United States shall be to support Israel's right to defend itself and to normalize relations with Iran only after Iran respects Israel's boundaries, sovereignty, and right to exist and contributes positively to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

*See also:* similar measures S. 908 of 4/28/09, H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09, and S. 2799 of 11/19/09; related measures H. Res. 319

of 4/2/09, H.R. 2845 of 6/12/09, H. Res. 581 of 6/25/09, H. Res. 840 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 10/15/09 referred to House committee.

**15 October 2009: Condemning violations of religious freedom in the Middle East**

H. Res. 840, Dan Burton (R-IN), 13 cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measure H. Res. 33 of 1/8/09; and related measures S. Con. Res. 11 of 3/19/09, H. Res. 364 of 4/27/09, and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09.

*Last major action:* 10/15/09 referred to House committee.

**23 October 2009: Calling on the president and the secretary of state to oppose the Goldstone report in international fora**

H. Res. 867, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 202 cosponsors.

*See also:* related measures S. Res. 6 of 1/6/09, H. Res. 34 and S. Res. 10 both of 1/8/09, H. Res. 37 of 1/9/09, and H. Res. 66 of 1/15/09.

*Last major action:* 11/3/09 passed in House 344-36-22.

**27 October 2009: Calling for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to be designated a state sponsor of terrorism for its support of Iran and Hizballah**

H. Res. 872, Connie Mack (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

*See also:* related measures H.R. 1260 of 2/26/09, H.R. 1288 of 3/3/09, S. 837 of 4/20/09, H. R. 1980 of 4/21/09, S. 1416 of 7/8/09, and H.R. 2375 of 5/12/09.

*Last major action:* 10/27/09 referred to House committee.

**29 October 2009: To suspend temporarily the duty on Israeli reconstituted tobacco**

S. 2042, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), no cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 10/29/09 referred to Senate committee.

**5 November 2009: Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act of 2009**

S. 2737, Sam Brownback (R-KS), 6 cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measure H.R. 3412 of 7/30/09; and related measures Amendment 38 to H.R. 2410 of 5/14/09, H.R. 2475 of 5/19/09, Amendment 87 to H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, and S. 2737 of 11/5/09.

*Last major action:* 11/5/09 referred to Senate committee.

**6 November 2009: Enhancing the reporting requirements on the status of the Arab League trade boycott of Israel**

H.R. 4046, Shelley Berkley (D-NV), 13 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. 1671 of 9/15/09; and related measures H.R. 1105 of 2/23/09, H.R. 3081 of 6/26/09, S. 1434 and H.R. 3160 of 7/9/09, and H.R. 3288 of 7/22/09.

*Last major action:* 11/6/09 referred to House committee.

**19 November 2009: Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2009**

S. 2799, Chris Dodd (D-CT), no cosponsors.

*See also:* similar measures S. 908 of 4/28/09, H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09, and H.R. 3832 of 10/15/09; and related measure H.R. 485 of 1/13/09.

*Last major action:* 11/19/09 placed on Senate legislative calendar for further action by the whole Senate.

**8 December 2009: Ensuring the neutrality of U.S. courts for claims against railroad companies involved in the Holocaust**

H.R. 4237, Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), 2 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure S. 28 of 1/7/09.

*Last major action:* 12/8/09 referred to House committee.

**16 December 2009: Rendering nationals of Israel eligible to enter the United States as nonimmigrant traders and investors**

H.R. 4406, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), no cosponsors.

*Last major action:* 12/16/09 referred to House committee.

**16 December 2009: Honoring the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Jordan**

S. Res. 376, Daniel Inouye (D-HI), 3 cosponsors.

*See also:* companion measure **H. Res. 833 of 10/14/09.**

*Last major action:* 12/16/09 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.