



Congressional Monitor

THE 114TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION: 4 JANUARY 2016–3 JANUARY 2017

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

The second session of the 114th Congress opened on 1/4/16 in the midst of a contentious presidential campaign season and closed a year later on 1/3/17, near the end of Pres. Barack Obama's second term. The Republican-dominated legislative body clashed frequently with the outgoing Democratic administration in its final session, including on issues related to Palestinian affairs and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, as it had in its first.

Over the course of the 114th Congress, the 100 senators and 435 representatives collectively introduced 12,073 independent pieces of legislation; 317 of which carried provisions relating to Palestinian affairs or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict. This year's Monitor is only concerned with the 25 relevant measures that are under active consideration carried over from the first session, and the 139 introduced during the second.

These totals represent a significant increase in congressional attention to the Arab-Israeli conflict compared to the previous Congress, when only 211 relevant measures were introduced (see *JPS* 43 [3] and 44 [4]). The increase reflects persistent disagreements between the Obama administration and the Republican leadership in Congress surrounding the P5+1* nuclear negotiations with Iran, the ongoing debate in Congress over how to handle the Syrian conflict and the refugee crisis it created, and the steady growth of the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

* China, France, the UK, U.S., Russia, and Germany.

OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION

Congressional measures fall into 2 general categories. There are binding measures—bills and joint resolutions—that can pass into law, and there are nonbinding measures—concurrent and simple resolutions—that merely state the views of Congress on a particular issue. While they are less consequential, nonbinding measures are important indicators of congressional priorities as they typically “urge,” “recognize,” “encourage,” “affirm,” or “support” people, events, and policy positions. Of the 164 measures under consideration here, 117 were binding (10 passed into law), and 47 were simple or concurrent resolutions (10 passed).

Although most of the 164 measures principally concerned issues relating to Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict, 28 were tangentially related and included relevant issues in debates surrounding the measures, amendments proposed to otherwise unrelated legislation, or provisions in vast, multifaceted bills.

Of the unrelated measures, 10 were authorizations or appropriations bills, with the former providing the legal authority for all U.S. government programs and agencies (i.e., earmarking funds), and the latter allocating funding to those authorized bodies (i.e., disbursement of funds). The 3 appropriations and authorizations bills that passed into law authorized funding for joint U.S.-Israeli missile defense programs, among other things (*S. 2943 of 5/18/16), and extended appropriations from fiscal year (FY) 2016 through the first few months of FY 2017 (*H.R. 5325 of 5/25/16 and *H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16. See *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15 at congressionalmonitor.org for a full accounting of FY 2016 appropriations).

The 18 other tangential measures dealt with a variety of issues, ranging from water policy (S. 2848 of 4/25/16 and H.R. 5055 of 4/26/16) and the Italian judiciary (S. Con. Res. 48 of 7/14/16) to anti-Semitism in Europe (H.R. 6208 of 9/28/16 and S. 3478 of 11/17/16). The 4 tangential bills that passed dealt broadly with trade policy (*H.R. 644 of 2/2/15), North Korea’s nuclear program (*H.R. 757 of 2/5/15), authorizations for certain State Dept. programs and embassy security (*S. 1635 of 6/18/15), and water infrastructure (*S. 612 of 2/27/15). Only 1 of the 4 nonbinding measures passed, commemorating the 195th anniversary of Greek independence (*S. Res. 394 of 3/9/16).

MAJOR TRENDS

Because neither the composition of Congress nor the Republican leadership’s relationship with Obama changed significantly in 2016, congressional priorities on issues relating to Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict were largely the same as they were in previous sessions. Therefore, all the legislation under consideration here falls into the same 3 broad thematic categories: (1) that directly or indirectly benefiting Israel; (2) that serving Israel’s interests by undermining its adversaries; (3) that securing Israel’s position in the Middle East by reinforcing, influencing, or altering U.S. policy.

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

BENEFITING ISRAEL

Almost a third, or 50, of the measures included in this Monitor carried provisions benefiting Israel directly or indirectly, marking a slight increase from the 46 and 43 such measures introduced in each of the 2 preceding sessions. The 28 binding measures and 22 simple or concurrent resolutions can be further subdivided into the following categories:

Maintaining or Increasing Military Support: The 17 bills in this category grant Israel military aid or increase U.S.-Israeli military cooperation (4 passed into law). Each of the 3 abovementioned appropriations and authorizations bills that passed into law carried such provisions, delivering Israel more than \$3 b. in direct military aid and extending the FY 2016 authorizations for joint U.S.-Israeli anti-tunnel and missile defense programs. Additionally, there was notable movement in Congress toward new partnerships with Israel on emerging military technologies. Two bills authorized joint programs to develop “directed energy capabilities,” or laser-based missile defense systems (H.R. 4810 of 3/17/16 and H.R. 4909 of 4/12/16), and 3 authorized joint cybersecurity programs (H.R. 4860 of 3/23/16, H.R. 5843 of 7/14/16, and *H.R. 5877 of 7/14/16).

Providing Ceremonial or Nonmilitary Support: There were 7 bills and 17 simple and concurrent resolutions in this category. Of these, 2 simple resolutions passed, calling for an increase in annual military aid to Israel (*H. Res. 729 of 5/13/16) and reaffirming the U.S.-Israeli economic relationship (*S. Res. 383 of 3/1/16). The only bill in this category that passed carried a minor provision directing the Obama administration to leverage the experience of allies like Israel on water infrastructure issues (*S. 612 of 2/27/15). Of the measures that did not pass, 10 simple resolutions called for a more forceful defense of Israel in the international diplomatic arena, including at the UN Security Council (UNSC) and International Criminal Court (ICC); 3 bills would have authorized new U.S.-Israeli scientific partnerships; 3 bills would have adjusted U.S. policy on imports from the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) to support Israel’s settlement enterprise; and the remaining 5 resolutions affirmed Israel’s right to self-defense and its control over the Golan Heights, or called for stronger U.S.-Israeli partnerships on various nonmilitary matters.

Commemorating Jewish and Israeli History: Of the 9 measures introduced to honor or commemorate Jewish and Israeli history, 3 simple and concurrent resolutions passed. They approved the use of the Capitol for a Holocaust commemoration ceremony (*H. Con. Res. 111 of 2/2/16) and honored Holocaust survivor and noted author Elie Wiesel on the occasion of his death (*H. Res. 810 of 7/7/16 and *S. Res. 523 of 7/7/16).

UNDERMINING ISRAEL’S ADVERSARIES

The 114th Congress continued its efforts to undermine Israel’s adversaries during the second session, with 97 new measures and 11 carried over from the previous session. While the number of such measures decreased in comparison to the first session, the proportion increased slightly, from 57% to almost 60%. Ten of these measures passed, including 6 that were binding.

Iran

Although the P5+1 and Iran’s 7/14/15 nuclear agreement, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), went into effect 2 weeks after this congressional session opened, the partisan divide over issues related to Iran persisted. In fact, the number of measures

carrying provisions aimed at strengthening or imposing sanctions on Iran, countering various Iranian activities in the Middle East, and challenging Iran's human rights record increased. Up from 72 last session, there were 84 measures in this category; 72 were bills or joint resolutions (5 passed into law), and 12 were simple or concurrent resolutions (3 passed).

Sanctions: The vast majority, 54, of these measures dealt with sanctions. Because sanctions on Iran's nuclear program were suspended under the JCPOA, both Republicans and right-leaning Democrats sought new mechanisms to block Iran's access to the U.S. dollar, stifle its ballistic missile and cybersecurity programs, designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organization, and target alleged human rights abusers. In part due to Obama's pledge to veto any measure that could threaten the JCPOA, only 1 of these bills (*H.R. 6297 of 11/14/16) passed. It extended the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, which imposed economic sanctions on firms doing business with Iran's oil industry, through 12/31/26; the bill passed into law without Obama's signature on 12/15/16.

Human Rights and Prisoners: There were 8 bills and 8 nonbinding measures carrying provisions related to Iran's human rights record and imprisonment of U.S. citizens. These included bills designed to block Obama from paying ransoms, as Republicans alleged he did to secure the release of 4 high-profile U.S. prisoners in 1/2016 (see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 45 [3]). The only 2 binding measures that passed were the 2 appropriations bills extending FY 2016 funding (*H.R. 5325 of 5/25/16 and *H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16). They included provisions to distribute money to the U.S. citizens taken hostage in Tehran in 1979 and programs promoting Internet freedom and access in Iran (see *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15 on congressionalmonitor.org). Three of the 8 nonbinding measures passed. They called for the release of an individual U.S. prisoner in Iran (*H. Res. 148 of 3/10/15 and *S. Res. 99 of 3/10/15) and condemned Iran's persecution of its Baha'i minority (*H. Res. 220 of 4/23/15).

Influencing Diplomacy: The remaining 18 measures—14 binding and 4 nonbinding—contained a wide variety of provisions meant to redirect or reinforce the new, post-JCPOA dynamic in the Middle East. The 2 appropriations bills that passed into law carried over a series of congressional JCPOA oversight procedures (*H.R. 5325 of 5/25/16 and *H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16), in addition to the other Iran-related provisions mentioned above. Only 2 other bills in this category passed. One required a new report on Iranian cybersecurity and authorized \$4 m. for JCPOA oversight (*S. 2943 of 5/18/16), and the other sparked a debate in Congress about Iranian–North Korean nuclear cooperation (*H.R. 757 of 2/5/15). None of the nonbinding measures passed.

Palestinians

Congress's relationship with the Palestinians was largely unchanged in 2016—the Republican-dominated legislature approved hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and humanitarian programs in the oPt, while maintaining annual restrictions and conditions on its disbursement. There were 16 measures carrying such provisions this session, down from 19 and 27 in the 2 previous sessions.

Restricting Aid: Apart from the 2 appropriations bills that extended annual restrictions on aid to the Palestinians through 4/2017 (*H.R. 5325 of 5/25/16 and *H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16), there were 8 binding measures with new restrictions on aid and Palestinian diplomatic initiatives, including

2 bills that would have imposed new conditions on the PLO operating an office in Washington (S. 2537 and H.R. 4522 of 2/10/16) and 2 that would have barred PLO officials from the U.S. (S. 3241 and H.R. 5851 of 7/14/16), none of which passed.

Criticism and Condemnation: None of the 5 nonbinding measures condemning Palestinian violence against Israelis and U.S. citizens, or the Palestinian efforts at the UNSC and ICC passed.

Countering Hamas: Although there were numerous measures citing the threat posed to Israel by Hamas, only 1 measure targeted the group specifically (H. J. Res. 84 of 3/2/16). It would have authorized the use of military force against both Hamas and Hezbollah, and it did not pass.

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement

Although many members of Congress continued their efforts to undermine the BDS movement in 2016, there were fewer anti-BDS measures this quarter than last. Of the 11 considered, including 2 carried over from the 14 introduced during the previous session, 2 were nonbinding measures encouraging the Obama administration to intensify its defense of Israel against BDS in international forums (H. Res. 567 of 12/16/15 and S. Res. 346 of 1/20/16); neither passed. Of the 9 binding measures with anti-BDS provisions, only the so-called customs bill passed, which includes a set of anti-BDS objectives for the U.S. to pursue in trade negotiations (*H.R. 644 of 2/2/15).

Hezbollah

Up from 2 last session, there were 4 measures explicitly targeting Hezbollah (many of the measures targeting Iran or benefiting Israel noted Hezbollah as a threat, but did not carry any specific provisions meant to counter the group). Neither of the 2 binding measures in this category passed (H.R. 5197 of 5/11/16 and H. J. Res. 84 of 3/2/16), but 1 of the nonbinding measures did, urging the EU to designate Hezbollah a terrorist organization (*S. Res. 482 of 6/6/16).

BUTTRESSING ISRAEL VIA U.S. REGIONAL POLICY

The Refugee Crisis

Near the end of the previous congressional session, on 11/13/15, ISIS-affiliated gunmen and suicide bombers launched a series of coordinated strikes in Paris, killing at least 130 people. The attacks prompted U.S. politicians to act against the alleged threat posed by refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and Iraq, as well as immigrants from elsewhere in the Middle East, including the oPt; that effort carried over into the second session. In addition to extending the funding for nonlethal aid to vetted rebel groups fighting ISIS (*H.R. 5325 of 5/25/16 and *H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16), Congress considered 10 bills that would have altered, suspended, or terminated U.S. intake of these refugees and immigrants. None passed, although Donald Trump's victory in the 11/8/16 presidential election re-energized proponents of the measures, and they pledged to renew their efforts in the 115th Congress.

Egypt

As Pres. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi continued consolidating authoritarian power in Egypt, the U.S. government maintained a guarded relationship with Cairo. Of the 9 measures in this category,

5 were appropriation and authorizations bills that apportioned both military and economic aid conditioned on the Egyptian government’s adherence to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel and certain human rights–related benchmarks. Two bills would have amended the Internal Revenue Code to designate the Sinai Peninsula a “qualified hazardous duty area,” making U.S. armed forces serving there eligible for special pay (S. 3272 of 7/14/16 and H.R. 5924 of 7/21/16). The remaining 2 measures—1 bill and 1 simple resolution—dealt directly with human rights issues (H. Res. 290 of 6/2/15 and H.R. 5974 of 9/8/16).

UNDERSTANDING THE CONGRESSIONAL MONITOR

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

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

The “last major action” entry indicates where the measure stood at the end of the 114th Congress.

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

Key:

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

Voice Vote: Vote taken verbally and therefore not recorded.

Vote Tally: Yea–Nay–Present

NOTES ON LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

For a bill to become a law, it must be agreed to in identical form by both chambers of Congress and signed by the president. The president may refuse to sign a bill, and thus veto it, but the veto can

be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber. If Congress is not in session, the president can veto a bill simply by not taking action on it for 10 days after its presentation (“pocket veto”). Simple or concurrent resolutions have no legal force when passed. Simple resolutions (designated H./S. Res.) are only debated in the chamber where they are introduced while concurrent resolutions (H./S. Con. Res.) are debated in both; resolutions require a simple majority to pass. After a bill or resolution is introduced, it is automatically referred to the appropriate committee; in many cases (79 of 139 this year), it goes no further.

***2 FEBRUARY 2015: TRADE FACILITATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015**

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

This multifaceted trade law, commonly known as the customs bill and summarized in detail at congressionalmonitor.org, carries an anti-BDS provision establishing 3 objectives for the U.S. to pursue in trade negotiations to safeguard Israel from foreign boycotts; requires the president to report to Congress on any BDS actions against Israel; and establishes that no federal or state court shall recognize or enforce foreign court judgments based on laws barring business with Israeli settlements.

The bill, which was introduced last session, passed into law on 2/24/16. Pres. Obama released a statement on 2/11 saying that while he planned to sign the bill, it contravened long-standing U.S. policy on Israel’s settlements. He reiterated this in his signing statement on 2/24, implicitly challenging the bill’s effective extension of Israel’s internationally recognized borders to include its illegal West Bank settlements, and reserving his constitutional right to conduct diplomacy in interpreting and implementing the bill’s provisions. Obama also pledged that his administration would strongly oppose BDS throughout his presidency.

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

Last major action: 2/24/16 became public law (12/11/15 House agreed to conference report by yea/nay vote, 256–158; 6/12/15 House agreed to Senate amendments, 240–190; 5/14/15 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 78–20; 2/12/15 original text passed in House, 279–137).

***5 FEBRUARY 2015: NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS AND POLICY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016**

H.R. 757, Edward Royce (R-CA), 36 cosponsors.

In the version of this comprehensive bill dealing with U.S. sanctions on North Korea that passed in the House on 1/12/16, 1 provision would have required the president to submit a report to Congress within 90 days on nuclear cooperation between North Korea and Iran, including the identity of any known intermediaries. During the Senate’s consideration, that provision was removed. Although various others were proposed, including an amendment that would have required the Obama administration to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, none were attached to the final version that passed into law on 2/18/16.

Last major action: 2/18/16 became public law (2/10/16 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 96–0; 1/12/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 418–2).

***12 FEBRUARY 2015: UNITED STATES–JORDAN DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT OF 2015**

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

This bill authorizes the U.S.-Jordan memorandum of understanding (MoU) reached on 2/3/15, increasing annual U.S. aid to Jordan from \$660 m. to \$1 b. for 2015–17. The bill also makes Jordan eligible for expedited purchases of certain arms, licensing agreements, and technical assistance for 3 years.

See also: the Senate version of this bill, S. 1789 of 7/16/15, at congressionalmonitor.org.

Last major action: 2/18/16 became public law (2/10/16 resolving differences; 2/3/16 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 7/7/15 passed in House by voice vote).

***27 FEBRUARY 2015: WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE NATION (WIIN) ACT**

S. 612, John Cornyn (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

In the context of this multifaceted bill mainly designed to provide for “improvements to the rivers and harbors of the U.S.” and “conservation and development of water and related resources,” there is a provision directing the secretary of the army to prioritize projects that “leverage the experience” of U.S. allies, including Israel. It also directs the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a plan that “strengthens research and development cooperation” with partners such as Israel.

Last major action: 12/16/16 became public law (12/10/16 Senate agreed to House amendment, 78–21; 12/8/16 passed in House, 360–61).

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

H. Res. 148, Theodore Deutch (D-FL), 34 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

See also: S. Res. 312 of 12/9/2013 (introduced in the 113th Congress) and *S. Res. 99 of 3/10/15.

Last major action: 2/29/16 agreed to without objection.

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

S. Res. 99, Bill Nelson (D-FL), 3 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

See also: S. Res. 312 of 12/9/13 and *H. Res. 148 of 3/10/15.

Last major action: 2/11/16 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

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

H. Res. 220, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 152 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 9/21/16 agreed to without objection.

5 MAY 2015: ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT OF 2016

H.R. 2357, Ann Wagner (R-MO), no cosponsors.

Largely unrelated to Palestinian affairs or the Arab-Israeli conflict, this bill would tweak some regulations on financial markets. In the lead-up to the House's consideration of the bill in 9/2016, Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) submitted an amendment related to Iran that would expand the reporting obligations for any issuer of U.S. securities registering under the Securities Act of 1933. By requiring the issuer to declare whether it does business in Iran or with any entity that is organized under the laws of Iran, it would disincentivize U.S. business with Iran by treating all Iranian entities as equally complicit in the Iranian government's actions. It was not brought for consideration on the House floor.

Last major action: 9/12/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (9/8/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 236–178).

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

H. Res. 290, Joseph Pitts (R-PA), 19 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/14/16 forwarded by House Subcomm. on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations to full comm. after markup and voice vote.

*18 JUNE 2015: DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2017

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

Within this broad, multifaceted bill authorizing certain State Dept. operations and embassy security-related programs, there are 2 provisions relating to Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. One requires the State Dept. to file a new report on U.S. support for groups combating anti-Semitism and religious intolerance in Europe, and the other repeals an “obsolete” State Dept. reporting requirement from a 2006 law authorizing the creation of a peace and reconciliation fund for programs that “support, primarily, through Palestinian and Israeli organizations, the promotion of democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, and non-violence among Palestinians, and peaceful coexistence and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.”

Before the House amended Corker's original bill, it had a few other relevant provisions. In the event of a nuclear agreement with Iran, the Obama administration would have been required to submit to Congress within 60 days a U.S. strategy in the Middle East, to include efforts to “counter Iranian-sponsored terrorism,” reassure U.S. allies and partners, and address “the potential for a conventional or nuclear arms race in the Middle East.” The Obama administration would also have been required to submit an annual report to Congress on anti-Semitism at the UN as well as any U.S. actions taken to counter it. Another provision would have condemned alleged anti-Semitism within the PA and urged PA pres. Mahmoud Abbas to crack down on “incitement.” Finally, the House Foreign Affairs Comm. added another relevant provision on 5/26 that would have conveyed the sense of Congress that the U.S. should influence the UN to “improve [UN Human Rights Council] voting behavior vis-à-vis Israel” and to remove Israel as a permanent item on the Council's agenda.

Last major action: 12/16/16 became public law (12/5/16 amended and passed in House by yea/nay vote, 374–16; 4/28/16 passed in Senate by unanimous consent).

9 SEPTEMBER 2015: TO SUSPEND UNTIL JANUARY 21, 2017, THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE, SUSPEND, REDUCE, PROVIDE RELIEF FROM, OR OTHERWISE LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN

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

This bill would prevent Pres. Obama from implementing the U.S. government's obligations under the 7/14/15 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1, leaving his successor the responsibility of managing the deal.

Last major action: 7/14/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations (9/11/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 247–186).

9 SEPTEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE ATROCITIES PERPETRATED BY ISIL AGAINST RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES IN IRAQ AND SYRIA INCLUDE WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND GENOCIDE

H. Con. Res. 75, Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), 213 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution declared that the “atrocities” perpetrated by ISIL, also known as ISIS, against religious minorities in Syria were war crimes; commended Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and the Kurdish regional government for supporting Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

See also: S. Con. Res. 33 of 3/14/16.

Last major action: 3/14/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 393–0.

1 OCTOBER 2015: IRAN TERROR FINANCE TRANSPARENCY ACT

H.R. 3662, Steve Russell (R-OK), 62 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

This bill passed in the House on 1/13/16 and 2/2/16 despite Pres. Obama reiterating, on 1/11/16, his promise to veto it and any other measure he deemed obstructive to the implementation of the JCPOA. Furthermore, by the time House Republicans passed it on 2/2, most of the sanctions the bill would maintain had already been lifted.

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

Last major action: 2/2/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 246–181 (1/13/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 191–106, but Speaker Paul Ryan vacated the vote due to insufficient attendance).

6 OCTOBER 2015: IRGC TERRORIST SANCTIONS ACT OF 2015

H.R. 3693, Ted Poe (R-TX), 11 cosponsors.

This bill would direct the Treasury Dept. to report to Congress on the IRGC, determining whether it meets the requirements to be designated a terrorist group and whether any entity controlled by the IRGC should be considered a terrorist group. Directing the Treasury to file reports like this has, in the past, led to the designation of a new terrorist group.

Last major action: 9/27/16 forwarded by subcomm. to full comm. in the nature of a substitute.

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

H. Res. 500, Steve King (R-IA), 42 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 2/12/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

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

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

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

See also: S. Res. 299 of 10/28/15 and H. Res. 513 of 11/3/15.

Last major action: 2/12/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

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

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

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 2/12/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

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

H. Res. 509, Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), 6 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 2/12/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

3 NOVEMBER 2015: MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD TERRORIST DESIGNATION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 3892, Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), 71 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 2/24/16 ordered to be reported by House Judiciary Comm. by yea/nay vote, 17–10.

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

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

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

After the House passed this bill increasing security measures on Syrian and Iraqi refugee resettlement in the U.S. on 11/19/16, Senate Democrats blocked it, supporting Pres. Obama's

position that the measure was contrary to U.S. values and untenable. During the Senate's consideration of the measure, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) proposed an amendment that would have added the text to his bill, the Equal Protection in Travel Act of 2016 (S. 2449 of 1/20/16). It was not considered.

Last major action: 1/20/16 cloture on the motion to proceed not invoked by yea/nay vote, 55–43.

19 NOVEMBER 2015: CONDEMNING PALESTINIAN INCITEMENT OF VIOLENCE AND REAFFIRMING THE SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES

H. Con. Res. 96, Rob Woodall (R-GA), 13 cosponsors.

Citing and condemning 66 separate Palestinian attacks on Israelis in 10/2015, this resolution expressed support for those working to encourage Palestinian-Israeli cooperation, called on PA pres. Abbas to condemn the ongoing violence, and reaffirmed the U.S. relationship with Israel. The resolution made no mention of Israeli attacks against Palestinians.

Last major action: 2/12/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

1 DECEMBER 2015: TERRORIST REFUGEE INFILTRATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4143, Ron DeSantis (R-FL), 2 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 1/15/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

3 DECEMBER 2015: RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES–ISRAEL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP AND ENCOURAGING NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION

H. Res. 551, Ted Lieu (D-CA), 105 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Although this resolution does not mention BDS, press reports surrounding its progress through Congress in 2016 framed it as an attempt to undermine the movement.

Last major action: 2/24/16 ordered to be reported from Comm. on Foreign Affairs by unanimous consent.

9 DECEMBER 2015: STATE REFUGEE SECURITY ACT OF 2015

H.R. 4197, Ted Poe (R-TX), 49 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

Last major action: 1/15/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

16 DECEMBER 2015: EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION INTERPRETIVE NOTICE REGARDING LABELING ISRAELI PRODUCTS AND GOODS MANUFACTURED IN THE WEST BANK AND OTHER AREAS, AS SUCH ACTIONS UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

H. Res. 567, Nita Lowey (D-NY), 24 cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary.

See also: S. Res. 346 of 1/20/16.

Last major action: 2/12/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

6 JANUARY 2016: ZERO TOLERANCE FOR TERROR ACT

H.R. 4333, Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA), 32 cosponsors.

This bill would require the president to notify Congress if any person or entity backed by or directed by Iran commits or supports an act of international terrorism that threatens the U.S. economy, national security, or foreign policy. It would also direct the president to notify Congress of any violations of UNSC resolutions relating to ballistic missiles (e.g., UNSC Resolutions 1929 and 2231). Within a 60-day period following such a notification, Congress would be permitted to fast-track legislation authorizing or requiring the president to impose sanctions on the person or entity in question.

This bill was introduced after Iranian media reported that country's successful test-firing of long-range, precision missiles on 10/10/15 and 11/21/15.

Last major action: 1/6/16 referred to House Comms. on Foreign Affairs and Rules.

7 JANUARY 2016: IRAN BALLISTIC MISSILE PREVENTION AND SANCTIONS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4342, John Delaney (D-MD), 19 cosponsors.

This bill would direct the president to impose "5 or more" sanctions on persons who knowingly transfer to Iran conventional or ballistic missiles, or technology related to their manufacture. The sanctions may include, inter alia, restrictions on Export-Import Bank services, loans from U.S. financial institutions, foreign banking transactions, property transactions, exports, federal procurement, and equity and debt investment. The president would be permitted a national security waiver on a case-by-case basis.

Last major action: 1/7/16 referred to House Comm. on Oversight and Government Reform.

7 JANUARY 2016: ENDING IRAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPON PROGRAM BEFORE SANCTIONS RELIEF ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4344, Mike Pompeo (R-KS), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would require the director of national intelligence to report to Congress on specific military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program, including procurement of military technology and acquisition of weapon design information. Furthermore, it would block the U.S. government from lifting any sanctions on Iran until 90 days after the above-mentioned report is delivered; the Depts. of Energy, State, and Defense jointly certify that Iran has ended the military dimensions of its nuclear program; and a joint resolution has been passed into law approving the proposed sanctions relief.

Last major action: 1/7/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

13 JANUARY 2016: CONDEMNING AND CENSURING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

H. Res. 588, Ted Yoho (R-FL), 13 cosponsors.

Citing Pres. Obama's alleged failure to "take action against Iran" in response to alleged violations of UNSC Resolution 1929, which barred Iran from testing ballistic missiles, this resolution put the president "on notice" and urged him to "reverse course and begin fulfilling his constitutional responsibilities."

Last major action: 2/3/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

13 JANUARY 2016: EQUAL PROTECTION IN TRAVEL ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4380, Justin Amash (R-MI), 27 cosponsors.

This bill would largely repeal a controversial provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (*H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15), which originated in the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act (VWP) of 2015 (H.R. 158 of 1/6/15). The provision in question would block visa-free entry to the U.S. for passport-holders of the VWP's 38 participating countries if they hold dual citizenship with or have traveled, since 3/2011, to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, or other countries determined by the secretary of state to have "repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism." H.R. 4380 would remove the prohibition for persons holding dual citizenship in 1 of the restricted countries, allowing them to participate in the VWP.

In a press release announcing the bill, Amash explained that the dual citizenship restriction "could directly impact American citizens and other nationals because the VWP is based on reciprocity" and that U.S. allies would likely enact similar restrictions on U.S. citizens in response. His comments echoed complaints from numerous human rights organizations and other NGOs, who also criticized the travel-related restriction on the grounds that it could disproportionately affect journalists.

Last major action: 2/3/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

20 JANUARY 2016: EQUAL PROTECTION IN TRAVEL ACT OF 2016

S. 2449, Jeff Flake (R-AZ), 3 cosponsors.

See the House's version of this bill, H.R. 4380 of 1/13/16, for a full summary.

Last major action: 1/20/16 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

20 JANUARY 2016: A BILL TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF FUNDS TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO IRAN RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS BROUGHT BEFORE THE IRAN-UNITED STATES CLAIMS TRIBUNAL UNTIL IRAN HAS PAID CERTAIN COMPENSATORY DAMAGES AWARDED TO UNITED STATES PERSONS BY UNITED STATES COURTS

S. 2452, Jerry Moran (R-KS), 6 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit any payments to the Iranian government or any Iranian national as a settlement in a case before the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal until Pres. Obama certifies that Iran has paid all compensatory damages from so-called acts of international terrorism. The Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal was established on 1/19/1981 in the wake of the 1979 hostage crisis to resolve legal claims between the 2 parties and their citizens.

See also: H.R. 5949 of 9/7/16.

Last major action: 9/21/16 comm. hearings held.

20 JANUARY 2016: A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 217(A)(12) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT, RELATING TO THE RESTRICTION OF THE USE OF THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM FOR ALIENS WHO TRAVEL TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES

S. 2458, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), no cosponsors.

This bill would amend the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015 (H.R. 158 of 1/6/15), which passed into law as a provision in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (*H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15) and requires citizens of VWP countries to obtain visas for entry to the U.S. if they have traveled to Iran, Iraq, Syria, or Sudan since 3/1/11.

Introduced following complaints that new rules unjustly discriminated against dual nationals of VWP-participating countries (see H.R. 4380 of 1/13/2016), this bill would make an exception for persons present in the listed countries who were there as employees of an international organization. It would also allow the State Dept. and Dept. of Homeland Security to grant national security waivers.

The day after this bill was introduced, the State Dept. announced that it would be waiving provisions of the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act on a case-by-case basis for journalists, representatives of international and regional organizations, humanitarian workers, and those who traveled to the listed countries for “legitimate business-related purposes.”

Last major action: 1/20/16 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

20 JANUARY 2016: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION INTERPRETIVE NOTICE REGARDING LABELING ISRAELI PRODUCTS AND GOODS MANUFACTURED IN THE WEST BANK AND OTHER AREAS, AS SUCH ACTIONS UNDERMINE THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

S. Res. 346, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 5 cosponsors.

Introduced in response to the European Commission’s 11/11/15 issuance of an interpretive notice establishing new rules for labeling products imported from Israel’s settlements (see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 45 [1]), this resolution called on the EU to oppose any BDS initiatives targeting Israel and urged the Obama administration to use its influence to oppose BDS.

See also: H. Res. 567 of 12/16/15.

Last major action: 1/20/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

1 FEBRUARY 2016: FAIR TREATMENT OF ISRAEL IN PRODUCT LABELING ACT OF 2016

S. 2474, Tom Cotton (R-AR), 7 cosponsors.

Introduced in response to the notice issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection on 1/23/16, reiterating long-standing U.S. policy that prohibits labeling Israeli-occupied-territory imports as Israeli products, this bill would establish new standards. For goods imported from the West Bank and Gaza, any of the following markings would be permitted: “Israel,” “Product of Israel,” “Made in Israel,” “West Bank,” “Gaza,” “Gaza Strip,” “West Bank/Gaza,” or “West Bank/Gaza Strip.” This system would allow products made in Israeli settlements in the West Bank to be labeled “Made in Israel,” and in so doing, it would significantly alter the U.S. position on Israel’s settlements. (For more on the USCBP notice, see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 45 [2].)

See also: similar bill H.R. 4503 of 2/9/16, which offered a slightly different list of identifiers for products imported from Israel and the oPt.

Last major action: 2/1/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Finance.

***2 FEBRUARY 2016: AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST**

H. Con. Res. 111, Patrick Meehan (R-PA), 2 cosponsors.

See also: *H. Con. Res. 9 of 1/26/15, at congressionalmonitor.org.

Last major action: 3/17/16 passed in Senate by unanimous consent. (2/10/16 agreed to in House without objection).

3 FEBRUARY 2016: NORTH KOREA AND IRAN SANCTIONS ACT

S. 2485, John Thune (R-SD), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would require Pres. Obama to reinstate all sanctions on Iran that were waived or suspended in connection with the 7/14/15 nuclear agreement if the director of national intelligence certifies that Iran has acquired or attempted to acquire nuclear weapons technology from North Korea.

Last major action: 2/3/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

3 FEBRUARY 2016: STATE SANCTIONS AGAINST IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

H.R. 4448, Ron DeSantis (R-FL), 37 cosponsors.

This bill would allow states to further limit or prohibit individuals from specific types of investment in Iran and authorize interstate agreements prohibiting or limiting such investments. It would also reduce the threshold for allowable investments in Iran from \$20 m. to \$10 m. and radically expand previous regulation of investment in the “energy sector of Iran,” by applying it to the “business sector in Iran.”

Last major action: 2/3/16 referred to House Comm. on Financial Services.

3 FEBRUARY 2016: A RESOLUTION URGING ROBUST FUNDING FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR SYRIA

S. Res. 361, Bob Corker (R-TN), 10 cosponsors.

This resolution commended the UK, Kuwait, Germany, and Norway for their financial contributions addressing the humanitarian crisis in Syria and encouraged further efforts to alleviate the crisis.

Last major action: 2/10/16 placed on Senate legislative calendar under general orders.

3 FEBRUARY 2016: REAFFIRMING THE RIGHT FOR THE UNITED STATES TO USE ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE, TO PREVENT IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPON

H. Res. 600, Seth Moulton (D-MA), 12 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution called for the creation of a bipartisan Iran Study Group to report to Congress on a strategy to counter Iran; condemned Iran’s human rights record; and demanded that the Obama administration initiate a discussion at the UNSC of Iran’s recent ballistic missile testing.

Last major action: 2/3/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

5 FEBRUARY 2016: FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CUSTOMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

H.R. 766, Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), 30 cosponsors.

Within this multifaceted banking regulations bill, 1 provision would clarify that federal banking regulators may request or require a financial institution to terminate a relationship with a customer if he or she “poses a threat to national security,” “is engaged in terrorist financing,” “is doing business

with Iran, North Korea, Syria, or another State Sponsor of Terrorism,” or “is doing business with an entity of any of these countries.” Offered by Brad Sherman (D-CA), the provision was added as an amendment on 2/4/16 by voice vote.

See also: S. 2790 of 4/13/16.

Last major action: 2/4/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 250–169.

9 FEBRUARY 2016: FAIR TREATMENT OF ISRAEL IN PRODUCT LABELING ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4503, Ted Poe (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

Introduced in response to the notice issued by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection office on 1/23/16 (see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 45 [2]), this bill would alter U.S. regulations on labeling of goods imported from Israel and the oPt. Goods would be required to carry one of the following “country of origin” labels: “Israel,” “West Bank,” “Gaza,” “Gaza Strip,” “West Bank/Gaza,” or “West Bank/Gaza Strip.” The new system would allow products imported from Israel’s settlements in the oPt to be labeled as if they originated in Israel.

See also: similar bill S. 2474 of 2/1/16, which offered a slightly different list of identifiers for products imported from Israel and the oPt.

Last major action: 2/11/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Trade.

10 FEBRUARY 2016: COMBATING BDS ACT OF 2016

S. 2531, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 45 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize state and local governments to divest from entities that engage in boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel or subcontract with such entities. The language in this bill conflates BDS campaigns targeting Israel with BDS campaigns targeting Israel’s settlements.

In a Senate Appropriations Comm. markup session on 6/29, Kirk proposed the full text of this bill as an amendment to the State Dept. and foreign operations appropriations bill (S. 3117 of 6/29/16). His amendment was adopted by voice vote.

See also: H.R. 4514 of 2/10/16.

Last major action: 2/10/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

10 FEBRUARY 2016: PLO ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

S. 2537, Ted Cruz (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would limit the president’s right to waive the ban on a PLO office in the U.S. (imposed by Congress in the 1987 Anti-Terrorism Act), by requiring him to certify that: the Palestinians have not obtained the standing of a state at the UN or any UN agency; the Palestinians have pulled out of the ICC and withdrawn from the Rome Statute; every ICC investigation against Israel initiated or backed by the Palestinians has been withdrawn; the PLO and PA no longer provide payments to Palestinians imprisoned in Israel or their families; and that the PLO and PA no longer “engage in a pattern of incitement against the U.S. or Israel,” including but not limited to statements, media, glorification of violence, and endorsement of anyone who has committed “acts of terrorism”; and that “the Palestinians have entered into a final negotiated peace agreement with, and have ceased all hostilities against, Israel.”

See also: H.R. 4522 of 2/10/16.

Last major action: 2/10/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

10 FEBRUARY 2016: COMBATING BDS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4514, Robert Dold (R-IL), 167 cosponsors.

See related bill S. 2531 of 2/10/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 2/10/16 referred to House Comm. on Financial Services.

10 FEBRUARY 2016: PLO ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

H.R. 4522, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 18 cosponsors.

See identical bill S. 2537 of 2/10/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 4/29/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Terrorism.

12 FEBRUARY 2016: NON-DISCRIMINATION OF ISRAEL IN LABELING ACT

H.R. 4555, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), 20 cosponsors.

Like similar bills H.R. 4503 of 2/9/16 and S. 2474 of 2/1/16, this bill would alter requirements for labeling products imported from Israeli-occupied territories. It was also introduced in response to the Customs and Border Security office's 1/23/16 notice reiterating current U.S. policy. Specifically, it would require that all products imported from the West Bank be labeled "West Bank" if they were produced in an area "not administered by Israel" and labeled either "Israel," "Made in Israel," or "Product of Israel" if produced in an area administered by Israel (i.e., the settlements). Products originating in Gaza would be required to carry the words "Gaza" or "Gaza Strip."

Last major action: 2/18/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Trade.

*1 MARCH 2016: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP AND ENCOURAGING NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION

S. Res. 383, David Perdue (R-GA), 13 cosponsors.

Like the similar measure from last session, H. Res. 551 of 12/3/15 (above), this resolution affirmed the mutual benefits of the U.S.-Israel economic partnership; encouraged the president to expand forums of economic dialogue with Israel; and supported the exploration of new bilateral agreements in a variety of fields, including cybersecurity.

Last major action: 4/27/16 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

1 MARCH 2016: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS CONDEMNING THE GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AMOUNTING TO WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA, ITS ALLIES, AND OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA, AND ASKING THE PRESIDENT TO DIRECT HIS AMBASSADOR AT THE UNITED NATIONS TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL WHERE THESE CRIMES COULD BE ADDRESSED

H. Con. Res. 121, Christopher Smith (R-NJ), 4 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution urged the president to promote the establishment of a Syrian war crimes tribunal at the UN, and urged other nations to apprehend and deliver to the tribunal's custody any persons indicted for war crimes in Syria.

Last major action: 3/14/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 392-3.

2 MARCH 2016: DISPLACED JEWISH REFUGEES FROM ARAB COUNTRIES AND IRAN ACT

H.R. 4664, Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), 20 cosponsors.

This bill would direct the president to report annually to Congress on efforts made in the preceding year relating to the issue of Jewish refugees from Arab countries and Iran. The report would be required to include a description of actions taken in bilateral and multilateral forums and “efforts to make certain the interests of all refugees displaced as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including Arabs, Jews, Christians, and other groups, are considered in any final settlement of the Middle East refugee question that is part of any comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace.”

Last major action: 4/29/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

2 MARCH 2016: AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST ISLAMIST EXTREMISM

H. J. Res. 84, Scott Perry (R-PA), 2 cosponsors.

This joint resolution would authorize the president to use military force against any of 13 listed groups, including ISIS, Hezbollah, and Hamas, or against the groups’ “substantial supporters, associated forces, or closely related successor entities.” It would also enable the president to add an organization to the list if he could certify that it supports “Islamist extremism” and Congress approved his certification.

Last major action: 3/2/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

*9 MARCH 2016: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 195TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

S. Res. 394, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 20 cosponsors.

This resolution recognized Greece for its “excellent” relations with Muslim countries and Israel, and congratulated the Greek government for taking steps to improve those relations in recent years.

Last major action: 5/12/16 agreed to by unanimous consent.

14 MARCH 2016: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THOSE WHO COMMIT OR SUPPORT ATROCITIES AGAINST CHRISTIANS AND OTHER ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, INCLUDING YEZIDIS, TURKMEN, SABEA-MANDEANS, KAKA'E, AND KURDS, AND WHO TARGET THEM SPECIFICALLY FOR ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS REASONS, ARE COMMITTING, AND ARE HEREBY DECLARED TO BE COMMITTING, “WAR CRIMES,” “CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY,” AND “GENOCIDE”

S. Con. Res. 33, Ben Sasse (R-NE), no cosponsors.

See similar resolution H. Con. Res. 75 of 9/9/15 for a full summary.

Last major action: 3/14/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

17 MARCH 2016: RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION RELIEF ACT

S. 2708, Tom Cotton (R-AR), 2 cosponsors.

This bill would “provide for the admission to the U.S. of up to 10,000 Syrian religious minorities as refugees of special humanitarian concern in each of the fiscal years 2016 through 2020.” Specifically,

it would make Syrian nationals who are religious minorities (i.e., non-Muslims) eligible for higher priority processing; allow them to apply directly to the U.S. refugee admissions program for admission to the U.S.; and establish these refugees as a protected category. At the time of this bill's introduction, around 4% of Syrian refugees would qualify as religious minorities.

Last major action: 3/17/16 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

17 MARCH 2016: IRAN BALLISTIC MISSILE SANCTIONS ACT OF 2016

S. 2725, Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), 20 cosponsors.

Introduced in response to Iran's testing of ballistic missiles in 10/2015, 11/2015, and 3/2016, this bill would impose sanctions on every sector of the Iranian economy that directly or indirectly supports the missile program. It would do so largely by amending the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 and the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (see H.R. 2194 of 4/30/09 on congressionalmonitor.org) to include consideration for ballistic missile acquisition and development, and extending the former through 2031.

Furthermore, the president would be required to submit 4 new reports to Congress: (1) a biannual listing of sectors of the Iranian economy involved in the development or transfer of ballistic missiles or technology; (2) an annual listing of all foreign persons involved in the development of missiles in those sectors; (3) a biannual report on persons known to have assisted Iran in developing its ballistic missiles program (the president would be required to block all property transactions in the U.S. by any person included in this report); and (4) a biannual report on Iran–North Korea ballistic missile cooperation.

Last major action: 3/17/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

17 MARCH 2016: IRAN TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS SANCTIONS ACT OF 2016

S. 2726, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 20 cosponsors.

Introduced in conjunction with the Iran Ballistic Missile Sanctions Act of 2016 (see S. 2725 of 3/17/16), this bill would impose new sanctions on Iran's support for so-called terrorist groups and alleged human rights abuses. Specifically, it would prescribe requirements for mandatory sanctions on the IRGC and any entity it partially or wholly owns, as well as Mahan Air, an Iranian airline that has "helped the IRGC . . . spread terrorism and militancy," according to a press release from Kirk's office. It would also expand the list of specific persons sanctioned in relation to human rights abuses; direct the president to appoint a special coordinator on human rights and democracy in Iran; require U.S. government-run media outlets to increase coverage of Iranian human rights abuses and the benefits of U.S.-style democracy; and, inter alia, codify existing prohibitions on Iran's access to the U.S. financial system.

Last major action: 3/17/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

17 MARCH 2016: U.S.-ISRAEL SECURITY COOPERATION ACT

H.R. 4810, Elise Stefanik (R-NY), 5 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the Defense Dept. to establish a program with Israel to jointly research, develop, test, and evaluate "directed energy capabilities," or lasers, to detect and stop ballistic and

cruise missiles, drones, mortars, and IEDs. No more than \$25 m. would be authorized for this program annually.

Last major action: 3/23/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Strategic Forces.

17 MARCH 2016: CONDEMNING THE RECENT VIOLENT TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST TAYLOR FORCE AND THE RECENT WAVE OF TERRORISM AGAINST ISRAEL AND PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS' FAILURE TO CONDEMN SUCH ATTACKS

H. Res. 651, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), 2 cosponsors.

Introduced in response to the killing of U.S. citizen Taylor Force in Tel Aviv on 3/8/16, this resolution condemned all violence against Israeli citizens and visitors to Israel (see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 45 [4]), as well as PA pres. Abbas's failure to condemn attacks by Palestinians.

Last major action: 4/29/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Middle East and North Africa.

21 MARCH 2016: IRAN BALLISTIC MISSILE SANCTIONS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4815, Mike Pompeo (R-KS), 6 cosponsors.

See identical bill S. 2725 of 3/17/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 4/22/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Trade.

23 MARCH 2016: UNITED STATES-ISRAEL CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION ACT

H.R. 4860, David Cicilline (D-RI), 41 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the Dept. of Homeland Security to establish a U.S.-Israel Cybersecurity Center of Excellence to "promote joint research and development," "share best practices," and "strengthen the partnership between the U.S. and Israeli academic and research institutions."

Last major action: 9/30/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Research and Technology.

6 APRIL 2016: PREVENTING IRAN'S ACCESS TO UNITED STATES DOLLARS ACT OF 2016

S. 2752, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 7 cosponsors.

Introduced amid reports that the Obama administration was planning to facilitate certain financial transactions on behalf of the Iranian government, this bill would prohibit the president from issuing a license to anyone who conducts offshore transactions involving Iran or an Iranian person, or anyone who supplies U.S. currency for such transactions. The Treasury Dept. would be required to report to Congress, every 3 mos., a list of financial institutions carrying out such transactions and a description of its efforts to prevent such transactions. Furthermore, the president would be instructed to block and prohibit any transactions made by an institution listed in the Treasury Dept.'s report and could impose additional sanctions on the listed institutions as he deems appropriate.

See also: H.R. 4995 of 4/19/16.

Last major action: 4/6/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

6 APRIL 2016: IRAN CYBER SANCTIONS ACT OF 2016

S. 2756, Mike Rounds (R-SD), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would require the president to report to Congress every 6 mos. on any Iranian activities deemed to be undermining U.S. cybersecurity. The report would be required to include the identity of any Iranian found to be engaging in, directing, or supporting such activities; a description of the activities in question; an assessment of the Iranian government's involvement; and a strategy to counter such activities, including any efforts to work with foreign governments. The bill would also direct the president to impose certain restrictions on any individuals listed in the abovementioned report.

See also: H.R. 5222 of 5/12/16.

Last major action: 4/6/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

6 APRIL 2016: IRAN FINANCIAL SYSTEM ACCESS LIMITATION ACT OF 2016

S. 2757, Dan Sullivan (R-AK), no cosponsors.

Like similar bill S. 2752 of 4/6/16, this measure was introduced to restrict Iran's access to the U.S. financial system. It would bar the president from issuing licenses to any entity conducting financial transactions that would allow the Iranian government to access the U.S. dollar; bar U.S. persons from processing any transfers of funds to or from Iran as a part of any such transaction; order the president to block any transactions of U.S. property or U.S.-owned property with an Iranian person or the Iranian government.

See also: H.R. 4995 of 4/19/16.

Last major action: 4/6/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

6 APRIL 2016: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE ACTIONS, INCLUDING THE REAPPLICATION OF WAIVED NUCLEAR-RELATED SANCTIONS, THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD UNDERTAKE IN THE EVENT OF AN IRANIAN VIOLATION OF THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

S. Res. 414, James Lankford (R-OK), no cosponsors.

This resolution stated that if Iran violated the JCPOA in any way, the U.S. should seek the reapplication of all relevant UNSC resolutions against Iran; pursue a new UNSC resolution sanctioning Iran; apply additional sanctions on Iran; reapply all waived sanctions; and work with international partners to reapply the EU's sanctions.

Last major action: 4/6/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

11 APRIL 2016: NO DOLLARS FOR IRAN ACT

H.R. 4898, David Trott (R-MI), 2 cosponsors.

This measure would bar the Treasury Dept. from issuing licenses to any person hoping to conduct offshore transactions in U.S. dollars that would involve or benefit the Iranian government or any Iranian person.

See also: S. 2725 of 3/17/16 and H.R. 4995 of 4/19/16.

Last major action: 4/11/16 referred to House Comm. on Financial Services.

13 APRIL 2016: FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CUSTOMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

S. 2790, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 8 cosponsors.

See similar bill H.R. 766 of 2/5/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 4/13/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

14 APRIL 2016: JCPOA INTELLIGENCE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4940, Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), no cosponsors.

In order to strengthen U.S. oversight of the JCPOA, this bill would require the director of national intelligence to establish an integrated unit comprising resources from each U.S. intelligence bureau to monitor and enforce the nuclear agreement. The new unit would coordinate intelligence collection, including warning signs; identify potential intelligence gaps; and report to Congress annually.

Last major action: 4/14/16 referred to House Comm. on Intelligence.

15 APRIL 2016: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS VETO IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

H. Con. Res. 128, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), 26 cosponsors.

Introduced a month after the *Wall Street Journal* reported (3/7) that the Obama administration was considering support for a UNSC resolution calling for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, this resolution stated that the UN cannot be a “truly neutral arbiter” and that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be resolved through bilateral negotiations. It also called for the Obama administration to veto any UNSC resolutions concerning “Israeli-controlled territories” (i.e. Israel’s settlements in the oPt).

See also: identical resolution S. Con. Res. 35 of 4/19/16.

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

18 APRIL 2016: EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ISRAELI SECURITY AND CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A NEGOTIATED TWO-STATE SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

H. Res. 686, John Yarmuth (D-KY), 63 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution encouraged the Obama administration to enhance Israeli security by reconvening a joint Israeli-Palestinian-U.S. anti-incitement comm., maintaining U.S. support for the PA security forces, and working with Israel to improve Palestinian movement and access in the West Bank. It also encouraged the Obama administration to oppose Palestinian efforts at the ICC.

Last major action: 4/29/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Middle East and North Africa.

19 APRIL 2016: UNITED STATES FINANCIAL SYSTEM PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4992, Edward Royce (R-CA), 14 cosponsors.

This bill would deny Iran access to financial transactions conducted in U.S. dollars by codifying existing regulations on transactions involving Iranian persons or the Iranian government. The restrictions would stay in effect until the president can certify that Iran has ceased supporting international terrorism and stopped developing nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, as well as ballistic missile technology.

This measure passed in the House on the 1-year anniversary of the 7/14/15 nuclear deal. Three days earlier, the Obama administration threatened to veto it on the grounds that they would obstruct the U.S. from implementing its obligations under the deal.

See also: H.R. 4995 of 4/19/16 and S. 2725 of 3/17/16.

Last major action: 7/14/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 246–181.

19 APRIL 2016: PREVENTING IRAN'S ACCESS TO UNITED STATES DOLLARS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 4995, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 2 cosponsors.

See identical bill S. 2725 of 3/17/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 4/19/16 referred to House Financial Services Comm.

19 APRIL 2016: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS VETO IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

S. Con. Res. 35, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 15 cosponsors.

See identical measure H. Con. Res. 128 of 4/15/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 4/19/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

*24 APRIL 2016: FURTHER CONTINUING AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

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

This bill extends FY 2016 funding for all government operations through 4/28/17, a necessary measure to prevent a government shutdown, after congressional leaders failed to reach a compromise on FY 2017 appropriations despite a 1-week extension in early 10/2016 (see *H.R. 5325 of 5/25/16 for the first extension and *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15 on congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary of FY 2016 appropriations).

H.R. 2028 is included in this Monitor because Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AK) in 4/2016 submitted 3 different versions of an amendment to the original version of this bill that would bar the Obama administration from purchasing heavy water produced in Iran. The Senate rejected Cotton's amendments (S.A. 3873 of 4/25/16, S.A. 3878 of 4/27/16, and S.A. 3881 of 4/27/16) to the legislation. Originally titled "Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016," the bill would have provided funding for Army Corps of Engineers' civil works projects, the Dept. of the Interior, the Dept. of Energy, and several independent agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Subsequently, it was amended as a substitute and used as a vehicle for continuing appropriations.

Last major action: 12/10/16 became public law (12/9/16 Senate agreed to House amendment, 63–36; 12/8/16 House agreed to Senate amendment, 326–96).

25 APRIL 2016: WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

S. 2848, James Inhofe (R-OK), 1 cosponsor.

Within this broader bill on domestic water policy, the secretary of the interior would be directed to prioritize projects that "demonstrably leverage the experience of international partners with

considerable expertise in desalination, such as the state of Israel,” and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy would be ordered to develop a plan to coordinate federal desalination research and development, including cooperation with international partners, such as Israel.

Last major action: 9/15/16 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 95–3.

26 APRIL 2016: ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

H.R. 5055, Michael Simpson (R-ID), no cosponsors.

Like the earlier iteration of this bill, *H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16, this version would provide funding for Army Corps of Engineers’ civil works projects, the Dept. of the Interior, the Dept. of Energy, and several independent agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Of the 6 relevant amendments submitted during the House’s consideration of this bill in 5/2016, 2 were approved: the first, offered by Ron DeSantis (R-FL) and approved in a 251–168 vote, would prohibit any funds appropriated in the bill from being used to purchase heavy water from Iran; the second, offered by Brian Babin (R-TX) and agreed to by voice vote, would prohibit any funds appropriated in the bill from being used to provide any contracts or federal assistance to Iran.

Last major action: 5/26/16 failed to pass in House by yea/nay vote, 112–305.

26 APRIL 2016: UNITED STATES-ISRAEL MARITIME SECURITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5066, Brian Higgins (D-NY), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to assist Israel in the protection of its coastline and its natural gas fields in the eastern Mediterranean. The bill also listed specific types of eligible assistance, including the procurement and sustainment of the David’s Sling Weapon System, which is designed to intercept small rockets and missiles; payment of Israel’s expenses related to participation in joint U.S.-Israeli and multilateral military exercises; increased visits of U.S. naval ships to Israeli ports; and joint research and development for “advanced maritime domain awareness capabilities.”

Last major action: 4/26/16 referred to House Armed Services Comm.

28 APRIL 2016: NO 2H2O FROM IRAN ACT

H.R. 5119, Mike Pompeo (R-KS), 36 cosponsors.

Designed to undermine advantages Iran gained in the JCPOA, this bill would prevent any federal funds from being used to purchase 2H2O (heavy water) produced in Iran or to issue a license for the purchase of the same. The JCPOA requires Iran to get rid of the heavy water it has produced, and blacklisting it in the U.S. market would make it that much more difficult to sell.

This measure passed in the House the day before the 1-year anniversary of the 7/14 nuclear deal. The Obama administration 3 days earlier threatened to veto the bill, as well as H.R. 5631 of 7/6/16 and H.R. 4992 of 4/19/16, on the grounds that they would obstruct the U.S. from implementing its JCPOA obligations.

See also: H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16.

Last major action: 7/13/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 249–176.

28 APRIL 2016: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT IRAN, BY FAILING TO ADHERE TO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW, IGNORING UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS, AND CONDUCTING MILITARY OPERATIONS IN A MANNER THAT RAISES TENSIONS WITHIN THE ARABIAN GULF, HAS UNDERMINED STABILITY IN THE ARABIAN GULF, RAISED THE DANGER OF INADVERTENT ESCALATION, AND INCREASED THE RISK TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES OVERSEAS

H. Res. 709, Randy Forbes (R-VA), no cosponsors.

This resolution called on the Obama administration to “strongly respond” to any aggressive behavior by Iranian troops, and declared that the House of Representatives would consider such behavior in deliberations over future legislation pertaining to Iran.

Last major action: 4/28/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

29 APRIL 2016: NO DEFENSE CONTRACTS FOR TERROR PROFITEERS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5139, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would forbid the Defense Dept. from contracting with any person providing material support to or engaging in significant transactions with any Iranian under U.S. sanction, including members of the IRGC. The secretary of defense would be permitted to waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis if he determines it is in the interest of national security.

Last major action: 4/29/16 referred to House Oversight and Government Reform Comm.

11 MAY 2016: INTERDICTIONS ASSISTANCE ACT

H.R. 5197, Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA), 4 cosponsors.

In an effort to thwart Iranian arms trafficking, this bill would authorize the Defense Dept. to assist foreign countries in seizing shipments of items deemed to be in contravention of UNSC Resolution 1701, which was intended to resolve the hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, and UNSC Resolution 2231, which endorsed the JCPOA. Assistance may include logistical and military support for storage, transfer, or destruction of seized or interdicted items, as well as interdiction training.

Last major action: 5/11/16 referred to House Foreign Affairs Comm.

11 MAY 2016: IRAN-RUSSIA COOPERATION REPORTING ACT

H.R. 5200, Mike Pompeo (R-KS), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would direct the secretary of defense to submit a report to Congress on cooperation between Iran and Russia, including but not limited to how cooperation on Iran’s space program strengthens Iran’s ballistic missile programs.

Pompeo submitted this bill as an amendment to the House’s NDAA, H.R. 4909 of 4/12/16, and it was attached by voice vote.

Last major action: 9/7/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Middle East and North Africa.

12 MAY 2016: LIMITING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS THAT ACCORD THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION THE SAME STANDING AS MEMBER STATES ACT

S. 2930, David Vitter (R-LA), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would direct the State Dept. to ensure that U.S. support for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) complies with existing laws, including those that limit U.S. support for UN bodies and agencies that accord the PLO the same standing as a member-state. This measure would effectively block U.S. contributions to the UNFCCC.

Last major action: 5/12/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

12 MAY 2016: VISA INTEGRITY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5203, Randy Forbes (R-VA), 8 cosponsors.

This multifaceted bill would implement new procedures for the intake of immigrants and refugees, including a new rule that would require those applying for visas from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Sudan, or Yemen to obtain a Security Advisory Opinion from the State Dept.

Last major action: 5/25/16 ordered to be reported.

12 MAY 2016: IRAN CYBER SANCTIONS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5222, John Ratcliffe (R-TX), no cosponsors.

See similar bill S. 2756 of 4/6/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 5/18/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

*13 MAY 2016: EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION AND FINALIZATION OF A NEW, ROBUST, AND LONG-TERM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL

H. Res. 729, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 282 cosponsors.

This resolution supported the Obama administration's efforts to negotiate a new MoU with the Israeli government that would increase annual U.S. military aid to Israel. The current MoU, which provided \$30 b. in military aid over 10 years, was set to expire in 2018.

The Obama administration announced a new \$38-b., 10-year military aid deal with Israel on 9/14/16, substantially upping annual U.S. support.

See also: S. Res. 508 of 6/22/16.

Last major action: 9/13/16 agreed to without objection.

*18 MAY 2016: NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

S. 2943, John McCain (R-AZ), no cosponsors.

This annual must-pass bill authorizes defense spending for the fiscal year ending on 9/30/17. Relevant provisions deal with military aid for Israel, Egyptian border security, and congressional oversight of the Obama administration's Iran policy.

After the Senate passed its version of this bill on 6/14, the House replaced it with its own version, H.R. 4909 of 4/12/16, on 7/7. House and Senate leaders reached a compromise in 12/2016, and the summary below reflects their agreement.

Israeli Missile Defense

As in previous years, Congress authorized support for the various U.S.-Israeli joint missile defense programs. No more than \$62 m. is authorized for Israel to procure Tamir receptors for the Iron Dome system, so long as any disbursement comports with existing U.S.-Israeli agreements on the Iron Dome. The bill also authorizes no more than \$150 m. for Israel to procure the David's Sling Weapon System and \$120 m. for the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program, which includes funding for coproduction in the U.S. and requires Israel to match U.S. contributions on a one-for-one basis.

Furthermore, the secretary of defense is required to submit to Congress a report on the potential for the U.S. and Israel to cooperatively develop a "directed energy capability," or laser, that could shoot down ballistic and other missiles.

Joint U.S.-Israel Anti-Tunnel Program

Doubled from FY 2016, \$50 m. is authorized for U.S.-Israel anti-tunnel activities. No less than 50% of the authorized sum is required to be spent on research, development, testing, and evaluation in the U.S.

Egyptian Border Security

The secretary of state is authorized to provide an unspecified amount to the government of Egypt for border security. This authorization extends through 12/31/19, and the money would either come from the funding authorized for Defense Dept. operations and maintenance or that which was designated to combat ISIS.

Managing Relations with Iran

The bill modifies the requirements for the annual report on Iran's military power, adding a new section on Iran's cyber capabilities, including its use of persons or entities operating on behalf of Iran, and information related to Iranian military or security groups interfering in U.S. military activities or detaining members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The director of national intelligence is required to report on a quarterly basis on any confirmed ballistic missile launches by Iran. At the same time, the secretaries of state and the Treasury are directed to submit to Congress a report on any sanctions imposed on Iran in response to reported ballistic missile launches and diplomatic efforts to impose multilateral sanctions.

Furthermore, \$4 m. is earmarked for "monitoring [Iran's] proliferation pathways" under the JCPOA.

See also: H.R. 4909 of 4/12/16.

Last major action: 12/23/16 became public law (12/8/16 Senate agreed to conference report, 92-7; 12/2/16 House agreed to conference report, 375-34; 7/7/16 amended and passed in the House without objection; 6/14/16 passed in Senate by yea/nay vote, 85-13).

25 MAY 2016: NO IMPUNITY FOR IRANIAN AGGRESSION AT SEA ACT OF 2016

S. 2984, John Cornyn (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would facilitate the application of new sanctions on Iran in relation to the Iranian navy's boarding of 2 U.S. naval vessels and capture of their crews on 1/12/16. Specifically, it would require the president to report to Congress within 2 mos. with a determination of whether or not the incident constituted a violation of the Geneva Convention or other international laws, and whether or not the \$1.7 b. paid to Iran on 1/17/16 was in exchange for the U.S. seamen captured on 1/12/16, or for the 5 U.S. citizens released by Iran on 1/16/16. (Republican leaders at the time alleged that the payment was some type of ransom, but the Obama administration insisted that the timing of the payment was coincidental: long-frozen Iranian money was merely being returned as a result of unrelated legal claims.) Thirty days after submitting the initial report, the president would be directed to submit a list of Iranian persons complicit in any violations of the Geneva Convention or other international laws, and to impose sanctions on them.

See also: similar bill H.R. 5333 of 5/25/16.

Last major action: 5/25/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

25 MAY 2016: A BILL TO EXTEND THE SUNSET OF THE IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996 IN ORDER TO EFFECTUATE THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION IN GUARANTEEING THAT ALL NUCLEAR MATERIAL IN IRAN REMAINS IN PEACEFUL ACTIVITIES

S. 2988, Tim Kaine (D-VA), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would extend the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA) of 1996, which laid the foundation for all subsequent U.S. sanctions on Iran, until the president certifies to Congress that the International Atomic Energy Agency has concluded that all nuclear material in Iran remains in peaceful activities. The ISA was set to sunset on 12/31/16. This bill would effectively tie its termination to Iran's adherence to the 7/14/15 nuclear deal.

Last major action: 5/25/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

***25 MAY 2016: CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017, AND ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS ACT**

H.R. 5325, Tom Graves (R-GA), no cosponsors.

Because Congress failed to pass individual appropriations bills for the federal government's various departments for FY 2017 by the end of FY 2016 (9/30/16), Democrat and Republican leaders were forced to extend FY 2016 appropriations, including those for programs relevant to Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict (e.g., military aid to Israel and economic support for the Palestinians), while they continued work on a compromise. This bill extended FY 2016 appropriations for 1 week, through 12/9/16.

See *H.R. 2029 of 4/24/15 at congressionalmonitor.org for a detailed summary of FY 2016 appropriations and *H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16, which further extended FY 2016 appropriations through 4/28/17.

Last major action: 9/29/16 became public law (6/10/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 233-175; 9/28/16 passed in Senate with an amendment by yea/nay vote, 72-26; 9/28/16 resolving differences).

25 MAY 2016: NO IMPUNITY FOR IRANIAN AGGRESSION AT SEA ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5333, Mike Pompeo (R-KS), 11 cosponsors.

See similar bill S. 2984 of 5/25/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 5/25/16 referred to House Judiciary Comm.

25 MAY 2016: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT UNITED STATES LAW FIRMS SHOULD NOT REPRESENT IRAN IN ANY JUDICIAL PROCEEDING OR OTHER CAPACITY TO ASSIST EFFORTS OF IRAN TO AVOID PAYING COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF IRAN-SPONSORED TERRORISM

H. Res. 748, Walter Jones (R-NC), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution conveyed the sense of the House that U.S. law firms should not represent Iran in any effort to avoid paying compensation to victims of Iran-sponsored terrorism. Jones's press release announcing the measure noted that U.S. law firms Chaffetz Lindsey LLP and MoloLamken LLP have represented Iran in such proceedings as recently as early 2016.

Last major action: 6/1/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

25 MAY 2016: URGING THE EUROPEAN UNION TO DESIGNATE HIZBALLAH IN ITS ENTIRETY AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND INCREASE PRESSURE ON IT AND ITS MEMBERS

H. Res. 750, Theodore Deutch (D-FL), 54 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution urged the EU to designate Hezbollah a terrorist organization and to increase pressure on the group by increasing intra-EU cooperation, issuing arrest warrants for Hezbollah members and supporters, freezing Hezbollah's assets in Europe, and barring fund-raising activities in support of Hezbollah.

See also: similar measure S. Res. 482 of 6/6/16.

Last major action: 7/14/16 ordered to be reported by voice vote.

***6 JUNE 2016: A RESOLUTION URGING THE EUROPEAN UNION TO DESIGNATE HIZBALLAH IN ITS ENTIRETY AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBERS TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE**

S. Res. 482, Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), 22 cosponsors.

See similar measure H. Res. 750 of 5/25/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/6/16 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

7 JUNE 2016: RECOGNIZING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT IT IS IN THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST FOR ISRAEL TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

H. Res. 768, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), no cosponsors.

Introduced in response to Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's 4/17/16 reaffirmation of Israel's right to control the Golan Heights, this resolution asserted that continued Israeli control of the region was in the U.S. national security interest.

Last major action: 6/7/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

13 JUNE 2016: IRANIAN LEADERSHIP ASSET TRANSPARENCY ACT

H.R. 5461, Bruce Poliquin (R-ME), 1 cosponsor.

In order to strengthen efforts to combat Iran's financing of designated terrorist groups, this bill would require the secretary of the treasury to report to Congress annually on the estimated total assets held by 20 senior Iranian officials, including the supreme leader and president, as well as any equity stakes such persons hold in entities currently under U.S. sanctions, a description of how those funds or equity stakes were acquired and how they've been used, and a description of any new trends in anti-money laundering that could be implemented to deter such activities. The secretary would also be required to assess the effectiveness of U.S. sanctions on Iran and to offer recommendations for developing and enforcing new sanctions, should the president order them. The unclassified portion of the report would be posted online in English and in the 3 main languages spoken in Iran.

After the bill was marked up in the House Financial Services Comm. in 9/2016, the committee's Democrats published a minority view outlining their opposition to the bill: "Given that producing the report required in this bill would have a negative impact on Treasury's limited resources; divert energy and resources away from investigations related to sanctions; add confusion to the Office of Foreign Assets Control's regulated public [*sic*]; potentially undermine continued support for the [7/14/15 nuclear deal] within Iran; and the report's lack of usefulness as a compliance tool, we oppose this bill."

Last major action: 9/21/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 282–143.

15 JUNE 2016: FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

H.R. 5485, Ander Crenshaw (R-FL), no cosponsors.

This annual bill provides appropriations to the Treasury Dept., the executive office of the president, the judiciary, the District of Columbia, and a number of related agencies. It does not traditionally carry any provisions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict, but in the lead-up to its consideration on the House floor in mid-7/2016, numerous Iran-related amendments were proposed and ruled "in order," meaning that they would each be allowed a vote.

H.A. 1255, submitted by Leonard Lance (R-NJ) on 7/7/16, no cosponsors.

This amendment would prohibit any funds appropriated in this bill from being used to give Iran access to the U.S. dollar. It was agreed to by voice vote on 7/7/16.

H.A. 1262, submitted by Peter J. Roskam (R-IL) on 7/7/16, no cosponsors.

This amendment would forbid any funds appropriated in this bill from being used to issue a license related to export or re-export to Iran of commercial passenger aircraft and related parts and services. Roskam designed it specifically to block Boeing International's proposed sale of 80 airplanes to Iran Air because, he said, those jets could be used as military freighters. The amendment was agreed to by voice vote on 7/7/16.

H.A. 1263, submitted by Peter J. Roskam (R-IL) on 7/7/16, no cosponsors.

This amendment would prohibit any funds in this bill from being used to authorize a transaction by a U.S. financial institution related to the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to

Iran. Effectively, it would block the administration from expediting Boeing International's sale of jets to Iran Air. It was agreed to by voice vote on 7/7/16.

H.A. 1266, submitted by Lee Zeldin (R-NY) on 7/7/16, no cosponsors.

This amendment would prohibit any funds in this bill from being used to pay final judgments, awards, or compromise settlements to Iran. It was agreed to by voice vote on 7/7/16.

H.A. 1267, submitted by Lee Zeldin (R-NY) on 7/7/16, no cosponsors.

This amendment would block any funds appropriated in this bill from being used to circumvent the conditions of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (see H.R. 2149 of 4/30/09 at congressionalmonitor.org).

Last major action: 7/7/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 239–185.

21 JUNE 2016: NO DOLLARS FOR AYATOLLAHS ACT

H.R. 5550, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 8 cosponsors.

Introduced in response to 6/21 reports that Boeing International had signed a deal to sell jets to Iran's state airline, this bill would alter the tax code to discourage companies from doing business with Iran.

Last major action: 6/21/16 referred to House Comm. on Ways and Means.

22 JUNE 2016: A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS CONSIDERATION AND FINALIZATION OF A NEW, ROBUST, AND LONG-TERM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL

S. Res. 508, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 22 cosponsors.

This resolution called on the Obama administration to reach a "new, robust, and long-term" MoU with Israel that "increases the amount of aid from previous agreements and significantly enhances Israel's military capabilities." Negotiations on a new MoU began in 11/2015. (See Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 46 [2] for details of the eventual deal, which was announced on 9/14/16.)

See also: H. Res. 729 of 5/13/16.

Last major action: 6/22/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

24 JUNE 2016: AFFIRMING THE VOTES OF THE 8 COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES OPPOSING THE SIXTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION TITLED, "HEALTH CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, AND IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN"

H. Res. 798, John Fleming (R-LA), 4 cosponsors.

This resolution affirmed U.S. opposition to the resolution passed at the 69th World Health Assembly in 5/2016 that noted a litany of public health-related issues among Palestinians in the oPt arising from the Israeli occupation. It encouraged the assembly, the decision-making body for the World Health Organization, to annul the resolution and highlighted the efforts Israel has made to improve public health conditions in the oPt.

Last major action: 6/24/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

28 JUNE 2016: NO EX-IM FINANCING FOR IRAN ACT

H.R. 5608, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 16 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit the Export-Import Bank from guaranteeing, insuring, or otherwise participating in U.S. exports to any entity that does business with the Iranian government, an entity created under Iranian law, or an operation in Iran.

See also: identical bill S. 3138 of 7/7/16.

Last major action: 7/7/16 House Subcomm. on Monetary Policy and Trade held hearings.

6 JULY 2016: IRAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5631, Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), 9 cosponsors.

This bill would expand and strengthen sanctions on Iran related to its sponsorship of designated terrorist groups, ballistic missile tests, and human rights abuses. Specifically, it would impose sanctions on a number of Iranian organizations, including Mahan Air and the IRGC, but also on any persons or groups deemed to be involved in the abovementioned 3 categories. Inter alia, the bill would also direct the Treasury Dept. to establish and publish an IRGC watch list; apply certain restrictions on Iranian access to the U.S. financial system; authorize assistance for people working to promote the rule of law and economic opportunity in Iran; direct the president to establish an office in the State Dept. for a special coordinator on Human Rights and Democracy in Iran; and require government-run media channels, including Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America, to increase Iran-related programming.

Last major action: 7/15/16 referred to Senate Subcomm. on Trade (7/14/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote 246–179).

6 JULY 2016: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5639, John Moolenaar (R-MI), 10 cosponsors.

Within this broad science and technology bill, 1 provision would convey the sense of Congress that U.S.-Israeli scientific partnerships have been productive and should continue.

Last major action: 7/11/16 passed in House by voice vote.

6 JULY 2016: UNITED STATES–ISRAEL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE COOPERATION ACT

H.R. 5645, Steve Israel (D-NY), no cosponsors.

This bill would direct the Dept. of Health and Human Services to establish a grant-making program to support joint U.S.-Israeli research into the “development and commercialization of tools, treatments, and cures for Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.”

Last major action: 7/6/16 referred to House Comm. on Energy and Commerce.

6 JULY 2016: CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO RELEASE IRANIAN-AMERICANS SIAMAK NAMAZI AND HIS FATHER, BAQUER NAMAZI

H. Res. 808, Edward Royce (R-CA), 19 cosponsors.

Siamak Namazi was a public policy fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a consultant working in the oil industry in Dubai when he traveled to Tehran in

7/2015. He was arrested, interrogated, and detained by Iranian forces. Months later, his father, Baquer, was arrested as well. This resolution urged the president to take appropriate measures to secure their release.

See also: S. Res. 529 of 7/12/16.

Last major action: 7/14/16 ordered measure to be reported from House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

7 JULY 2016: NO EX-IM FINANCING FOR IRAN ACT

S. 3138, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 7 cosponsors.

See identical bill H.R. 5608 of 6/28/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/7/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*7 JULY 2016: A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE DEATH OF ELIE WIESEL, HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR, POWERFUL ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR

S. Res. 523, Mitch McConnell (R-KY), 99 cosponsors.

Introduced 5 days after the death of Elie Wiesel, this resolution recognized his support for human rights and religious liberty and expressed support for his legacy as “an example and advocate of the enduring power of the human spirit in the face of evil.” It did not mention his support for Israel’s settlements and occupation of Palestinian land.

See also: H.R. 5691 of 7/8/16 and *H. Res. 810 of 7/7/16.

Last major action: 7/7/16 agreed to by unanimous consent.

7 JULY 2016: U.S.-ISRAEL PARTNERSHIP TO HOLD IRAN ACCOUNTABLE ACT

H.R. 5677, Raul Ruiz (D-CA), no cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to establish a joint U.S.-Israeli committee to monitor Iranian compliance with the 7/14/15 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 (the JCPOA).

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

7 JULY 2016: STOP IRAN FROM SMUGGLING WEAPONS TO TERRORISTS ACT

H.R. 5678, Raul Ruiz (D-CA), no cosponsors.

This bill would authorize assistance and training for Israel, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, and Qatar to deter and counter illicit Iranian maritime activity, including weapons shipments. It would authorize up to \$50 m. for such activities so long as the secretary of defense arranged cost-sharing agreements with recipient countries and submitted corresponding reports to Congress.

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

*7 JULY 2016: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING THE LIFE AND WORK OF ELIE WIESEL IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE, AND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

H. Res. 810, Steve Israel (D-NY), 170 cosponsors.

Introduced a week after Wiesel's death on 7/2/16, this resolution commended his efforts to "preserve the memory of those who perished and prevent the recurrence of another Holocaust" and to "combat hate and intolerance."

See also: H.R. 5691 of 7/8/16 and *S. Res. 523 of 7/7/16.

Last major action: 9/12/16 agreed to by voice vote.

8 JULY 2016: TO DIRECT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO OBTAIN A STATUE OF ELIE WIESEL FOR PLACEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

H.R. 5691, Steve Cohen (D-TN), 37 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize appropriation for the commissioning and installation of a statue of Elie Wiesel at the U.S. Capitol.

See also: *H. Res. 810 of 7/7/16 and *S. Res. 523 of 7/7/16.

Last major action: 7/8/16 referred to House Comm. on House Administration.

11 JULY 2016: NO U.S. FINANCING FOR IRAN ACT

H.R. 5711, Bill Huizenga (R-MI), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would prohibit the Treasury Dept. from authorizing financial transactions related to the export or re-export of commercial passenger aircraft to Iran. It was introduced in the wake of Boeing International's agreement to sell 80 passenger planes to Iran Air, which was reported on 6/21.

It also included the text of the No Ex-Im Assistance for Terrorism Act (see H.R. 5715 of 7/11/16).

See also: H.R. 5716 of 7/11/16, H.R. 5729 of 7/12/16, and H.A. 1262 and 1263 to H.R. 5485 of 6/15/16.

Last major action: 11/17/16 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 243–174.

11 JULY 2016: NO EX-IM ASSISTANCE FOR TERRORISM ACT

H.R. 5715, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 10 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit the Export-Import Bank from participating in the extension of credit for U.S. exports to the Iranian government, any organization involving the Iranian government, any entity created under Iranian law, or any non-U.S. entity that has leased or re-exported aircraft to Iran in the past 5 years.

Last major action: 11/14/16 reported by House Comm. on Financial Services.

11 JULY 2016: TO PROHIBIT THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM ISSUING CERTAIN LICENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXPORT OR RE-EXPORT OF A COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO ISSUE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF, AND RISKS RELATED TO, U.S. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED WITH THE SALE OR LEASE OF SUCH A COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 5716, Robert Pittenger (R-NC), no cosponsors.

In addition to blocking the Treasury Dept. from licensing the export or re-export of commercial passenger aircraft to Iran, this bill would direct the Treasury to submit an annual report on the

involvement of U.S. financial institutions in the sale or lease of such aircraft to Iran and describing any risks involved therein.

See also: H.R. 5711 of 7/11/16 and H.R. 5729 of 7/12/16.

Last major action: 7/11/16 referred to House Financial Services Comm.

12 JULY 2016: PREVENTING IRANIAN DESTABILIZATION OF IRAQ ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5727, Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), 32 cosponsors.

Designed to “counter the active role of Iran, its IRGC Quds Forces, and its proxy militias that seek to destabilize Iraq,” according to a press release from Kinzinger’s office, this bill would authorize the president to impose sanctions on any foreign person who has knowingly committed violence that threatened the stability of Iraq; assisted any related acts; or has acted on behalf of a foreign person who has carried out such an act. The State Dept. and Dept. of Homeland Security would be authorized to deny such persons admission into the U.S. The president would be allowed to exercise a national security waiver under this bill; directed to determine if certain Iranian individuals are responsible for such acts; and required to report, every 180 days for 5 years, on Iranian activities in Iraq.

Last major action: 7/12/16 referred to House Judiciary Comm.

12 JULY 2016: TO PROHIBIT THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM ISSUING CERTAIN LICENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXPORT OR RE-EXPORT OF A COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, TO REQUIRE ANNUAL REPORTS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ON FINANCING ISSUES RELATED TO THE SALE OR LEASE OF SUCH A COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT OR SPARE PARTS FOR SUCH AN AIRCRAFT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 5729, Robert Pittenger (R-NC), no cosponsors.

This bill would block the sale of commercial passenger aircraft to Iran and require the Treasury Dept. to submit a report on the subject (see Pittenger’s earlier bill, H.R. 5716 of 7/11/16, for a detailed summary of these provisions). It would also require the Export-Import Bank to submit an annual report to Congress on any instances in which it assisted in transactions involving the sale or lease of commercial aircraft or spare parts to Iran by non-U.S. manufacturers.

See also: H.R. 5711 of 7/11/16.

Last major action: 12/12/16 amended and reported by House Comm. on Financial Services.

12 JULY 2016: CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5732, Eliot Engel (D-NY), 89 cosponsors.

In an effort to stop the civil war in Syria, encourage a political settlement, and to hold perpetrators of human rights violations accountable, this bill would direct the president to impose sanctions on individuals deemed to be providing certain financial, material, technological, or financial support to the Syrian government and individuals complicit in human rights abuses in Syria. It would also require the White House to submit new reports on related subjects.

Last major action: 11/15/16 passed in the House by voice vote.

12 JULY 2016: A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO RELEASE IRANIAN-AMERICANS SIAMAK NAMAZI AND HIS FATHER, BAQUER NAMAZI

S. Res. 529, Cory Booker (D-NJ), 4 cosponsors.

See similar measure H. Res. 808 of 7/6/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/12/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

14 JULY 2016: JUDGMENT FUND TRANSPARENCY AND TERRORISM FINANCING PREVENTION ACT

S. 3213, James Lankford (R-OK), 3 cosponsors.

After the Obama administration transferred a payment to Iran's central bank in 1/2016 through the Judgment Fund, a Treasury fund used to pay certain settlements against the U.S. government, Sen. Lankford and the cosponsors of previous versions of this measure updated it to prohibit the fund from being used for payments to state sponsors of terrorism.

Last major action: 7/14/16 referred to Senate Comm. on the Judiciary.

14 JULY 2016: REFUGEE PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

S. 3241, Patrick Leahy (D-VT), 4 cosponsors.

This multifaceted bill would reform the U.S. system for processing refugees and asylum seekers. Although the broader bill was largely designed in response to the wave of refugees it engendered, one provision would bar PLO officials from entering the U.S.

See also: similar bill H.R. 5851 of 7/14/16.

Last major action: 7/14/16 referred to Senate Judiciary Comm.

14 JULY 2016: COUNTERING IRANIAN THREATS ACT OF 2016

S. 3267, Bob Corker (R-TN), 7 cosponsors.

This bill would strengthen and expand sanctions on Iran. In addition to requiring a slew of new reports from the Obama administration related to Iran and its nuclear program, the bill would specifically direct the president to impose sanctions on any individual involved in Iran's ballistic missile program or Iranian-sponsored cyberattacks; require the president to block the transfer of certain weapons to and from Iran; block Iranian financial institutions from engaging in U.S. dollar-based transactions; prohibit the president from entering a new international agreement with Iran without Senate approval; and direct the administration to submit to Congress every 2 years a 10-year strategy for countering Iran.

Corker told the *Washington Post* on 7/13/16 that he and his cosponsors were "meticulous" in making sure that "we were in no way involving any language that would touch the JCPOA," thus avoiding a presidential veto.

It would also extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, which established a foundation for the broader U.S. sanctions regime, through 12/31/2026.

Last major action: 7/14/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

14 JULY 2016: A BILL TO PROVIDE THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PERFORMING SERVICES IN THE SINAI PENINSULA OF EGYPT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TAX BENEFITS IN THE SAME MANNER AS IF SUCH SERVICES WERE PERFORMED IN A COMBAT ZONE

S. 3272, John Cornyn (R-TX), no cosponsors.

This bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to designate the Sinai Peninsula a “qualified hazardous duty area,” which would allow U.S. armed forces serving there to qualify for special pay.

See also: H.R. 5924 of 7/21/16.

Last major action: 7/14/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Finance.

14 JULY 2016: A BILL TO EXTEND THE IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996

S. 3281, Harry Reid (D-NV), 20 cosponsors.

This bill would extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, which set out sanctions on Iranian trade, energy, defense, and banking, through 12/31/2026.

Despite the partisan debate over the 7/14/15 nuclear deal, both parties largely supported extending the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, and AIPAC listed it as a legislative priority.

Last major action: 7/14/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

14 JULY 2016: DETERMINATION OF RUSSIA-IRAN WEAPONS TRANSFER ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5827, Steve Chabot (R-OH), no cosponsors.

Introduced in response to reports that Russia had sold an S-300 surface-to-air missile defense system to Iran, this bill would require the president to inform Congress of any future sale of advanced air defense systems to Iran and to determine whether or not the sale triggered U.S. sanctions.

Last major action: 8/1/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Trade.

14 JULY 2016: UNITED STATES–ISRAEL CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5843, James Langevin (D-RI), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would establish a grant program at the Dept. of Homeland Security to support joint U.S.-Israeli “cybersecurity research and development,” and “demonstration and commercialization of cybersecurity technology.” Only joint ventures between for-profit, nonprofit, or academic entities (including U.S. national laboratories) in the U.S. and Israel, or between the U.S. and Israeli governments, would be eligible for grants.

See also: H.R. 5877 of 7/14/16.

Last major action: 11/29/16 passed in House by voice vote.

14 JULY 2016: REFUGEE PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5851, Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), 34 cosponsors.

See similar bill S. 3241 of 7/14/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 8/17/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Human Resources.

***14 JULY 2016: UNITED STATES–ISRAEL ADVANCED RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2016**

H.R. 5877, John Ratcliffe (R-TX), 2 cosponsors.

This bill authorizes the Dept. of Homeland Security, in coordination with the State Dept., to embark on cooperative cybersecurity programs with Israel. The Dept. of Homeland Security is required to report on any such programs every 5 years.

See also: H.R. 5843 of 7/14/16.

Last major action: 12/16/16 became public law (12/10/16 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 11/29/16 passed in House by voice vote).

14 JULY 2016: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE ITALIAN SUPREME COURT OF CASSATION SHOULD DOMESTICATE AND RECOGNIZE JUDGMENTS ISSUED BY UNITED STATES COURTS ON BEHALF OF UNITED STATES VICTIMS OF TERRORISM, AND THAT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHOULD CEASE ITS POLITICAL INTERFERENCE WITH ITALY’S INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, WHICH IT CARRIES OUT IN THE INTERESTS OF STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM SUCH AS THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

S. Con. Res. 48, Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), 3 cosponsors.

This resolution was introduced in response to the Italian foreign ministry’s interference in the cases of several U.S. victims of Iran-sponsored terrorism (the cases were filed in Italy because of certain Iranian-held assets there). It called for the European Court of Human Rights to reassert the Court of Appeals of Rome’s initial judgment in favor of the U.S. citizens and order the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation, Italy’s highest appeals court, to recognize U.S. judgments on this matter.

Last major action: 7/14/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

21 JULY 2016: TO PROVIDE THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PERFORMING SERVICES IN THE SINAI PENINSULA OF EGYPT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TAX BENEFITS IN THE SAME MANNER AS IF SUCH SERVICES WERE PERFORMED IN A COMBAT ZONE

H.R. 5924, Michael McCaul (R-TX), no cosponsors.

See similar measure S. 3272 of 7/14/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/21/16 referred to House Comm. on Ways and Means.

6 SEPTEMBER 2016: PROHIBITING FUTURE RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN ACT

H.R. 5931, Edward Royce (R-CA), 70 cosponsors.

This bill would establish the policy that the U.S. government does not pay ransom for the release of U.S. hostages taken abroad. It was introduced in response to the Obama administration’s payment of \$400 m. to Iran in 1/2016, which happened to coincide with Tehran’s release of several U.S. prisoners. Republicans in Congress alleged that it was a ransom payment and fiercely criticized the Obama administration, but it was, in fact, a previously agreed-to payment resulting from separate negotiations over funds owed to Iran since 1979.

Specifically, this bill would prohibit the U.S. from providing monetary instruments or precious metals to Iran; require any settlements brought before the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal to be paid

on a case-by-case basis that does not violate the abovementioned prohibition; direct the president to submit, every 18 days for 3 years, a report on outstanding claims before the tribunal; and provide Congress notice at least 30 days prior to any payment to Iran in connection with a settlement agreement.

See also: S. 2452 of 1/20/16, H.R. 5949 of 9/7/16, and H.R. 5490 of 9/6/15.

Last major action: 9/22/15 passed in House by yea/nay vote, 254–163.

6 SEPTEMBER 2016: NO RANSOM PAYMENTS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5940, Mike Pompeo (R-KS), 9 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit the president from paying final judgments, awards, or any other legal remunerations to Iran until: Tehran returned any money the U.S. transferred to it after 1/1/16; satisfied all outstanding judgments against it in U.S. courts; and compensated the hostages seized at the U.S. Embassy on 11/4/1979. Once these conditions were satisfied, the bill would require the president to certify to Congress that any payments to Iran would not be used for supporting acts of terror; and require the director of national intelligence to submit to Congress a report on funds paid to Iran after 1/1/16. Furthermore, the president would be directed to impose sanctions on any Iranian person involved in the kidnapping of a U.S. citizen on or after 3/9/07, and prohibited from paying ransom for any U.S. citizens kidnapped in Iran or by any other state sponsor of international terrorism.

The Obama administration transferred \$400 m. to Iran on 1/16/16, the same day Iran released 4 U.S. prisoners. Congressional Republicans defined the payment as a “ransom,” and this bill was part of their yearlong effort to censure the president.

See also: identical bill S. 3285 of 9/6/16.

Last major action: 9/15/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Immigration and Border Security.

6 SEPTEMBER 2016: KEEP TAXPAYER DOLLARS SAFE FROM TERRORISTS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5941, David Young (R-IA), 7 cosponsors.

This bill would establish a congressional review process for any transfer of funds from the federal government to a state sponsor of terrorism, including Iran. Specifically, Congress would have up to 60 days to pass a joint resolution of disapproval after the head of a federal agency informs it of a planned transfer. If the president signs the joint resolution into law or if Congress overrides a presidential veto, the transfer would be prohibited.

Last major action: 9/6/15 referred to House Rules Comm.

6 SEPTEMBER 2016: NO RANSOM PAYMENTS ACT OF 2016

S. 3285, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 28 cosponsors.

See identical bill H.R. 5940 of 9/6/15 for a full summary.

Last major action: 9/6/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

6 SEPTEMBER 2016: KEEPING AIRCRAFT AWAY FROM TERRORISTS ACT OF 2016

S. 3286, Marco Rubio (R-FL), no cosponsors.

This bill would forbid the U.S. government from issuing a license related to the export or re-export of aircraft or aircraft parts to Iran.

Last major action: 9/6/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

7 SEPTEMBER 2016: VICTIMS BEFORE RANSOM ACT

H.R. 5949, Leonard Lance (R-NJ), 3 cosponsors.

See similar bill S. 2452 of 1/20/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 9/7/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

8 SEPTEMBER 2016: IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5961, Christopher Smith (R-NJ), 27 cosponsors.

This bill would direct the State Dept. to carry out a series of activities in support of the victims of war crimes in Iraq since 1/2014 or Syria since 3/2011, including assistance for criminal investigations, development of investigative and judicial capacities, evidence collection, preservation of the chain of evidence, and capacity-building. The secretary of state would be encouraged to solicit support for these efforts from foreign governments.

Separately, the bill would facilitate entry into the U.S. of refugees from Iraq and Syria.

Last major action: 9/9/16 introductory remarks on measure offered.

8 SEPTEMBER 2016: COPTIC CHURCHES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

H.R. 5974, David Trott (R-MI), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would direct the State Dept. to submit an annual report on the “progress made in restoring or repairing burned, damaged or otherwise destroyed Christian religious property owned by Christians in the Arab Republic of Egypt during the sectarian violence in 8/2013.” The report would be required to cover the implementation of a new law, passed by the Egyptian government in 8/2016, that allegedly restricted the rebuilding of such churches, as well as the broader status of Egyptian laws and policies relating to Christian houses of worship. The bill would also direct the secretary of state to include issues relating to these churches in the annual State Dept. report on human rights in Egypt.

Last major action: 9/8/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

9 SEPTEMBER 2016: FINANCIAL CHOICE ACT OF 2016

H.R. 5983, Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), 5 cosponsors.

Within this broader bill dealing with financial and banking regulations, Hensarling included a provision allowing a federal banking agency to terminate, or otherwise restrict, any account with a customer or group of customers if they are “acting as a conduit for” the government of Iran, North Korea, Syria, or any country listed “from time to time” on the state sponsors of terrorism list.

Last major action: 12/20/16 discharged from comms. and placed on union calendar.

9 SEPTEMBER 2016: UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL SPACE COOPERATION ACT

H.R. 5989, Derek Kilmer (D-WA), 36 cosponsors.

This bill would direct NASA to continue working with the Israel Space Agency “to identify and cooperatively pursue peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest.”

Last major action: 9/30/16 referred to House Subcomm. on Space.

14 SEPTEMBER 2016: JCPOA ENFORCEMENT TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2016

S. 3329, David Perdue (R-GA), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would establish oversight procedures for the implementation of the nuclear deal reached between Iran and the P5+1 on 7/14/15, also known as the JCPOA. Specifically, it would direct the president to inform Congress of any decisions made by the Joint Commission or Technical Working Group (the monitoring bodies established under the JCPOA) within 30 days; and would order the secretary of state to publish, for public consumption, a description of any such decisions and those groups’ decision-making processes.

Last major action: 9/14/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

20 SEPTEMBER 2016: EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, 2016

S. 3363, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 6 cosponsors.

Introduced a week after the U.S. and Israel announced a new \$38-b., 10-year military aid agreement (see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 46 [2]), this bill would appropriate \$1.5 b. in supplemental military aid to Israel: \$750 m. for Israel to “address security threats from Iran,” to remain available until 9/30/17; \$700 m. for Israel to procure missile defense systems to be used to defend against threats from Iran, to remain available until 9/30/18; and \$50 m. for research, development, and evaluation of such missile defense systems, to remain available until 9/30/17. These appropriations are in addition to the nearly \$3.6 b. in military aid disbursed to Israel in FY 2016.

The bill would also extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 through 2031.

Last major action: 9/20/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Appropriations.

20 SEPTEMBER 2016: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS VETO IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS AND OPPOSE ANTI-ISRAEL MEASURES CONSIDERED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

H. Con. Res. 157, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), no cosponsors.

This resolution affirmed that any resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only come through “direct, bilateral negotiations” between Israel and the PA; urged the Obama administration to continue the U.S. practice of vetoing any UNSC resolutions recognizing a Palestinian state, declaring concerns about the oPt, or dictating terms for a resolution; and expressed support for all individuals working to encourage Israeli-Palestinian cooperation.

See also: S. Con. Res. 54 of 9/28/16.

Last major action: 9/20/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

21 SEPTEMBER 2016: CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN FOR THE 1988 MASSACRE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND CALLING FOR JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS

H. Con. Res. 159, Michael McCaul (R-TX), 48 cosponsors.

This resolution condemned the Iranian government for its mass execution of thousands of political prisoners and opponents of the regime in 1988 and urged the Obama administration to publicly do the same. It also called for the UN to create a special commission to investigate the massacre.

Last major action: 9/21/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

28 SEPTEMBER 2016: COMBATING EUROPEAN ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2016

H.R. 6208, Nita Lowey (D-NY), 27 cosponsors.

In addition to conveying the sense of Congress that it is in the national interest to combat anti-Semitism, this bill would require the State Dept. to incorporate a new anti-Semitism section into its annual report on religious freedom. It would include descriptions of security challenges facing European Jewish communities, U.S. efforts to partner with European law enforcement bodies to overcome those challenges, any educational programming and public awareness initiatives promoting the value of pluralism in “population segments that exhibit a high degree of anti-Semitic animus,” and efforts by European governments to adopt and apply a working definition of anti-Semitism.

See also: S. 3478 of 11/17/16.

Last major action: 9/28/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

28 SEPTEMBER 2016: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING LONGSTANDING UNITED STATES POLICY IN SUPPORT OF A DIRECT BILATERALLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND OPPOSITION TO UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS IMPOSING A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT

S. Con. Res. 54, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution urged the U.S. to continue vetoing any UNSC resolutions seeking to impose a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It also warned that any “widespread international recognition” of Palestinian statehood would likely trigger new restrictions on U.S. aid to the Palestinians.

See also: H. Con. Res. 165 of 9/28/16.

Last major action: 9/28/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

28 SEPTEMBER 2016: TAYLOR FORCE ACT

S. 3414, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 10 cosponsors.

Named for the U.S. citizen killed by a Palestinian in Tel Aviv on 3/8/16 during the *habba*, the surge of Palestinian resistance, random attacks, and protests that began in Jerusalem in 9/2015 (see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 46 [1, 2]), this bill would place new conditions on U.S. aid to the Palestinians. Specifically, it would require the secretary of state to certify to

Congress that the PA was taking steps to end acts of violence, such as the one that led to Force's death; was condemning such acts; and had ended its policy of giving money to the perpetrators of such acts and their families.

See also: identical bill H.R. 6389 of 11/18/16.

Last major action: 9/28/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

28 SEPTEMBER 2016: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING LONGSTANDING UNITED STATES POLICY IN SUPPORT OF A DIRECT BILATERALLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND OPPOSITION TO UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS IMPOSING A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT

H. Con. Res. 165, Edward Royce (R-CA), 17 cosponsors.

See similar measure S. Con. Res. 54 of 9/28/16 for a full summary.

See also: H. Con. Res. 157 of 9/20/16.

Last major action: 11/29/16 passed in House by voice vote.

28 SEPTEMBER 2016: MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H. J. Res. 99, Steve King (R-IA), 10 cosponsors.

In order to avert a government shutdown, this resolution would extend appropriations made for FY 2016 through 2/28/17. It included a largely unrelated provision stipulating that none of the funds appropriated would be permitted for use in implementing the nuclear deal the U.S. reached with Iran and the rest of the P5+1 on 7/14/15. (*H.R. 5325 of 5/25/16 and *H.R. 2028 of 4/24/16 were ultimately used to extend FY 2016 appropriations.)

Last major action: 9/28/16 referred to House Budget Comm.

29 SEPTEMBER 2016: PROTECTING ISRAEL AGAINST ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2016

S. 3465, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), 1 cosponsor.

Introduced amid a spate of anti-BDS activity on Capitol Hill, including hearings and various other legislative initiatives, this bill would amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to establish U.S. policy of opposing boycotts against the U.S. or its allies, including Israel, and direct the Export-Import Bank to oppose boycotts against Israel. It would also allow the Export-Import Bank to deny credit applications for the export of goods and services on the basis of an applicant's support for politically motivated boycotts, or other actions and policies, meant to limit commercial relations with Israel.

Furthermore, the bill would define "boycott of, divestment from, and sanctions against Israel" as any "politically motivated" effort "intended to penalize or otherwise limit commercial relations specifically with Israel or persons doing business in Israel or in Israeli-controlled territories." Because it conflates Israel with territories it controls, this provision would make it illegal (and punishable by sizable fines) to participate in any boycott of Israeli settlements, even a boycott sanctioned by the UN.

See also: H.R. 6298 of 11/14/16.

Last major action: 9/29/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

14 NOVEMBER 2016: PROTECTING ISRAEL AGAINST ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2016

H.R. 6298, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 2 cosponsors.

See related bill S. 3465 of 9/29/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/14/16 referred to House Financial Services Comm.

*14 NOVEMBER 2016: IRAN SANCTIONS EXTENSION ACT

H.R. 6297, Edward Royce (R-CA), 10 cosponsors.

This bill extends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, which imposed sanctions on Iran and laid the groundwork for more, through 12/31/26.

Pres. Obama refused to sign this bill into law after it was passed in the House and Senate in late 11/2016 and early 12/2016, arguing that it would undermine the 7/14/15 nuclear deal with Iran (see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 46 [1, 2]). However, he did not veto it and this bill passed into law without his signature on 12/15.

Last major action: 12/15/16 became public law (11/15/16 passed in House, 419–1; 12/1/16 passed in Senate, 99–0).

17 NOVEMBER 2016: COMBATING EUROPEAN ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2016

S. 3478, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 10 cosponsors.

See identical bill H.R. 6208 of 9/28/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/17/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations.

17 NOVEMBER 2016: HONORING THE LIFE OF SHIMON PERES

H. Res. 928, David Cicilline (D-RI), 50 cosponsors.

Introduced after the death of former Israeli pres. Shimon Peres on 9/28/16, this resolution extended Congress's "greatest sympathies" to the people of Israel and Peres's family, and honored Peres's "dedication" to his country.

Last major action: 11/17/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

18 NOVEMBER 2016: TAYLOR FORCE ACT

H.R. 6389, Doug Lamborn (R-CO), no cosponsors.

See identical bill S. 3414 of 9/28/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/18/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

1 DECEMBER 2016: ANTI-SEMITISM AWARENESS ACT OF 2016

S. 10, Tim Scott (R-SC), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would require the Dept. of Education to consider anti-Semitism when reviewing alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs receiving federal assistance. S. 10 cited the definition of

anti-Semitism set forth in a 6/8/10 State Dept. fact sheet (released by the department's special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism), which specified efforts to delegitimize or demonize Israel as contemporary examples.

Critics of the bill argued that it would facilitate censorship of anti-Israel protests and actions on U.S. college campuses.

After this bill passed in the Senate on 12/1/16, Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) stalled its passage through the House over concerns about its First Amendment implications. Senate and House leaders planned to reintroduce it in 2017, during the first session of the 115th Congress.

See also: identical bill H.R. 6421 of 12/1/16.

Last major action: 12/1/16 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

1 DECEMBER 2016: ANTI-SEMITISM AWARENESS ACT OF 2016

H.R. 6421, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 23 cosponsors.

See identical bill S. 10 of 12/1/16 for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/22/16 referred to House Subcomm. on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

7 DECEMBER 2016: NONNUCLEAR IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 2016

S. 3518, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 3 cosponsors.

In order to maintain pressure on Iran in the wake of the 7/14/15 nuclear deal, this bill would strengthen and expand sanctions with respect to the IIRCG, human rights abusers in Iran, Iran's ballistic missile program, and several other institutions and individuals.

Although this bill was not seen as a serious effort to create a new law—it was introduced too late in the legislative session for full consideration—it was expected to be reintroduced in some form in 2017, during the first session of the 115th Congress.

Last major action: 12/7/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

8 DECEMBER 2016: PREVENTING DESTABILIZATION OF IRAQ AND SYRIA ACT OF 2016

S. 3536, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would impose new sanctions on the governments of Syria, Iran, and Russia, as well as specific officials from those countries, on the basis that they were responsible for "actions that threaten the peace" of Iraq or Syria.

Last major action: 12/8/16 referred to Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

8 DECEMBER 2016: DENOUNCING THE WRONGFUL AND UNJUST SEIZURE AND CONFISCATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OF IRANIANS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF IRAN, INCLUDING UNITED STATES CITIZENS OF IRANIAN DESCENT, BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN

H. Res. 951, Edward Royce (R-CA), no cosponsors.

This resolution denounced the Iranian government's "unjust seizure" of private property inside and outside of Iran and called on Tehran to provide compensation to those affected.

Last major action: 12/8/16 referred to House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.

**30 DECEMBER 2016: DISAPPROVING OF PRESIDENT OBAMA AND HIS
ADMINISTRATION'S REFUSAL TO VETO THE ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 23, 2016**

H. Res. 957, Dennis Ross (R-FL), 23 cosponsors.

After the Obama administration decided to abstain from the UNSC's vote on a resolution condemning Israeli settlements on 12/23 (see Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in *JPS* 46 [3]), thereby allowing it to pass, both Republican and Democrat leaders in Congress criticized the outgoing president for neglecting Israel. This resolution, disapproving of the UNSC resolution and Obama's abstention, typified their complaints. It also affirmed Congress's commitment to work with Pres.-elect Trump to strengthen the U.S. alliance with Israel.

Last major action: 12/30/16 referred to the House Comm. on Foreign Affairs.



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