

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1201

Expressing the grave concern of the House of Representatives for Hezbollah, Syria, and Iran's continued actions to undermine the legitimate Lebanese Government of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, and their systematic violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701, and 1747.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. MCNULTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the grave concern of the House of Representatives for Hezbollah, Syria, and Iran's continued actions to undermine the legitimate Lebanese Government of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, and their systematic violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701, and 1747.

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 reaffirms the Security Council's call for the strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon, under the sole and exclu-

sive authority of the Government of Lebanon, throughout all Lebanese territory;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1680 strongly encourages the Government of Syria to delineate its border with Lebanon and establish full diplomatic relations and representation;

Whereas Lebanon has been without a president for 5 months, and Hezbollah continues to block the election of a new president;

Whereas Hezbollah has violently taken control of much of Beirut;

Whereas Prime Minister Fuad Siniora has called for immediate, “free and fair” presidential elections “without prior conditions” and “conducted according to Lebanese constitutional rules, without foreign interference and influence”;

Whereas the Security Council has repeatedly called for free and fair presidential elections in Lebanon in accordance with the Lebanese constitution and without preconditions or foreign influence;

Whereas Syria continues to undermine the legitimate Government of Lebanon, headed by Prime Minister Siniora;

Whereas on April 22, the Friends of Lebanon called for the immediate election of a Lebanese president without prior conditions, the establishment of a national unity government, and the holding of general elections in conformity with an electoral law agreed by all parties, in accordance with the Arab League plan;

Whereas the Friends of Lebanon also called on all parties inside and outside Lebanon to respect Lebanon’s independence and sovereignty;

Whereas the Friends of Lebanon include a robust and diverse set of representatives from Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, along with the Secretary General of the Arab League, the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, and the Secretary General of the United Nations;

Whereas Hezbollah has established an parallel structure to the elected Government of Prime Minister Siniora, which is the sole legitimate authority in Lebanon;

Whereas according to the Government of Lebanon, Hezbollah maintains its own separate and secure communication network, which is considered illegal;

Whereas the Government of Lebanon regards the network as “illegal” and an “attack on the sovereignty of the State”;

Whereas the United Nations Secretary General’s special envoy to Lebanon reports that Hezbollah maintains a massive paramilitary infrastructure separate from the State;

Whereas Hezbollah, with extensive support from Iran and Syria, has restored and enhanced its arsenal of rockets and sophisticated antitank guided missiles, estimated to include 10,000 long range and 20,000 short range rockets, deployed both north and south of the Litani River;

Whereas Lieutenant General Michael Maples, the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, testified before Congress in February 2008, saying, “Lebanese Hezbollah continues to receive weapons, training, and resources from Iran”;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1747, acting under Chapter 7 of the United Nations charter, said Iran “shall not supply, sell, or transfer . . . any arms of related materiel” and all Nations “shall prohibit the procurement of such items from Iran”;

Whereas the United Nations Secretary General’s special envoy to Lebanon has said the United Nations continues to be “deeply concerned” by the activities of Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and Fatah Al-Intifada, both of which maintain significant military infrastructures within Lebanon and along the border with Syria;

Whereas both Resolutions 1559 and 1701 call for the disarmament of all armed militias and foreign forces in Lebanon, and state there should be “no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than that of the Lebanese State”;

Whereas Resolution 1701 established an enhanced United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to assist the Lebanese armed forces in taking steps to disarm all armed groups in Lebanon, so that, pursuant to the Lebanese cabinet decision of July 27, 2006, there will be no weapons or authority in Lebanon, other than those of the Lebanese State;

Whereas Resolution 1701 requires that States in the region “take the necessary measure to prevent . . . the sale or supply . . . of arms and related material . . .” to Lebanon, except those authorized by the Government of Lebanon or by UNIFIL;

Whereas United Nations Secretary General has called on Syria and Iran to support Hezbollah’s transformation into a political party;

Whereas on numerous occasions, United Nations forces identified armed Hezbollah operatives and weapons convoys, but failed to intercede as authorized by United Nations rules;

Whereas the United Nations Secretary General's 7th semi-annual report on the implementation of Resolution 1559 stated that on the night of March 30, 2008, United Nations troops on patrol in southern Lebanon encountered "unidentified armed elements" but failed to take action, even after being threatened at gunpoint;

Whereas under Resolution 1701, United Nations forces in Lebanon are specifically authorized to "take all necessary action . . . to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind";

Whereas Israel Defense Forces soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, abducted by Hezbollah forces on July 12, 2006, have not been released, as called for in Resolution 1701, and have not been permitted access to the International Red Cross, as afforded to them under international law; and

Whereas on March 27, 2008, the Security Council encouraged the United Nations Secretary General to continue to take steps towards the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, in order to prosecute those responsible for the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, and noted that the Tribunal is "based on the highest international standards of criminal justice": Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) demands that all provisions of the United
2 Nations Security Council Resolutions be imple-
3 mented, including—

4 (A) Hezbollah’s immediate and uncondi-
5 tional release of Israel Defense Forces soldiers
6 Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, as man-
7 dated by Resolution 1701;

8 (B) Hezbollah and other armed foreign
9 and Lebanese militia groups disband and dis-
10 arm, as required by Resolutions 1559 and
11 1701; and

12 (C) the strict enforcement of the arms em-
13 bargo, as both Resolution 1559 and 1701 de-
14 mand there be no weapons in Lebanon without
15 the consent of the Government of Lebanon, and
16 no authority other than that of the Government
17 of Lebanon;

18 (2) calls for—

19 (A) the immediate election of a Lebanese
20 president without preconditions, in accordance
21 with the Lebanese constitution, and without
22 foreign interference, as called for by the Secu-
23 rity Council;

1 (B) the Security Council to declare Iran
2 and Syria in violation of Resolutions 1559,
3 1701, and 1747; and

4 (C) the United Nations Interim Force in
5 Lebanon (UNIFIL) to follow its established
6 terms of engagement and take the necessary
7 steps when confronted to disarm Hezbollah and
8 other armed elements;

9 (3) expresses—

10 (A) continued support for the Government
11 of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, the sole legiti-
12 mate authority in Lebanon;

13 (B) support for the Government of Leb-
14 anon in asserting its sovereignty by extending
15 its authority throughout its territory, particu-
16 larly in the southern regions;

17 (C) vigorous support for a democratic Leb-
18 anon, with both domestic and foreign militias
19 permanently disarmed;

20 (D) support for UNIFIL troops, and
21 strong hope for the expansion of its troops to
22 the Syrian border to enforce the weapons em-
23 bargo;

24 (E) its deepest concern that the continued
25 failure of the international community to live

1 up to its commitments to stop Hezbollah’s rear-
2 mament could once again lead to war; and

3 (F) unwavering support and commitment
4 to the unconditional release of abducted Israeli
5 soldiers; and

6 (4) condemns Iran and Syria—

7 (A) for their ongoing violation of Resolu-
8 tions 1559 and 1701, especially for their rear-
9 mament of Hezbollah; and

10 (B) for sponsoring, financing, and arming
11 terrorist organizations internationally, and spe-
12 cifically within Lebanon.

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