

Senate Resolution 154

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st, Unterman of the 45th, Adelman of the 42nd and Levetan of the 40th

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support of Israel in its fight against terrorism; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the ongoing threat of terrorism since September 11, 2001, has hurt the
3 economies of the State of Georgia and the United States; damaging tourism and travel among
4 the states and creating a negative economic atmosphere hurting business and producing job
5 losses; and

6 WHEREAS, the ongoing threat of worldwide terrorism at home and abroad has forced local,
7 state, and federal resources in the United States to be diverted from other critical domestic
8 programs for the purpose of enhancing the security of our citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, the United States and Israel are now engaged in a common struggle against
10 terrorism and are on the front-lines of a conflict thrust upon them against their will; and

11 WHEREAS, hundreds of innocent Israelis and Palestinians have died tragically in violence
12 since September 2000; and

13 WHEREAS, Palestinian organizations are engaging in an organized, systematic, and
14 deliberate campaign of terror aimed at inflicting as many casualties as possible on the Israeli
15 population, including through the use of suicide terrorist attacks; and

16 WHEREAS, Israel has lost nearly 700 innocent lives, which as a percentage of population
17 is commensurate with America losing over 30,000 lives in the terrorist attacks on New York
18 and Washington on September 11, 2001; and

19 WHEREAS, Yasser Arafat and members of the Palestinian leadership have failed to abide
20 by their commitments to nonviolence made in the Israel -PLO Declaration of Principles (the
21 Oslo accord) of September 1993, including their pledges: (1) to adhere strictly to a peaceful
22 resolution of the conflict; (2) to resolve all outstanding issues relating to permanent status

1 through negotiations; (3) to renounce the use of terrorism and other acts of violence; and (4)
2 to assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their
3 compliance with the commitment to nonviolence, prevent violence, and discipline violators;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the continued terrorism and incitement committed, supported, and coordinated
6 by official arms of the Palestinian Authority are a direct violation of these commitments; and

7 WHEREAS, forces directly under Yasser Arafat's control, particularly, the al-Aqsa Martyrs
8 Brigades, which is part of Arafat's Fatah organization and has been designated a foreign
9 terrorist organization by the United States government, have murdered scores of innocent
10 Israelis; and

11 WHEREAS, Yasser Arafat was directly involved in the Palestinian Authority's thwarted
12 attempt to obtain 50 tons of offensive weapons shipped from Iran in the Karine-A, an effort
13 that irrefutably proved Arafat's embrace of the use and escalation of violence; and

14 WHEREAS, documents from the offices of the Palestinian Authority demonstrate the crucial
15 financial support the Palestinian Authority continues to provide for terrorist acts, including
16 suicide bombers; and

17 WHEREAS, the ongoing violence has hurt the economies of both Israel and the Palestinian
18 territories; damaging tourism in both regions, thereby creating a negative economic
19 atmosphere hurting business and producing job losses; and

20 WHEREAS, President Georgia W. Bush declared at a joint session of Congress on
21 September 20, 2001, that '[f]rom this day forward, any nation that continues to harbor or
22 support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime'; and

23 WHEREAS, President Bush recently stated that he 'fully understands Israel's need to defend
24 herself' and that he 'respect(s)' the fact that Israelis have 'seen a wave of suicide bombers
25 coming to the heart of their cities and killing innocent people'; and

26 WHEREAS, President Bush, in his speech of April 4, 2002, stated that 'the situation in which
27 he [Arafat] finds himself today is largely of his own making'; that Arafat 'missed his
28 opportunities, and thereby betrayed the hopes of the people he's supposed to lead'; and that,

1 '[g]iven his [Arafat's] failure, the Israeli government feels it must strike at terrorist networks
2 that are killing its citizens'; and

3 WHEREAS, Israel's military operations are an effort to defend itself against the unspeakable
4 horrors of ongoing terrorism and are aimed only at dismantling the terrorist infrastructure in
5 the Palestinian area, an obligation Arafat himself undertook but failed to carry out; and

6 WHEREAS, Israel has made clear its intention to withdraw from Palestinian areas and has
7 already begun to do so.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
9 express their support of Israel in its fight against terrorism; stand in solidarity with Israel as
10 it takes necessary steps to provide security to its people by dismantling the terrorist
11 infrastructure in the Palestinian areas; remain committed to Israel's right to self-defense and
12 supports additional United States assistance to help Israel defend itself; condemn Palestinian
13 suicide bombings; condemn the ongoing support and coordination of terror by Yasser Arafat
14 and other members of the Palestinian leadership; demand that the Palestinian Authority at
15 last fulfill its commitment to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in the Palestinian areas,
16 including any such infrastructure associated with PLO and Palestinian Authority entities tied
17 directly to Yasser Arafat; remain gravely concerned that Arafat's actions are not those of a
18 viable partner for peace; urge all Arab states to declare their unqualified opposition to all
19 forms of terrorism, particularly suicide bombing; commend the President for his leadership
20 in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly the efforts of the Administration to
21 engage countries throughout the region to condemn and prevent terrorism and to prevent a
22 widening of the conflict; urge all parties in the region to pursue vigorously efforts to establish
23 a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East; and will work as an elected body
24 to promote tourism, economic trade, and cultural exchange with the State of Israel, keeping
25 relations healthy now and into the future for the benefit of this state and Israel.