



# NORPAC Mission to Washington

## Tuesday, May 21, 2019

### Talking Points Manual

*NORPAC is America's largest multi-candidate bi-partisan political action committee working to strengthen the U.S –Israel relationship. One of its most important activities is its annual "Mission to Washington," during which participants meet with over 90% of Congress to discuss proposed legislation and other Congressional actions.*

# Preface

This talking points manual reviews the areas of the U.S.-Israel relationship that you will discuss at your meetings with Members of Congress (MoCs). What follows is a **quick summary** of the talking points, followed by an introduction and breakdown of the talking points in a broader context. The **next section** provides greater **details** and **background information**. For the most up-to-date list of cosponsors, please check the websites in Appendix B, page 21.

You will also **separately** receive a seven page summary of the talking points. Feel free to rely on those documents to organize your thoughts and help focus on the key elements. You may also leave copies behind in the MOC's offices (or email them separately).

It is important to be well-versed before the meetings on each of these topics. Although some people may be more familiar with the issues than others, we urge everyone to read carefully all the points below and to make note of what we are requesting from MoCs. Remember, we want to give them a clear picture of why we are here, what we want, and why we want it. The NORPAC Mission is about U.S.-Israel issues - *please try not to stray on to other topics*.

Although the talking points outlined below reflect the key areas of each respective topic, do not feel boxed in by the information we provide – **share your own stories** or personal experiences, but please keep them relevant to the issues at hand. We want to show Congress not only *that* we care, but how *much* we care; a personal touch can go a long way in conveying the importance of these issues!

## NORPAC Mission 2019 Talking Points

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A Note on Congressional Meetings (pg 3)

Outline of Talking Points (pg 4)

1. Strengthening the foundation: a strong US-Israel relationship as a bipartisan cause (pg 5)
2. Supporting continued security assistance to Israel (pg 6)
3. Combating the anti-Semitic BDS movement (pg 9)
4. Reminder of Iran's behavior since the JCPOA (pg 13)
5. Sanctions against Hamas (pg 14)
6. Security & Economic Cooperation with Israel (pg 15)

# A Note on Congressional Meetings

You have joined more than a thousand of your fellow citizens in coming to Washington on the NORPAC Mission. While we have a variety of political backgrounds, we – the citizen advocates – are united by our agreement on the importance of a strong US-Israel relationship and buoyed by the bipartisan support for that relationship.

**A key goal of the Mission is to cement the broad consensus on our issues.** This is critical in light of the hyper-partisan political environment that exists in Washington in general and with respect to American policy in the Middle East, in particular.

The purpose of the Mission is to strengthen the US-Israel relationship by focusing on the critical issues at stake and to strengthen the bipartisan consensus around those issues. ***It is therefore more important than ever to be courteous*** and not get drawn in to partisan politics.

Having said that, it is entirely possible that the Member of Congress or staff person you are meeting with may raise either where NORPAC stands with regard to the current Administration in general or the Administration's actions in the Middle East such as the revocation of the JCPOA (the —Iran Deal), the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital or of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

***If s/he raises the question of where NORPAC stands with regard to the current administration,*** the appropriate response is to note that (a) NORPAC is staunchly bipartisan, and (b) NORPAC has events for candidates of both parties and works to strengthen bipartisan support for the US Israel relationship.

***If s/he raises any of the specific Administration actions noted,*** the appropriate response is to note that

- (a) we are here to discuss items that are suitable for Congressional action rather than to focus on the Administration's actions, but having said that
- (b) the *recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital* was done pursuant to a bipartisan Congressional mandate,
- (c) the *recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights* is appropriate given both history (such as Syria's use of the Golan Heights to repeatedly attack Israeli civilians before 1967) and current realities (the near-conversion of Syria into a puppet state of Iran and Hezbollah) and does not negatively impact the prospects Israeli-Palestinian peace,
- (d) as to the *revocation of the JCPOA and increased sanctions against Iran*, there is near-unanimity in Congress and the Administration on the need for continued vigilance about Iran's sponsorship of terror, its regional aggression and its support of state-sanctioned mass murder, and we are here to talk about (among other items) the best way to combat those actions,
- (e) as to the *designation of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group*, note that the IRGC is Iran's main link to its terrorist proxies and is responsible for numerous terrorist attacks throughout the world, both directly and through its provision of weapons and other support for terrorists (including killers of U.S. soldiers).
- (f) as to *Annexation comments and the proposed Peace Plan*: (1) Israel has stated that no such action will be taken until after the Administration's peace plan has been unveiled and taken into account (2) Israel will consider annexing the small percentage of that area where there are Jewish towns and cities and that in almost any serious peace plan would be part of Israel. (3) Netanyahu also stated: —disputed territory according to international law, but we acknowledge that the Palestinians will stay there and will live there."

**For further discussion of recent developments concerning Iran, see Talking Point 4 (page 13).**

# NORPAC Mission Talking Points

## Overview of Items

### 1. Strengthening the foundation: a strong US-Israel relationship as a bipartisan cause

The United States and Israel share fundamental common values and national interests. A strong US-Israel relationship enhances those values and interests and strengthens the United States.

### 2. Supporting Security Assistance

Ask House & Senate to please support appropriation of \$3.3 billion in U.S. security assistance to Israel and \$500 million in cooperative missile defense funding for Fiscal Year 2020, as called for in the most recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

### 3. Combating the anti-Semitic BDS movement

House: H. Res. 246

Senate: S. Res. 120

Ask House & Senate to support their respective Resolutions opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

In the House, Reps. Brad Schneider (D-IL), Lee Zeldin (R-NY), Jerry Nadler (D-NY) and Ann Wagner (R-MO) have introduced a bipartisan anti-BDS resolution (H.Res.246).

In the Senate, a companion resolution (S.Res.120) has been introduced by Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Rob Portman (R-OH).

### 4. Reminder of Iran's behavior since the JCPOA

In deciding on the proper course of action with Iran, it is critical that the decision be informed by a full awareness of Iran's continued and aggressive flouting of the norms of civilized behavior.

### 5. Sanctions against Hamas

House: Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act (H.R. 1850)

Senate: Support for a Senate counterpart to H.R. 1850

Ask House to support the Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act (H.R. 1850) - authored by Reps. Brian Mast (R-FL) and Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ).

Ask Senate to support a counterpart to H.R. 1850.

### 6. Enhancing U.S.-Israel Security & Economic Cooperation

House: U.S.-Israel Cooperation Enhancement & Regional Security Act (H.R.1837)

Senate: Thank for S.1

Ask House to support the U.S.-Israel Cooperation Enhancement & Regional Security Act (H.R.1837) authored by Reps. Deutch (D-FL) and Wilson (R-SC).

Thank Senators who supported the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act (S.1).

# A Strong U.S.-Israel Relationship: a Bipartisan Cause

## 1. Background to Legislative Initiatives

In light of statements by certain Members of Congress (MOCs) in recent months on the US-Israel relationship, and the fact that almost one in five MOCs are relatively new in their posts, it is important to go back to basics – to remind MOCs and their staffs of why a strong US-Israel relationship is in the best interests of the United States and has long been a bipartisan cause. The points below are intended to do just that. These points are duplicated on the one-page —leave behindll you should have received. You are encouraged to leave that one-page document in the offices you visit and to send them a —softll copy via email.

### Shared values

Israel, like our country,

- Was founded as a haven for the persecuted
- Is a democracy of all its citizens (Jews, Arabs, Druze, etc.); the only one in the Middle East
- Is multi-ethnic (Jews from Ethiopia live side-by-side with Christians from Russia)
- Respects freedom of religion for all faiths
- Promotes gender equality
- Respects the rights of all its citizens, including its LGBT ones
- Has an independent judiciary
- Strives to balance ensuring security for all of its citizens while maximizing the civil rights of all residents

### Shared interests

Israel is the “unsinkable aircraft carrier” battling those who threaten those shared values without putting American soldiers at risk. It is on the front line against

- Iran, which attempts to develop nuclear weapons and promote terror, has killed hundreds of American troops, and shared technology with and helped finance North Korean weapons of mass destruction
- Hezbollah, which threatens both Israeli civilians and has killed more Americans than any terror group other than Al Queda
- Hamas, whose charter calls for Israel’s destruction and which regularly fires rockets at Israeli civilians

### A mutually beneficial relationship

The close military, economic and technological ties between the US and Israel strengthen both countries

- Shared intelligence
  - *For example:* Israel provided vital intelligence for the US on ISIS forces, sending drone reports and identifying terrorists.
- Saving American civilian and military lives
  - *For example:* Israeli-developed and manufactured armor secures the majority of the U.S. military’s Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, and the number of American casualties from IEDs has sharply decreased thanks to Israeli innovations such as this one.
  - Israel improves American weapons systems with innovation and real world experience.
- Driving the American high-tech economy
  - *For example:* Critical components of leading American high-tech products are invented and designed in Israel, making these American companies more competitive and more profitable globally. Cisco, Intel, Motorola, Applied Materials, and HP are just a few examples.

## A Strong Israel: a Survival Necessity

- At a small fraction of the size of its enemies – by geography and population – Israel’s margin for error is tiny
- It relies on its military, technological and economic strength and on getting the best out of its most valuable resource – its people – to avoid that error
- America’s support and partnership is critical to maintaining that strength

# Legislative Initiatives

## 2. Supporting Security Assistance

### **Background:**

**Israel is America's closest ally in the Middle East.** To help Israel maintain a strong military so that it can meet the threats described above, the United States provides it with security assistance as part of the overall foreign aid bill and the defense appropriations bill. That support is longstanding and bipartisan.

The vital security aid our country provides, **most of which Israel spends in the United States**, is the most tangible expression of American support for the Jewish state. The great majority of this aid is provided pursuant to a ten year MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) reached between the U.S. and Israel. This aid needs to be approved and appropriated each year by Congress.

In 2016, the Obama Administration and the Israeli government negotiated a new ten year MOU. The first year of that MOU was FY '19 – the fiscal year that began on October 1, 2018. Under the new agreement, the United States pledges \$38 billion over 10 years, \$5 billion of which goes toward joint missile development. The funding for FY '20 (the one that will begin October 1, 2019) will be considered by Congress in the coming months. There is bipartisan agreement that this aid is needed to allow Israel to keep pace with the threats it faces on a daily basis, and to preserve its position as a stable, democratic island in an increasingly chaotic sea.

Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and our country's closest ally in that crucial region. The assistance the United States provides furthers American interests without putting American troops at risk, and Israeli technology and intelligence has been critical to furthering American interests and saving the lives of American troops.

***Remember to thank Members of Congress for their past support!***

### **U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel for Fiscal Year 2020<sup>1</sup> (FY'20)**

#### **House and Senate:**

Will you support a robust Fiscal Year 2020 aid package to Israel which includes \$3.3 billion in U.S. security assistance to Israel and \$500 million in cooperative missile defense funding, as called for in the most recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)?

<sup>1</sup> The Federal government's 2020 Fiscal Year begins on October 1, 2019 and ends on September 30, 2020. Congress typically decides in a given fiscal year (for example, in FY 2019) how much money it will spend on a particular program in the following fiscal year (for example, in FY 2020).

## **Foreign Aid to Israel: A Bipartisan, Long-Term Commitment**

In 2016, the United States and Israel signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that pledged \$3.8 billion in U.S. security assistance to Israel per year beginning in 2019. At this time of tremendous uncertainty in the Middle East, fulfillment of this commitment to Israel's security is especially critical. The MOU embodies America's commitment to maintain Israel's **qualitative military edge** over its adversaries on the battlefield.

Dramatic events in the Middle East underscore both the urgency of Israel's security situation and Israel's importance as the region's sole stable, pro-Western democracy.

## **The Importance of Foreign Aid in Keeping Israel Strong in the Face of Growing Threats**

- Israel already spends more of its economic output on defense than any other industrialized country. Israel spends 6% of its GDP on defense, compared to 3% for the U.S., 5% for Russia, and 2% for China.
- U.S. support helps counterbalance the 10:1 disparity in military spending by the Arab states surrounding Israel. Overall military spending has accelerated throughout the Middle East.
- Iran and Syria have armed Hezbollah in Lebanon with 140,000 rockets and missiles. This huge number of increasingly accurate projectiles give Hezbollah the capability to precisely target every major population center and military installation in Israel and overwhelm Israel's current anti-missile defenses. There are also concerns that Hezbollah will take control of some of Syria's heavy weaponry and chemical weapons, despite Israel's best efforts to prevent that transfer, and strong evidence that Iran is attempting to build missile factories in Syria and Lebanon.<sup>2</sup>
- Israel is facing increasing uncertainty and even attacks from across the Syrian border. Hezbollah's increased activity in the Syrian Golan Heights is part of an Iranian effort to militarily encircle Israel.<sup>3</sup>
- Hamas in Gaza continues to re-arm and launch rocket attacks aimed at Israeli civilians. In 2014, Hamas launched over 3,500 such rockets. Earlier this month, Hamas and its fellow terrorist groups launched 700 such rockets, killing Israeli civilians and terrorizing hundreds of thousands. The Iron Dome system, one of the principal programs funded by the cooperative missile defense funding, was critical in minimizing casualties and damage from those rocket attacks.
- With Iranian help, Hezbollah and Hamas have built terror tunnels reaching across the border into Israel. Many have been discovered using US funded Israeli anti-tunnel detecting technology.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/29/world/middleeast/iran-missiles-lebanon-israel-.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/01/28/israel-is-the-new-front-in-the-syrian-war/>

## **The Foreign Aid Budget**

The United States faces extraordinary challenges to its security, economy, and its preeminent role in world affairs. American military leaders repeatedly warn that we cannot meet these challenges through military force alone. U.S. leadership in the world today also depends on a robust foreign aid budget.

The foreign aid budget funds the majority of America's civilian foreign policy programs, including our diplomatic relations with other countries and security assistance to U.S. allies. The military assistance to Israel at \$3.3 billion is **less than one tenth of one percent** of the U.S. budget.

### **How the U.S. benefits from the annual security assistance it provides to Israel**

1. **Provides Stability Without Putting US troops at Risk.** Israel provides stability in a region that is vital to U.S. interests and that has seen unprecedented upheaval in the last several years. Moreover, unlike the US investment in defending our allies in Europe and Asia, which requires the expenditure of roughly \$100 billion per year and the presence of tens of thousands of US troops, Israel furthers American interests without putting US troops at risk.<sup>4</sup>
2. **Deters Major Conflict.** U.S. aid has helped to deter major conflict by making clear to potential foes that they cannot defeat Israel on the battlefield.
3. **Promotes Peace.** U.S. assistance has allowed Israel to remain strong militarily, allowing it to take risks for peace with the Palestinians and sign peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan.
4. **Benefits both the U.S. Military and Civilian Population.** Israeli military innovations save the lives of American troops in combat zones in the Middle East and of US civilians. Because the United States has a deep strategic relationship with Israel, the U.S. military is able to learn from the Israel Defense Forces' extensive combat experience. The United States also benefits from the **sharing of intelligence**. In short, Israel functions as our unsinkable aircraft carrier, providing value – in the form of forward positioning, intelligence sharing, technological advances, etc. – that would cost an untold amount to reproduce.
5. **Creates American Jobs.** Israeli aid dollars are spent across the United States, from the Mississippi Gulf Coast to the Northeast Corridor to the Pacific Northwest. Israel spends 75 percent of U.S. aid in America, purchasing U.S. military equipment, creating U.S. jobs.
6. **Shared Interests.** By supporting Israel, we are supporting the only country in the Mideast that shares all of the same strategic interests as the US, including:
  - preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
  - combating terrorism and extremist ideology
  - promoting regional stability, democratic change and economic development.
7. **Shared Values.** Americans feel a kinship with Israel, and its growth as a friendly, genuine democracy serves as a beacon of what a democratic society can accomplish.

***For a State-by-State analysis of how America benefits from our relationship with Israel, please check:***

**<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/statestoc.html>**

<sup>4</sup> To put the annual aid received by Israel in further context, it is about 1/7 the cost of basing American troops in Germany to protect our European allies, about 1/6 the cost of keeping American troops in Japan to protect that country, and about 1/5 the cost of keeping American troops in Korea to protect South Korea.



# Legislative Initiatives

## 3. Combating the anti-Semitic BDS movement

The Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) movement is a modern form of anti-Semitism. It singles out and demonizes the only democracy in the Middle East and seeks to isolate it economically, politically and culturally. This animus is driven by the fact that, as the resolution described below points out, it —does not recognize, and many of its supporters explicitly deny, the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination.¶ At the same time, it turns a blind eye to the egregious actions of Israel’s enemies and nondemocratic states around the world. BDS proponents view the Jewish state as so evil that, almost alone among the nations of the world, it deserves to be boycotted, have businesses divest from their investments in it, and be sanctioned.

The threats Israel has been facing continue to evolve and grow. The initiatives below put Congress on record as recognizing those new threats and help Israel to counter them at little to no incremental cost to the United States. These include the threats of the BDS movement, described immediately below, and the military threats described in section IV. They also describe Congressional initiatives that will help strengthen the technological, economic and security ties between the US and Israel. These initiatives will help combat the economic isolation that is the goal of BDS, strengthen Israel’s ability to defend itself, by itself, and strengthen both the US and Israel.

### Anti-BDS Resolutions in Congress

#### **House:**

Will you please co-sponsor the bipartisan anti-BDS resolution H. Res. 246, introduced by Reps. Brad Schneider (D-IL), Lee Zeldin (R-NY), Jerry Nadler (D-NY) and Ann Wagner (R-MO)? (If already a co-sponsor, please thank.)

#### **Senate:**

Will you please co-sponsor the bipartisan anti-BDS resolution S. Res. 120, introduced by Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Rob Portman (R-OH)? (If already a co-sponsor, please thank.)

This Resolution sends a powerful message about where the United States Congress stands on this critical issue. At such a crucial time, when anti-Semitism is rising and anti-Israel boycotts are cropping up around the country and around the globe, it is more important than ever that Congress go on record against a movement that is both anti-Semitic and anti-Israel.

The resolution reiterates congressional support for direct negotiations leading to a two-state solution, not efforts to bypass talks and use boycotts and other coercive measures.

The resolution supports efforts to counter boycotts through enhanced government-wide, coordinated U.S.-Israel scientific, technological and security/defense cooperation.

## **Background on BDS**

### **BDS is Not Legitimate Criticism of Israel**

The BDS movement seeks to isolate Israel economically, politically and culturally. BDS is not legitimate criticism of Israel and opposing BDS is not an attempt or to label all criticism of the Jewish state anti-Semitic. The assertion that it is such an attempt is an intentional mischaracterization. Rather, in the words of NYT columnist Thomas Friedman, a frequent critic of Israeli policies, by —singling out Israel for opprobrium and international sanction – out of all proportion to any other party in the Middle East – [the BDS movement] is anti-Semitic, and not saying so is dishonest.<sup>5</sup> BDS opposes the existence of the Jewish State of Israel and not any particular policy. Most people believe that person-to-person interaction increase understanding and the chances for peace, but BDS opposes social and economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Friedman correctly focuses on the double-standard as evidence of BDS' anti-Semitism. This point is incorporated within Natan Sharansky's —3D test: if criticisms of Israel contain the following elements, they have crossed over the line from reasonable critique to anti-Semitism:

- (1) **D**eligitimization
- (2) **D**ouble-standards
- (3) **D**emonization

The BDS movement meets all three of Sharansky's —D's. Its proponents:

- (1) seek to **D**elegitimize the Jewish state by denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination in its ancestral homeland and
- (2) apply a **D**ouble-standard, by calling for boycotts, divestment and sanctions on Israel and only Israel, even as the alleged conduct to which they point as the basis for these draconian measures (to the extent it exists in Israel at all) is a central feature of many other countries.
- (3) **D**emonize the Jewish state by distorting its faults beyond all recognition and borrowing classic anti-Semitic caricatures, images and phrases, and seeking to prevent the kind of on-the-ground interaction that would humanize Israelis and help build a culture of peace.

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<sup>5</sup> Friedman, Thomas, "Campus Hypocrisy," New York Times, October 16, 2002. (This is just one of many articles in which he has made the point.)

## The BDS movement is immoral because it

- *imposes the entire blame for the current stalemate between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on the Israelis.* In so doing, it
  - *ignores the enormous risks Israel has taken to resolve the Israel-Palestinian dispute.* These include the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners (including many with the blood of Israeli civilians on their hands), uprooting of thousands of Jewish citizens from homes in Gaza and the West Bank (and before that, in the Sinai as part of its peace treaty with Egypt) and generous peace offers made by successive Israeli governments. Israeli persists in its efforts despite the, at best, mixed results from these concessions, such as its unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, which promptly became a launching pad for rockets against Israeli civilians.
  - *ignores the obstruction of the Palestinian side that has stood in the way of a settlement,* such as a refusal by the Palestinian Authority to agree that such a settlement would mark the end of each side's claims against the other.
  - *ignores the murderous hatred that permeates the Palestinian media and educational system* and that is probably the most fundamental obstacle to peace. Official PA media glorify terrorists who murder Jews, name parks and stadiums in their honor, and encourage Palestinian children to follow in their footsteps. The PA pays convicted terrorists and their families \$300MM each year with the payments tied to the severity of their terror: —the more you kill, the more you get.¶ Textbooks used in PA schools demonize Jews and refer to sovereign Israeli territory as Palestine.
- *hurts the wrong people:* **BDS is fundamentally not pro-Palestinian, but anti-Israel.** Palestinian workers who will lose their jobs if economic sanctions are directed against firms that employ them; Israeli artists and academics, many of whom are the strongest voices for peace; those suffering from illnesses all around the world who would be helped by Israeli medicine and the collaboration between Israeli scientists and other scientists; the high tech industry around the world because Israel contributes disproportionately to the development of such life enhancing technology. It also demeans actual apartheid.
- *hypocritical.* BDS supporters often condemn Israel for the impact of the steps it has taken to protect its Jewish and Arab citizens from terrorism; those steps unfortunately, but out of necessity, infringe on the rights of the residents of the PA-governed territories from which the terrorism's perpetrators spring. This is blatant hypocrisy: BDS supporters, who were largely silent when terror coming from the PA territories was a nearly-daily occurrence, cannot legitimately condemn Israel when it does what any state is required to do to protect its citizens. That they do condemn it, and brand Israel as an —apartheid state¶ for those actions, strongly suggests that their attacks are expressions of anti-Semitism, not of a concern for human rights.
- *ignores the complexity of the issue.* Some supporters of BDS claim that they do support the

right of Israel to exist but insist that Israel's continued —occupation of the disputed territories it controls since June 1967 is so manifestly evil that it warrants singling out Israel for isolation. Even aside from all the points made above as to why such singling out is wrong, this assertion ignores the fact that (a) since the Oslo Accords, the great majority of Palestinians live under the control of the PA, (b) Israel took control of the disputed territories in a defensive war imposed on it by the states that ruled those areas before June 1967, (c) the disputed territories were never part of a Palestinian state: the Palestinians, along with all Arab states, rejected the formation of such a state in 1948 and instead those Arab states seized those territories for themselves, (d) Jews have deep historical roots, going back thousands of years, in Jerusalem and all of the disputed territories, and (e) Israel has always been ready to negotiate a final resolution of all issues at any time without preconditions.

- *violates a basic principle of logic and morality: namely, "the worst first."* Israel is among the freest and most democratic nations in the world and the only true democracy in the Middle East. Its Arab citizens enjoy more rights than Arabs anywhere else in the world. They serve in the Knesset, in the judiciary, in the foreign service, in the academy and in business. They are free to – and often do – severely criticize Israel. Israel has a superb record on women's rights, gay rights and environmental rights. Moreover, Israel's record of avoiding civilian casualties, while fighting enemies who hide their soldiers among civilians, is unparalleled in the world today. This record stands in stark contrast to the widespread human rights abuses carried out by the PA against Palestinians – abuses that have been met with deafening silence by BDS supporters. Yet Israel is the only country in the world today being threatened with BDS. **When a sanction is directed against only a state with one of the best records of human rights, and that nation happens to be the state of the Jewish people, bigotry must be suspected.**
- *ignores the real – and occasionally explicitly-acknowledged – goal of BDS: to delegitimize, and ultimately bring an end to, a sovereign Jewish state.* As Omar Barghouti, a leader of the BDS movement, has repeatedly said, he opposes Israel's right to exist as the nation state of the Jewish people even within the 1967 borders.<sup>6</sup> And, to prove that he means what he says, the group he runs includes five US-designated terrorist organizations in its membership, the *raison d'être* of each being to wipe out Israel.<sup>7</sup>

**The BDS movement undermines the peace process** by emboldening the Palestinians to reject compromise solutions to the conflict. The Palestinian leadership is led to believe that the longer they hold out against making peace, the more powerful will be the BDS movement against Israel.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/4171/bds-immoral>.

<sup>7</sup> Specifically: Hamas, PIJ, the PFLP, PFLP-GC, and the Popular Front – <https://www.tabletmag.com/scroll/263409/bds-umbrella-group-linked-to-palestinian-terrorist-organizations>.

# Evaluating the Iranian Issue

## 4. Reminder of Iran's behavior since the JCPOA

There has been much discussion of Iran in the last several months. A lot of that talk has centered on the Administration's withdrawal from the JCPOA (the "Iran nuclear deal"), whether Iran was in compliance with that agreement and the further sanctions imposed since the withdrawal.

We believe it is important, in deciding what our country's policy toward Iran should be, to keep in mind that Iran's "bad behavior" was not limited to its efforts to develop nuclear weapons: it included critical support for the near-genocidal regime of Bashar Assad in Syria, for Hezbollah terrorists in Syria and Lebanon, for Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza, and for the Houthi rebels in Yemen. In fact, **this bad behavior has accelerated since the JCPOA** and was, in the view of many, facilitated by the financial relief that Iran got from the JCPOA; some of that behavior is summarized in the footnote below.

The House and Senate bills for which we are advocating are intended to assist Israel in defending itself from Iran militarily (TPs #2 & #6) ) and to clamp down on the financing of terrorist groups supported by Iran (TP#5). ***The urgency of these bills is highlighted by the behavior of Iran just noted. However, other than these bills, we are not advocating a specific course of action*** and are not expressing a view as to whether a particular step is right or wrong. ***We are simply asking that, in evaluating our country's policy, MOCs take into account all of Iran's actions, and not merely whether it is in technical compliance with the JCPOA.***

*We would also be grateful if the MOC could share with us whatever s/he is at liberty to share from today's briefings by Administration officials and how the MOC sees that as impacting the appropriate course of action on Iran.*

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<sup>8</sup> In July 2015, Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Under that agreement, it would receive long-term relief for sanctions imposed because of its nuclear program. In exchange, it agreed to curbs, most of which are temporary, on development of technology needed to manufacture and deliver nuclear weapons. The agreement did not impact sanctions imposed on Iran because of its other malevolent actions, such as its support for terror.

In particular, there has been much discussion of (a) sanctions impacting Iranian oil sales and (b) designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group. The IRGC is Iran's main link to its terrorist proxies and is responsible for numerous terrorist attacks throughout the world, both directly and through its provision of weapons and other support for terrorists (including killers of U.S. soldiers).

Since signing the JCPOA:

- Iran has very publicly **continued to develop its ballistic missile program** in contravention of UN Security Council resolutions and yet the international community has barely responded.
- Iran continues **massive transfers of arms to third countries, including terrorist organizations**, all in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and other UNSCR resolutions.
- > Iran provides direct **critical support for the near-genocidal regime of President Assad of Syria**.
- > Iran also provides support through its financial and military **assistance to Hezbollah**, the terrorist group that manipulates Lebanon.
- > Iran provides much of the funding for other terrorist groups, most notably **Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad**.
- Eight days ago (May 13), **four oil tankers were sabotaged** in a critical oil transport waterway in the Persian Gulf. The sabotage is widely attributed to Iran.
- Seven days ago (May 14), **Saudi Arabian oil pipelines were attacked** by Iranian-backed Yemeni rebels.
- Documents spirited out of Iran by Israel in 2018 made it clear that Iran's nuclear weapons program was **far more advanced than it has acknowledged** and raises serious questions as to whether it has ceased development of that program as the JCPOA requires it to do.
- Furthermore, by failing to disclose this activity, **Iran is in clear violation of the JCPOA**, which requires it to disclose all pre-JCPOA military aspects of its nuclear program.
- **Iran's leaders continue to threaten to destroy Israel** and its actions in Syria, where it now directly confronts Israel, make it clear that these threats are not mere rhetoric

# Legislative Initiatives

## 5. Sanctions against Hamas

The last several years have seen a dramatic growth in the military threats Israel faces.

One of the most significant is in Israel's south, from the Gaza Strip. There Iranian-financed terror groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, behind the shield of civilians, regularly terrorize Israeli civilians, both those living near the Gaza border and those living throughout central Israel. *For example:*

- 700 rockets have been launched from Gaza against Israeli towns and cities just this month, killing Israeli civilians and destroying homes and factories - over 6,000 acres of damage.<sup>9</sup>
- **Iran has provided hundreds of millions of dollars to Hamas** since the 1990s. In 2017, Hamas's political leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, called Iran the —largest backer financially and militarily of Hamas.<sup>10</sup>
- Under Hamas' guidance, Gazans have launched thousands of balloons and kites carrying incendiary devices or explosives at Israel since April 2018, burning large areas of farmlands in the southern part of Israel.
- Numerous times in the last years, Hamas has encouraged large crowds of protesters to violently breach the border fence between Gaza and Israel.

### House:

Will you co-sponsor the Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act (H.R. 1850) - authored by Reps. Brian Mast (R-FL) and Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)? (If already a co-sponsor, please thank.)

### Senate:

Would you support a Senate version of the Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act (H.R. 1850) - authored by Reps. Brian Mast (R-FL) and Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ)?

### **The Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act (H.R. 1850):**

- Provides for financial sanctions on foreign persons, agencies and governments that assist Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad or their affiliates.
- Requires the President to report to Congress on each government that provides support for acts of terrorism and provides material support to Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or any affiliate or successor organization.

Money is the lifeblood of terrorist groups. Congressionally-mandated financial sanctions have successfully choked off material amounts of funding to Hezbollah and other terror groups. This legislation would extent that approach to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, thereby making it difficult for both Iran and others to finance their terrorist allies.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-flaming-condoms-from-gaza-20180621-story.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.counterextremism.com/threat/hamas>

# Legislative Initiatives

## 6. Enhancing Security and Economic Cooperation

As we noted above, in the last several years have seen a dramatic growth in the military threats Israel faces.

For the first time, Israel is forced to directly confront Iran due to that country's growing presence in Syria. For example:

- In January 2019, Iran launched a surface-to-surface missile against Israel from Damascus.
- Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corp soldiers are found in large numbers just a few kilometers from Israel's border with Syria.
- Iran has transferred mass quantities of weapons, fighters, and other supplies to Hezbollah through its Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, using Syria as a transfer point.

In Lebanon, the military strength of the Iranian-financed and trained terror group, Hezbollah, continues to grow. For example:

- In December 2018, the IDF found and destroyed six cross-border tunnels leading from Lebanon into Israel in the Galilee dug by Hezbollah.
- Hezbollah is building factories – deliberately located in the midst of civilian areas – to upgrade the lethality of its 100,000+ arsenal of missiles.

In response to U.S. financial sanctions, Hezbollah Secretary General Nasrallah warned that —[as long] as Iran has money, we have money... Just as we receive the rockets that we use to threaten Israel, we are receiving our money. No law will prevent us from receiving it.

The legislation described below will allow Israel to better respond to these threats at little incremental cost to the United States, while strengthening the mutually beneficial ties between the US and Israel.

### **Enhancing U.S.-Israel Security Cooperation**

#### **House:**

Will you co-sponsor the U.S.-Israel Cooperation Enhancement & Regional Security Act (H.R.1837)—authored by Reps. Deutch (D-FL) and Wilson (R-SC)?

(If already a co-sponsor, please thank.)

#### **Senate:**

Thank Senators who supported S.1, which includes provisions that enhance the U.S.-Israel partnership on joint technological development and increased military cooperation.

## **Supporting Long-Term Security Cooperation and Economic Collaboration**

One of the many benefits of the U.S.-Israel relationship has been the extent to which American and Israeli security has been significantly bolstered by technology cooperation. Joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs such as Iron Dome and the Arrow system have demonstrated their utility in protecting Israelis from terrorist's rocket fire (See Appendix A:1).

Enhancing U.S.-Israel security cooperation will help both nations respond effectively to security challenges and utilize their talents to flourish in times of peace.

### **House Bill H.R. 1837: U.S.-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act**

- Authorizes increased security assistance to Israel as called for in the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding
- Provides for emergency resupply in the event of a imminent military threat
- Transfers precision guided munitions
- Extends war reserves stockpile authority
- Extend Loan Guarantees
- Authorizes more than \$50 million in cooperative programs with Israel over the next five years, including programs in energy, agriculture, water, health technology and joint programs with developing countries.
- Encourages the creation of a coordinator for U.S.-Israel Research and Development.

### **Senate Bill S. 1: Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act**

(Bill Passed Senate Feb. 5)

- Authorizes agreed-upon increases in Israel's security assistance as called for in the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding
- Encourages expanding U.S. weapons stockpiles in Israel and advancing U.S.-Israel cooperation in anti-drone technologies and space.
- Establishes that efforts by state and local governments to divest from, or bar contracting with, entities engaged in commercial- or investment-related boycotts of Israel do not conflict with federal law.

## **Appendix A: Additional Details on Talking Points**

Here you can find supplemental information that provides additional background to some of the issues detailed in our Talking Points Manual.



## **Appendix A: Additional Details on Talking Points**

Here you can find supplemental information that provides additional background to some of the issues detailed in our Talking Points Manual.

### ***Appendix A: 1. Supporting Continued Security Assistance to Israel***

#### **Funding Technology to Save Lives in America, Israel, and Abroad**

One of the many benefits of the U.S.-Israel relationship has been the extent to which American and Israeli security has been significantly bolstered by technology cooperation. Joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs such as Iron Dome and the Arrow system have demonstrated their utility in protecting Israelis from terrorist's rocket fire.

The U.S.-Israel joint missile defense program includes research on the David's Sling, Arrow 2 and Arrow 3 projects, which target medium- and long-range missiles. It also includes funding for the Iron Dome program, which is designed to intercept short-range rockets.

These programs are more important than ever as the United States, Israel and many other US allies face a proliferation of long- and short-range missiles in the hands of terrorist organizations and rogue states. Iran already has the largest inventory of ballistic missiles in the Middle East, and is expanding the scale, reach, and sophistication of its ballistic missile forces, many of which are inherently capable of carrying a nuclear payload.<sup>11</sup>

**"These cooperative programs save lives, prevent conflict escalation, and are a joint financial and technological venture between the United States and Israel."**

- Representative Peter Roskam (March, 2014)

#### **Israel's Arrow Anti-Missile System In Action**

In February 2018, Israel's Arrow-3 interceptor was successfully tested at a site in central Israel. The flight test was supported by the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, the system co-developers. Interception tests above large land masses in unpopulated areas in Alaska are scheduled for later this year

In a dawning age of rogue states, ballistic missile defenses are steadily becoming a widely accepted necessity. Israeli concerns were heightened after Iran's recent testing of ballistic missiles after the signing of the JCPOA, as well as threats from Iranian leaders against Israel and America.

### **Technology that Saves Lives**

The ultimate hope is that Iron Dome – together with the other missile defense systems being developed with help from the United States – will make Israel's enemies understand that their

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<sup>11</sup> [www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R42849.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R42849.pdf)

investment in missiles and rockets is no longer effective. If that happens, those systems could one day be credited with helping to bring peace to one corner of the Middle East. In the meantime however, it is already having an impact on the way Israel wages war.

Imagine if the hundreds of rockets Iron Dome intercepted on their way to southern Israel in the summer of 2014 had landed in populated areas. Had this happened, the Israeli government would have faced overwhelming pressure from the public to launch a much greater ground offensive into Gaza to stop the rocket fire, as it did in Operation Cast Lead in late 2008. Iron Dome thus helped prevent destruction and loss of life in both Israel and Gaza.

## **Israeli Missile Programs**

### **Iron Dome Batteries and Operations**

Iron Dome is the only proven system with the ability to detect, track and intercept short-range rockets, such as the Katyushas and Kassams possessed by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah in growing numbers. It was successfully activated for the first time in April 2011. Although conceived and developed by Israel, the US provided generous funding to help produce this innovative system. In return, since 2014, Israel has shared this technology and co-produced its Iron Dome anti-missile defense system with US based Raytheon Co., its US subcontractors and its US suppliers. Israel and Raytheon are working to adapt this system to defend US soldiers. According to Raytheon, the Iron Dome is —the only operational interceptor solution for countering rockets, artillery and mortars available for U.S. and coalition partners.¶

The funding from Washington allows Israel to purchase additional Iron Dome batteries to protect all of its major population centers. This will help Israel develop the system's effectiveness, saving more innocent lives and preventing major conflict.

### **David's Sling**

David's Sling was co-developed by Israel's Rafael and American-based Raytheon as a flexible, multipurpose weapon system capable of engaging aircraft, cruise missiles, ballistic and guided missiles. David's Sling was designed to target incoming missiles during their terminal (end) phase, unlike Iron Dome which intercepts missiles at their highest trajectory. Its primary role will be to intercept **medium and long-range** ballistic and guided rockets, such as the Iranian Fajr-5 and BM-25 as well as the Syrian M-600 and Yakhont supersonic cruise missile. The system became operational in March 2017.

### **Arrow Theatre System (Arrow 2 & Arrow 3)**

Manufactured jointly by Boeing and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), the Arrow is designed to give Israel a full theatre ballistic missile defense capability. These systems are designed to

complement the other two and provide multi-tiered protection against many types of incoming missiles.

### **U.S.-Israel Co-Development of Anti Missile Systems**

American Administrations and senior US military leaders have repeatedly acknowledged that assuring Israel has the necessary military resources to counteract missile and rocket assaults at a time of increasing instability in the Middle East promotes US national security interests in the region. Israel's missile defense systems have also provided a valuable contribution to America's own missile defense program and security.

Interested in learning more about Israel's missile defensive systems and how they operate to save lives? Check the link below:

[http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/talking/88\\_missiledefense.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/talking/88_missiledefense.html)

## ***Appendix A: 2. The Anti-Semitic BDS Movement and NGOs***

In a series of recent research reports, Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs exposed the deep ties between the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) campaign and Palestinian terrorist organizations. These reports reveal the aim of those who claim to promote a legitimate, non-violent campaign against the State of Israel.

Ideologically, both terrorist organizations and NGOs which delegitimize Israel do not accept the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish and democratic state, and oppose any normalization between Israel and its neighbors. This shared ideology manifests itself in ties between organizations. Namely, the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC) which leads the international boycott movement, is comprised of 28 Palestinian organizations, foremost amongst them is the Palestinian National and Islamic Forces (PNIF), which include Hamas, the PFLP, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad all designated terror organizations.

Numerous members and terrorist operatives have become leading figures in NGOs which delegitimize and promote boycotts against Israel, while concealing or downplaying their terrorist past. Some continue to serve as members of terrorist organizations to this day. Thus, members of Palestinian, North American and British NGOs which delegitimize Israel, present themselves as human rights activists, while withholding any mention of their ties to terrorist organizations.

**[Source: Terrorists in Suits: The Ties Between NGOs promoting BDS and Terrorist Organizations; <https://4il.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MSA-Terrorists-In-Suits-English-1.pdf>]**

### ***Appendix A: 3. Iran's behavior since the JCPOA (the "Iran nuclear deal")***

In July 2015, Iran signed an agreement under which it would receive long-term relief for sanctions imposed because of its nuclear program. In exchange, it agreed to curbs, most of which are temporary, on development of technology needed to manufacture and deliver nuclear weapons. The agreement did not impact sanctions imposed on Iran because of its other malevolent actions, such as its support for terror.

Many hoped the JCPOA would encourage Iran to moderate its behavior and reduce its support for murderous regimes and terrorists. This has clearly not happened: to the contrary, Iran has ramped up both its hateful rhetoric, its support for, and direct involvement in, murderous activities and its defiance of the international community. For example:

- Iran has very publicly **continued to develop its ballistic missile program** in contravention of UN Security Council resolutions and yet the international community has barely responded.
- Iran continues **massive transfers of arms to third countries, including terrorist organizations**, all in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and other UNSCR resolutions.
  - Iran provides direct **critical support for the near-genocidal regime of President Assad of Syria**.
  - Iran also provides support through its financial and military **assistance to Hezbollah**, the terrorist group that has a stranglehold on Lebanon.
  - Iran provides much of the **funding for** other terrorist groups, most notably **Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad**.
- Eight days ago (May 13), **four oil tankers were sabotaged** in a critical oil transport waterway in the Persian Gulf. The sabotage is **widely attributed to Iran**.
- Seven days ago (May 14), **Saudi Arabian oil pipelines were attacked** by Iranian-backed Yemeni rebels.
- Documents spirited out of Iran by Israel in 2018 made it clear that **Iran's nuclear weapons program was far more advanced** than it has acknowledged and raise serious questions as to whether it has ceased development of that program as the JCPOA requires it to do.
  - Furthermore, by failing to disclose this activity, **Iran is in clear violation of the JCPOA**, which requires it to disclose all pre-JCPOA military aspects of its nuclear program.
- **Iran's leaders continue to threaten to destroy Israel** and its actions in Syria, where it now directly confronts Israel, make it clear that these threats are not mere rhetoric.

While there is, and should be, vigorous debate as to the proper course of action on Iran, this debate should be informed by a full awareness of Iran's continued and aggressive flouting of the norms of civilized behavior.

## **Appendix B: Resources and Further Reading**

Here are some great sources for U.S.-Israel relations information and news, many of which were used in the writing of this manual:

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|---|---|---|
| <a href="http://www.aipac.org/">http://www.aipac.org/</a>   | - | <u>AIPAC Website</u><br>Information on Iran legislation, U.S.-Israel security cooperation, and foreign aid  |
| <a href="http://thomas.loc.gov">http://thomas.loc.gov</a>   | - | <u>Library of Congress Legislation Website</u><br>Up-to-date information on all Bills and Resolutions in the House of Representatives and Senate, Senate, including summaries, cosponsors, and status |
| <a href="http://www.counterextremism.com/">http://www.counterextremism.com/</a>   | - | <u>Counter Extremism Project</u><br>Resources on international terrorist groups and terror activities against Americans   |
| <a href="http://www.jpost.com/">http://www.jpost.com/</a>   | - | <u>The Jerusalem Post</u><br>Leading English site for Israeli news in the U.S.  |
| <a href="http://www.palwatch.org/">http://www.palwatch.org/</a>   | - | <u>Palestinian Media Watch</u><br>Articles and information on the Peace Process   |
| <a href="http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/statestoc.html">http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/statestoc.html</a>                           | - | <u>U.S. Cooperation with Israel by State</u><br>State by State data on benefits to the State from Israel  |
| <a href="http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs069/1101496577013/archive/1109777605255.html">http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs069/1101496577013/archive/1109777605255.html</a> | - | <u>U.S.-Israel Security Digest</u><br>Articles pertaining to U.S.-Israel security cooperation statistics and operations in the Middle East  |