

Of course, we would not want the exports to affect humanitarian goods and agricultural or medical products. The U.S. Executive Directors of the international financial institutions are encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance that serve humanitarian needs. Furthermore, we would encourage the blocking of the assets (in the United States) of members of the Belarus Government as well as the senior leadership and their surrogates. To this end, I welcome the Treasury Department's April 10 advisory to U.S. financial institutions to guard against potential money laundering by Lukashenka and his cronies and strongly applaud President Bush's June 19 "Executive Order Blocking Property of Certain Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Belarus."

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it crystal clear that these sanctions are aimed not at the people of Belarus, but at a regime that displays contempt for the dignity and rights of its citizens even as the corrupt leadership moves to further enrich itself at the expense of all Belarusians.

ONGOING ANTI-DEMOCRATIC BEHAVIOR

To chronicle the full litany of repression over the course of Lukashenka's 12-year misrule would go well beyond the bounds of time available here. Let me cite several more recent illustrations of anti-democratic behavior which testify to the true nature of the regime.

Belarus' March 19 presidential elections can only be described as a farce, and were met with condemnation by the United States, the OSCE, the European Union and others. The Lukashenka regime's wholesale arrests of more than 1,000 opposition activists and dozens of Belarusian and foreign journalists, before and after the elections, and violent suppression of peaceful post-election protests underscore the contempt of the Belarusian authorities toward their countrymen.

Illegitimate parliamentary elections in 2004 and the recently held presidential "elections" in Belarus brazenly flaunted democratic standards. As a result of these elections, Belarus has the distinction of lacking legitimate presidential and parliamentary leadership, which contributes to that country's self-imposed isolation. Albeit safely ensconced in power, Lukashenka has not let up on the democratic opposition. Almost daily repressions constitute a profound abuse of power by a regime that has blatantly manipulated the system to remain in power.

In the last few months, the regime continues to show its true colors, punishing those who would dare to challenge the tinpot dictator. Former presidential candidate Aleksandr Kozulin was sentenced to a politically-motivated five-and-one-half-years' term of imprisonment for alleged "hooliganism" and disturbing the peace. His health is precarious as he is now well into his second month of a hunger strike.

In early August, authorities sentenced four activists of the non-partisan domestic election monitoring initiative "Partnerstva". In a patent attempt to discourage domestic observation of the fraudulent March 19 presidential elections, the four had been kept in custody since February 21. Two were released, having served their six month sentences. Two others—Tsimafei Dranchuk and Mikalay Astreyka—received stiffer sentences, although Astreyka has been released from a medium security

colony and is now in "correctional labor". Other political prisoners, including Artur Finkevich, Mikalay Autukhovich, Audrey Klimau, Ivan Kruk, Yury Lyavonau, Mikalay Razumau, Pavel Sevyarynets, Mikalay Statkevich also continue to have their freedom denied, languishing in prison or in so-called correctional labor camps.

Administrative detentions of ten or fifteen days against democratic opposition activists are almost a daily occurrence. Moreover, the Lukashenka regime continued to stifle religious expression. It refuses to register churches, temporarily detains pastors, threatens to expel foreign clergy, and refuses religious groups the use of premises to hold services. Despite the repressions, Protestant and Catholic congregations have increasingly become more active in their pursuit of religious freedom. I am also concerned about the recent explosion at a Holocaust memorial in western Belarus, the sixth act of vandalism against the monument in 14 years. Unfortunately, the local authorities have reportedly refused to open a criminal investigation. Lukashenka's minions have closed down independent think tanks, further tightened the noose around what remains of the independent media, suspended the activities of a political party, shut down the prominent literary journal *Arche*, and evicted the Union of Belarusian Writers from its headquarters. Of course, Lukashenka's pattern of contempt for human rights is nothing new—it has merely intensified with the passage of time.

Moreover, we have seen no progress on the investigation of the disappearances of political opponents—perhaps not surprisingly, as credible evidence points at the involvement of the Lukashenka regime in their murders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 will help end to the pattern of violations of OSCE human rights and democracy commitments by the Lukashenka regime and loosen its unhealthy monopoly on political and economic power. I hope our efforts here today will facilitate independent Belarus' integration into democratic Europe in which the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law are respected. The beleaguered Belarusian people have suffered so much over the course of the last century and deserve better than to live under a regime frighteningly reminiscent of the Soviet Union. The struggle of the people of Belarus for dignity and freedom deserves our unyielding and consistent support.

This legislation is important and timely because Belarus, which now borders on NATO and the EU, continues to have the worst human rights and democracy record of any European state—bar none.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, before I yield back, I would just like to say that this is a classic example of sending a message around the world of what America is all about. We stand here in this room, not as Democrats and Republicans, but as individuals fighting oppression and human rights violations around the world.

I applaud CHRIS SMITH for his long-standing leadership. It has been an honor for me to serve with my good friend TOM LANTOS on the other side of the aisle, it doesn't seem possible that

I have been here 20 years, TOM, but he is a colleague from California. He is to be applauded.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize our mutual friend, HENRY HYDE, a mentor of mine for every year that I have been here on an ongoing basis, who has dedicated much of his life to fighting oppression and the violation of human rights around the world.

HENRY HYDE will be missed, as he is retiring this year, but his legacy will live on, and I hope that is a message we will send to the rest of the world. That is what America is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5948, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2370) to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2370

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

(a) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to support a peaceful, two-state solution to end the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in accordance with the Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (commonly referred to as the "Roadmap");

(2) to oppose those organizations, individuals, and countries that support terrorism and violently reject a two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

(3) to promote the rule of law, democracy, the cessation of terrorism and incitement, and good governance in institutions and territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority; and

(4) to urge members of the international community to avoid contact with and refrain from supporting the terrorist organization Hamas until it agrees to recognize Israel, renounce violence, disarm, and accept prior agreements, including the Roadmap.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 1 of part III of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2351 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 620G (as added by section 149 of Public Law 104-164 (110 Stat. 1436)) as section 620J; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 620K. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

“(a) LIMITATION.—Assistance may be provided under this Act to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority only during a period for which a certification described in subsection (b) is in effect.

“(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certification described in subsection (a) is a certification transmitted by the President to Congress that contains a determination of the President that—

“(1) no ministry, agency, or instrumentality of the Palestinian Authority is effectively controlled by Hamas, unless the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority has—

“(A) publicly acknowledged the Jewish state of Israel’s right to exist; and

“(B) committed itself and is adhering to all previous agreements and understandings with the United States Government, with the Government of Israel, and with the international community, including agreements and understandings pursuant to the Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (commonly referred to as the ‘Roadmap’); and

“(2) the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority has made demonstrable progress toward—

“(A) completing the process of purging from its security services individuals with ties to terrorism;

“(B) dismantling all terrorist infrastructure within its jurisdiction, confiscating unauthorized weapons, arresting and bringing terrorists to justice, destroying unauthorized arms factories, thwarting and preempting terrorist attacks, and fully cooperating with Israel’s security services;

“(C) halting all anti-American and anti-Israel incitement in Palestinian Authority-controlled electronic and print media and in schools, mosques, and other institutions it controls, and replacing educational materials, including textbooks, with materials that promote peace, tolerance, and coexistence with Israel;

“(D) ensuring democracy, the rule of law, and an independent judiciary, and adopting other reforms such as ensuring transparent and accountable governance; and

“(E) ensuring the financial transparency and accountability of all government ministries and operations.

“(c) RECERTIFICATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the President transmits to Congress an initial certification under subsection (b), and every six months thereafter—

“(1) the President shall transmit to Congress a recertification that the conditions described in subsection (b) are continuing to be met; or

“(2) if the President is unable to make such a recertification, the President shall transmit to Congress a report that contains the reasons therefor.

“(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Assistance made available under this Act to the Palestinian Authority may not be provided until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice thereof to the appropriate congressional committees in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under section 634A(a) of this Act.

“(e) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the President may waive subsection (a) with respect to—

“(A) the administrative and personal security costs of the Office of the President of the Palestinian Authority;

“(B) the activities of the President of the Palestinian Authority to fulfill his or her duties as President, including to maintain control of the management and security of border crossings, to foster the Middle East peace process, and to promote democracy and the rule of law; and

“(C) assistance for the judiciary branch of the Palestinian Authority and other entities.

“(2) CERTIFICATION.—The President may only exercise the waiver authority under paragraph (1) after—

“(A) consulting with, and submitting a written policy justification to, the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(B) certifying to the appropriate congressional committees that—

“(i) it is in the national security interest of the United States to provide assistance otherwise prohibited under subsection (a); and

“(ii) the individual or entity for which assistance is proposed to be provided is not a member of, or effectively controlled by (as the case may be), Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 10 days after exercising the waiver authority under paragraph (1), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing how the funds provided pursuant to such waiver will be spent and detailing the accounting procedures that are in place to ensure proper oversight and accountability.

“(4) TREATMENT OF CERTIFICATION AS NOTIFICATION OF PROGRAM CHANGE.—For purposes of this subsection, the certification required under paragraph (2)(B) shall be deemed to be a notification under section 634A and shall be considered in accordance with the procedures applicable to notifications submitted pursuant to that section.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘foreign terrorist organization’ means an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)).

“(3) PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.—The term ‘Palestinian Authority’ means the interim Palestinian administrative organization that governs part of the West Bank and all of the Gaza Strip (or any successor Palestinian governing entity), including the Palestinian Legislative Council.”

(c) PREVIOUSLY OBLIGATED FUNDS.—The provisions of section 620K of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by subsection (b), shall be applicable to the unexpended balances of funds obligated prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 1 of part III of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2351 et seq.), as amended by section 2(b)(2), is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 620L. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

“(a) LIMITATION.—Assistance may be provided under this Act to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank and Gaza only during a period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) is in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

“(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the following:

“(1) ASSISTANCE TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.—Assistance to meet food, water, medicine, health, or sanitation needs, or other assistance to meet basic human needs.

“(2) ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY.—Assistance to promote democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, non-violence, reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence, provided that such assistance does not directly benefit Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

“(3) ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—Assistance, other than funding of salaries or salary supplements, to individual members of the Palestinian Legislative Council who the President determines are not members of Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization, for the purposes of facilitating the attendance of such members in programs for the development of institutions of democratic governance, including enhancing the transparent and accountable operations of such institutions, and providing support for the Middle East peace process.

“(4) OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Any other type of assistance if the President—

“(A) determines that the provision of such assistance is in the national security interest of the United States; and

“(B) not less than 30 days prior to the obligation of amounts for the provision of such assistance—

“(i) consults with the appropriate congressional committees regarding the specific programs, projects, and activities to be carried out using such assistance; and

“(ii) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written memorandum that contains the determination of the President under subparagraph (A).

“(c) MARKING REQUIREMENT.—Assistance provided under this Act to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank and Gaza shall be marked as assistance from the American people or the United States Government unless the Secretary of State or, as appropriate, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, determines that such marking will endanger the lives or safety of persons delivering such assistance or would have an adverse effect on the implementation of that assistance.

“(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Assistance made available under this Act to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank and Gaza may not be provided until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice thereof to the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under section 634A(a) of this Act.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘foreign terrorist organization’ means an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)).”.

(b) OVERSIGHT AND RELATED REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) OVERSIGHT.—For each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008, the Secretary of State shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days prior to the initial obligation of amounts for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 that procedures have been established to ensure that the Comptroller General of the United States will have access to appropriate United States financial information in order to review the use of such assistance.

(2) VETTING.—Prior to any obligation of amounts for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the Secretary of State shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that such assistance is not provided to or through any individual or entity that the Secretary knows, or has reason to believe, advocates, plans, sponsors, engages in, or has engaged in, terrorist activity. The Secretary shall, as appropriate, establish procedures specifying the steps to be taken in carrying out this paragraph and shall terminate assistance to any individual or entity that the Secretary has determined advocates, plans, sponsors, or engages in terrorist activity.

(3) PROHIBITION.—No amounts made available for fiscal year 2007 or 2008 for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 may be made available for the purpose of recognizing or otherwise honoring individuals who commit, or have committed, acts of terrorism.

(4) AUDITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that Federal or non-Federal audits of all contractors and grantees, and significant subcontractors and subgrantees, that receive amounts for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 are conducted for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 to ensure, among other things, compliance with this subsection.

(B) AUDITS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF USAID.—Of the amounts available for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, up to \$1,000,000 for each such fiscal year may be used by the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development for audits, inspections, and other activities in furtherance of the requirements of subparagraph (A). Such amounts are in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AS TERRORIST SANCTUARY.

It is the sense of Congress that, during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority, the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority should be deemed to be in use as a sanctuary for terrorists or terrorist organizations for purposes of section 6(j)(5) of the Export Admin-

istration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(5)) and section 140 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f).

SEC. 5. DENIAL OF VISAS FOR OFFICIALS OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a visa should not be issued to any alien who is an official of, under the control of, or serving as a representative of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The restriction under subsection (a) should not apply to—

(1) the President of the Palestinian Authority and his or her personal representatives, provided that the President and his or her personal representatives are not affiliated with Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization; and

(2) members of the Palestinian Legislative Council who are not members of Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

SEC. 6. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION STATIONED AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (b), the President should restrict the travel of officials and representatives of the Palestinian Authority and of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who are stationed at the United Nations in New York City to a 25-mile radius of the United Nations headquarters building during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The travel restrictions described in subsection (a) should not apply to the President of the Palestinian Authority and his or her personal representatives, provided that the President and his or her personal representatives are not affiliated with Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful to establish or maintain an office, headquarters, premises, or other facilities or establishments within the jurisdiction of the United States at the behest or direction of, or with funds provided by, the Palestinian Authority during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall take the necessary steps and institute the necessary legal action to effectuate the policies and provisions of subsection (a).

(2) RELIEF.—Any district court of the United States for a district in which a violation of subsection (a) occurs shall have authority, upon petition of relief by the Attorney General, to grant injunctive and such other equitable relief as it shall deem necessary to enforce the provisions of subsection (a).

(c) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the President determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the establishment or maintenance of an

office, headquarters, premises, or other facilities is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

SEC. 8. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The President should direct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to prohibit assistance to the Palestinian Authority (other than assistance described under subsection (b)) during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition on assistance described in subsection (a) should not apply with respect to the following types of assistance:

(1) Assistance to meet food, water, medicine, or sanitation needs, or other assistance to meet basic human needs.

(2) Assistance to promote democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, non-violence, reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence, provided that such assistance does not directly benefit Hamas or other foreign terrorist organizations.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “international financial institution” has the meaning given the term in section 1701(c)(2) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(2)).

SEC. 9. DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIAN TERROR ORGANIZATIONS.

No funds authorized or available to the Department of State may be used for or by any officer or employee of the United States Government to negotiate with members or official representatives of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, or any other Palestinian terrorist organization (except in emergency or humanitarian situations), unless and until such organization—

(1) recognizes Israel’s right to exist;

(2) renounces the use of terrorism;

(3) dismantles the infrastructure in areas within its jurisdiction necessary to carry out terrorist acts, including the disarming of militias and the elimination of all instruments of terror; and

(4) recognizes and accepts all previous agreements and understandings between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

SEC. 10. ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DEMOCRACY FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a fund to be known as the “Israeli-Palestinian Peace, Reconciliation and Democracy Fund” (in this section referred to as the “Fund”). The purpose of the Fund shall be to 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.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for so long as the Fund remains in existence, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on programs sponsored and proposed to be sponsored by the Fund.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 for purposes of the Fund.

SEC. 11. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the steps that have been taken by the United States Government to ensure that other countries and international organizations, including multilateral development banks, do not provide direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority for any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority; and

(2) identifies any countries and international organizations, including multilateral development banks, that are providing direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority during such a period, and describes the nature and amount of such assistance.

SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) **PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.**—The term “Palestinian Authority” has the meaning given the term in section 620K(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act).

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. **ROS-LEHTINEN**) and the gentleman from California (Mr. **LANTOS**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. **ROS-LEHTINEN**. Mr. Speaker, Senate bill 2370, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006, seeks to prevent U.S. tax dollars from reaching the hands of Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority until Hamas agrees to recognize Israel, renounces violence, and agrees to all previously made agreements.

In January of this year, Mr. Speaker, Hamas, a terror organization responsible for murdering and injuring hundreds of Israelis and scores of American citizens, took control of the Palestinian Authority. This was a tremendous blow to the efforts of the United States and to the international community that have been working to bring peace and security to the region.

Since Hamas took power, the terror group has made it clear that they have no intention of changing their hateful charter which calls for the destruction of Israel.

In fact, rockets launched by Palestinian extremists continue to rain upon Israel, and the flow of cash and weapons that are being smuggled into Gaza from Egypt is providing the terrorists the means to carry on with their destructive agenda.

The U.S. must isolate the Hamas-led government financially and diplomatically through implementing this bill. Among other provisions, Mr. Speaker, the Senate version of the bill denies

visas to any officials of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority and designates the territory controlled under Palestinian Authority as a terrorist sanctuary under the 9/11 recommendations.

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Similar provisions were in the House-passed version of the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act. However, let us focus on what is arguably the most important concern for us, the parameters and the restrictions relating to assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

While not ideal, as we would have preferred the House text in this regard, the Senate version of the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act works in tandem with current U.S. law and strengthens components of the current policy.

For example, current U.S. law prohibits direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority, but it offers a broad national security waiver, and it is applicable only for the duration of the fiscal year appropriations. The Senate version of the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act provides a very limited waiver for:

“National Security Waiver: In general, subject to paragraph (2), the President may waive subsection (a) with respect to:

(A) the administrative and personal security costs of the Office of the President of the Palestinian Authority;

(B) the activities of the President of the Palestinian Authority to fulfill his or her duties as president, including to maintain control of the management and security of the border crossings, to foster the Middle East peace process and to promote democracy and the rule of law; and

(C) assistance for the judiciary branch of the Palestinian Authority and other entities.”

Some of this is allowed in the House version. However, the President may only exercise this authority after, and I am reading directly from the bill: “Consulting with and submitting a written policy justification to the appropriate congressional committees and certifying to the appropriate congressional committees that it is in the national security interest of the United States to provide assistance otherwise prohibited under subsection (a); and (ii), the individual or entity for which assistance is proposed to provided is not a member of or effectively controlled by, as the case may be, Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.”

Further, Mr. Speaker, the Senate bill also has a number of reporting requirements that further increase congressional authority and oversight.

Essentially, under this language, if the Congress does not believe that the threshold has been met, we can place a hold on the proposed funding and prevent such assistance from going to any individual or entity of the Palestinian Authority that is linked to Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

We must look at the bill in its totality, Mr. Speaker, and the safeguards that it places on indirect assistance which coincide with many of those appearing in the House bill.

Further, while the Senate bill does not contain provisions concerning the PA and Palestinian-related activities at the United Nations, the Senate authors are committed to working with us next Congress to address these other components and make such changes as necessary to reflect the changing conditions on the ground.

This bill sends a strong message about the direction of the United States policy and provides a strong foundation from which to build on. I ask my colleagues to render their full support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **LANTOS**. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2370. At the outset, I want to pay tribute to my good friend, our distinguished colleague from Florida, for her extraordinarily effective leadership on this issue.

In January of this year, the Palestinian people shocked the world, Mr. Speaker, by electing Hamas to run the Palestinian Authority. So for nearly a full year we have been living with an extraordinary and alarming situation in the Israeli-Palestinian arena, a situation in which one party, the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority, refuses to recognize the very existence of the other party, the State of Israel.

It is a situation in which no negotiations are possible. It is a situation in which the Palestinian leadership has isolated the Palestinian people from the international community. Worst of all, it is a situation in which the Palestinian Authority is governed by a group of assassins and kidnapers who share the vision of the Iranian President, Ahmadinejad, that Israel should be wiped off the map.

If anything, Hamas adheres to this vision more fervently and more obsessively than even Ahmadinejad does. In fact, since Hamas took office, Iran has stepped up its financial support for Hamas, and the monstrous terrorist network of Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas has become ever more intertwined. It is this frightening situation that the legislation before us today strives conscientiously to begin to address.

Mr. Speaker, as the ally and longtime unshakeable supporter of the democratic State of Israel, we should do everything we can to demonstrate the bankruptcy of Hamas' vision and to ensure that Hamas remains too weak even to begin to implement its evil vision. The bill under consideration will help to do just that.

This legislation ensures that no U.S. taxpayer money will be used by Hamas officials and that the United States will not fund any project for which the Hamas-controlled government could

take any credit. At the same time, it allows for restrictions on aid to the Palestinian Authority to be considerably eased if Hamas loses control of the government. It also ensures that we can support the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, in a prudent fashion, to advance the cause of peace and the prospect of a peacefully negotiated two-state solution. But Abu Mazen's hold on the presidency of the Palestinian Authority is the only obstacle to Hamas' full control of all the levers of power in Palestinian society.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: this bill is the Senate version of legislation that this body passed in May 2006. I was the cosponsor of that legislation, along with my good friend Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida.

Our legislation passed overwhelmingly, and I will frankly acknowledge that there are aspects of the legislation we are now considering that do not fully satisfy me. I think, for example, that it allows the executive branch far too much leeway to aid a government in which Hamas has significant participation, perhaps holding posts like foreign minister or interior minister, but may be said not to be fully in control of that government. For now, that is only a theoretical concern, but it will be a real concern if Hamas ever decides to join a national unity government along the lines Abu Mazen has been urging.

I nevertheless believe that this bill, sent to us by the Senate, is an appropriate response to our dire concerns about Hamas. It is the best we can do for now, and I believe it merits our firm support.

I also believe it is long past time for the Congress to make a legislative response to Hamas' disturbing electoral victory. It sends a strong message to Hamas leaders that we reject their murderous ways and that we have contempt for their refusal to recognize their neighbor, the State of Israel; it clarifies that our support for the Palestinian people is conditional on their support for a peaceful two-state solution; and it makes clear to the Palestinians that our problem is not with them, but with Hamas, both its ideology and its conduct.

A new government, and in my view that would have to be a government without any Hamas participation, can open a new era in relations with the United States and with Israel.

Our goal, Mr. Speaker, is not to punish the Palestinian people. In fact, the bill before us allows considerable scope for aid to the Palestinian people, including humanitarian assistance and support for democratization, which we hope ultimately will lead to Hamas' peaceful political demise. I think we would all agree on continuing the U.S. tradition of dealing with the humanitarian needs of any people, including the Palestinians.

Our goal is simply to demonstrate to the Palestinians and to their govern-

ment that hatred, assassination and non-recognition of neighbors is unacceptable to the civilized world and that they cannot accomplish anything if they show such contempt for the entire civilized world.

We also want to make sure that the U.S. taxpayer is not the source of one penny of aid for a government that Hamas controls, and we want to make sure that Hamas and its government are accorded absolutely no legitimacy by the United States or its representatives. This bill does those things.

Mr. Speaker, I am sickened by the fact that the Palestinians chose Hamas as their leader, and I am sickened by everything that Hamas stands for. I believe every Member of this Congress shares my views in that regard.

S. 2370 demonstrates that America will stand firm in the fight against terrorism, while remaining true to the hope for a peaceful Middle East. Indeed, I hope that our action will serve as a model for the right policy to take against terrorists, however they take power, and on behalf of a democratic ally that is the target of the vilest threats and the most dangerous enemies of any nation in the free world today. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER).

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LANTOS and the sponsor of the legislation.

Look, I fundamentally believe, and I have said for some time that aid to the Palestinians has not achieved any of our foreign policy goals. It hasn't been accountable, it hasn't gotten us a more peaceful administration there, and fundamentally I believe that it doesn't achieve what we seek to do in foreign aid.

I commend the sponsors of the legislation. I agree with both of them that this doesn't go far enough. It allows far too many loopholes. Among other things, it permits the PLO, the last vestige in the throes of the terrorist organization that passed, to continue to have a mission in New York City, in my hometown.

Let us not forget that we have provided \$1.5 billion dollars in U.S. assistance to Gaza and the West Bank. We always lead this debate with our hearts rather than our heads. When Wye River was signed, the United States said its citizens and taxpayers will put dollars on the barrelhead. When Oslo was signed, we said we will put dollars on the barrelhead.

Invariably, we the American people, are very generous in trying to live up to the aspirations we have for that region, despite the fact that every single time it proves to be for naught.

So I believe that this is a very important first step. But I also think it is important that people understand that democratization in the territories is a good thing. I agree with President Bush that having democracies and free,

open elections are good things. But they have consequences.

Many people argue in that part of the world that because we had used foreign aid in support of so many organizations of Fattah, the Palestinian people were impelled to vote for Hamas.

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When you have a campaign based on the idea that we are going to continue terrorism, we are going to refuse to acknowledge the existence of our neighbors and the voters vote for that administration, there are consequences. One of the consequences is that the American people say we are not going to be involved.

I also cannot take the floor at this moment without speaking particularly to one critic of note of late. Being a former President of the United States gives you a vaunted place in American and world life to be someone who speaks about the important issues of the day. Unfortunately, former President Carter has turned into a polemist on this issue and an irresponsible one to say the least.

In recent appearances on television, he has gone so far, as to refer to the "Jewish lobby" as the reason we are not aiding Hamas and not doing more in the Middle East. He has had the audacity to suggest in a recent television appearance there has not been any Hamas terrorist attacks since 2004, ignoring the daily barrage of rockets coming into the south of Israel since Hamas took over. The missiles are being lobbed at schools and at hospitals.

I believe that there is a responsibility that former President Carter has, and he dishonors himself and dishonors the role of former Presidents by continuing this polemic screed. We in this body and Americans who want there to be peace in the Middle East, overwhelmingly support a two-state solution. However, voters in that part of the world voted for terrorists. They have to understand there are ramifications.

I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional requests for time and yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Let me just say, again, that it is always such a pleasure to work with my wonderful mentor, Mr. LANTOS, on all of these issues dealing with the Middle East, and I hope to be working with him in an even closer manner in the future. He has been a true friend. And also Chairman HYDE who has been very generous in allowing all of the bills from our Middle East and Central Asia Subcommittee to come to the floor of the House. And we hope that this is just the beginning of a long road to peace and security in the Middle East.

I thank Mr. WEINER for the wonderful contributions that he made to the House text, and we will work on those issues in the next session.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would simply emphasize that this bill is but the beginning of our efforts to deny Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization the economic resources, the political legitimacy and the excuses to pursue their threatening agenda. Hamas and other Islamic terrorist entities and their supporters are now put on notice.

We clearly outline in this bill the path to peace and security, requirements that include those outlined in international agreements. It is up to Hamas leaders to heed this call. If they do not, we will return to the floor next year to address developments on the ground. Until that time, we must undertake efforts to ensure that the United States taxpayers are not directly, nor indirectly, contributing to Hamas activities and policies.

This bill, Senate bill 2370, provides a critical tool towards such protections and safeguards. I ask my colleagues to render their full support for this bill.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2370, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act.

This Senate-passed bill is light-years better than the version passed by the House, which I opposed. It focuses on the Hamas-led government and reinforces the goal of a two-state solution, with a secure Israel living side-by-side with an independent Palestinian state in peace.

While I don't believe this legislation is necessary, as there is already a prohibition on U.S. assistance to foreign terrorist organizations, I recognize the progress made in this legislation toward prioritizing on the basis of our strategic interests and maintaining flexibility in our efforts to promote a peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

I have two hesitations: One, I hope this is not read as a signal in the region—by either side—that the United States is more interested in didactics than negotiations. Two, I hope that Section 9, related to diplomatic contacts, will be interpreted as narrowly as possible, so as to allow for contact with a Hamas-led government if it is determined that such contacts could promote Israel's security and a peaceful two-state solution.

However, I greatly appreciate the changes made to this legislation and the flexibility shown by its sponsors in considering the concerns of many Members of Congress, the Bush administration, and outside experts. Because of this progress, I intend to support the bill.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation.

While this bill does not go as far as the House version, which passed overwhelmingly this past May, it is still provides the Administration with the necessary tools they need to bring about real peace.

The goal of this Congress is to create a peaceful solution to the conflict.

But I want to clear that the goal of this legislation is not to cause a humanitarian catastrophe but to isolate this terrorist led government, this legislation will allow funding for the basic health needs of the Palestinian people.

This solution cannot come about with Hamas in control of the Palestinian Authority while they continue to support terrorist operations on innocent civilians.

Hamas officials continue to endorse and carry out suicide bombing and missile strikes against our friend and ally Israel.

As long as Hamas continues to choose terrorism instead of peaceful coexistence, it will meet with financial and diplomatic isolation from the United States and our allies.

I have read the statements of several groups opposed to this legislation because this will create a road block towards negotiations.

What I want to know is how do you negotiate with a government who is hell bent on your destruction.

Would any member of this House negotiate with al Qaeda, I would hope not.

Hamas must be isolated not coddled and that is what this legislation will do.

Hamas would rather cling to the impossible dream of the destruction of Israel than work toward a two state solution that will bring prosperity and an end to the bloodshed that has tainted this region for so many years.

Hamas refuses to change so they must be treated like the terrorist they are.

I'm sure like me, my colleagues would rather be supporting a Palestinian Authority-led government working toward a peaceful two state solution but instead we face the realities of a Hamas-led government bent on the destruction of Israel.

Until this Hamas-led government recognizes Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State, renounces violence, dismantles its terrorist infrastructure, and halts all anti-Israel incitement the United States should never provide assistance to the Palestinian Authority-led government of Hamas.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about S. 2370, the Senate-passed version of the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act before us today.

Earlier this year, the House considered a version of this legislation. I rose in strong opposition to that bill, because it would have unfairly punished the average Palestinian citizen for the crimes of extremist Hamas leaders. It would have shut off all aid but the most narrowly defined humanitarian assistance, ending U.S. support for successful non-governmental efforts to promote democracy, tolerance, and peace in the region. In short, though well-intentioned, it would have undermined our ability to stop attacks against Israel and to achieve our most important foreign policy goals in the region.

I was joined by several of my colleagues in opposing the bill. Though the House passed this flawed legislation, we were able to send a vital message: at this critical moment, we cannot afford to pull the rug out from those working for democracy and reconciliation in the region.

The Senate heeded our message, and passed a much improved bill. Specifically, the bill addresses two significant concerns we raised during the House debate.

First, the Senate bill provides the Administration far more flexibility to deliver aid to the Palestinian people and to those working for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. In addition to broader humanitarian aid, it explicitly authorizes "assistance to promote democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, non-violence, reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence."

Second, the bill expands the Administration's options for engaging diplomatically with

Palestinian leaders not associated with Hamas, including Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas, who will be a critical ally if we are to negotiate a peace agreement.

I am greatly pleased to see the improvements the Senate legislation has made, and for that reason I will support the bill's passage. However, because events have evolved since this legislation was first considered, I want to add a few words, lest our action today send the wrong message at the wrong time.

After a summer of crisis, during which the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier led Israel to send its military into Gaza, there have been several recent positive developments. First, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and PA President Abbas negotiated a ceasefire to end the violent confrontation in Gaza. Second, both Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas have recently made clear their commitment to resuming peace talks. And third, Palestinian leaders are reportedly on the verge of forming a unity government that would end Hamas's sole control of the PA.

Passage of this legislation at this time should not be interpreted as unawareness of these positive developments or unwillingness to support them. Such progress should be rewarded with an increased U.S. commitment to work for peace in the region, not punished by the erection of new obstacles or the imposition of new sanctions.

With that said, however, I strongly support the goals of isolating Hamas and encouraging the Palestinian leadership to renounce violence and recognize Israel's right to exist, practical and principal steps toward the resumption of negotiations aimed at a two-state solution. This bill would accomplish those goals and I will support it. I hope it will serve not as an endpoint but as a launchpad for reinvigorated U.S. action to support a settlement that will bring a lasting peace to Israelis and Palestinians.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2370.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6345) to make a conforming amendment to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to examinations of certain insured depository institutions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6345

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT.

Paragraph (10) of section 10(d) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C.