

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY SENATOR HODGES

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to support the nation of Israel in the wake of the October 7, 2023, terror attacks and Israel's ongoing efforts to root out Hamas.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to support the nation of Israel in the wake of the October 7, 2023, terror attacks and Israel's efforts to root out Hamas.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State has designated Hamas as a terrorist organization; and

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a coordinated series of terrorist attacks on Israel that resulted in the slaughter of women, children, and the elderly totaling eight hundred fifty-nine civilians, two hundred eighty-three Israeli Defense Force soldiers, fifty-seven policemen, and ten members of the Israeli Security Agency, Shin Bet; and

WHEREAS, Hamas terrorists abducted two hundred forty-eight people, including at least six Americans, to use as hostages and human shields; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has issued a report stating that it has grounds to believe Hamas has sexually assaulted its hostages, including gang rape; and

WHEREAS, Hamas has launched over four thousand rockets into Israel; and

WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists have killed over nine hundred Israelis, at least eleven Americans, and injured more than two thousand others; and

WHEREAS, Hamas terrorists use Palestinian civilians as human shields; and

WHEREAS, Hamas terrorists hide and launch attacks from civilian centers; and

1           WHEREAS, since October 7, 2023, Hamas is directly responsible for the deaths of  
2 an indeterminable number of Palestinian civilians; and

3           WHEREAS, Hamas considers the death of Palestinian civilians a good thing as the  
4 innocent collateral dead are "martyrs" to the goals of Hamas; and

5           WHEREAS, United States government assessments indicate that, "Iran provides up  
6 to \$100 million annually in support to Palestinian terrorist groups, including Hamas"; and

7           WHEREAS, foreign support will sustain Hamas in its terror campaign to destroy  
8 Israel; and

9           WHEREAS, Israel is a major ally and strategic partner of the United States; and

10          WHEREAS, Israel holds paramount importance to direct negotiations in achieving  
11 a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, without preconditions; and

12          WHEREAS, Israel stands firm in its rejection of unilateral recognition of a  
13 Palestinian state, considering it a detrimental reward to terrorism and an impediment to  
14 future peace settlements; and

15          WHEREAS, it is imperative to affirm Israel's commitment to peaceful negotiations  
16 and reject any imposition of international dicta that undermine the sovereignty and security  
17 of Israel; and

18          WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has not forgotten the humanitarian aid provided  
19 by Israel to the people of Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the 2016 flood;  
20 and

21          WHEREAS, Louisiana and Israel share numerous economic and educational ties that  
22 benefit many Louisiana businesses and universities.

23          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby:

24           (1) Stand with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric terror campaign launched  
25 by Hamas and its supporters.

26           (2) Reaffirm Israel's right to self-defense as a sovereign nation.

27           (3) Condemn Hamas' brutal terror campaign against Israel.

28           (4) Call on Hamas to immediately cease all attacks and safely release all living  
29 hostages and return the bodies of deceased hostages to their families.

30           (5) Mourn the nine hundred Israelis and eleven Americans killed and over two

1 thousand six hundred others wounded by Hamas since its attack on October 7, 2023.

2 (6) Mourn the loss of all innocent civilians who died and recognize those injured and  
3 suffering due to the fighting in the Middle East.

4 (7) Support the United States' commitment to Israel's security.

5 (8) Urge full enforcement of the Taylor Force Act (title X of division S of Public  
6 Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 1143) and other restrictions in United States law to prevent United  
7 States foreign assistance from benefitting terrorists, directly or indirectly.

8 (9) Urge full enforcement of United States sanctions against Iran to prevent Iran's  
9 funding of terrorist groups including Hamas.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby support  
11 Israel in its right to categorically reject any international dicta concerning a permanent  
12 settlement with the Palestinians that is not the product of direct negotiations between the  
13 concerned parties devoid of any preconditions.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby stand  
15 with Israel in its opposition to unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state as such statehood,  
16 particularly in the aftermath of the October 7th massacre, would serve as an egregious and  
17 unprecedented reward to terrorism, thereby obstructing prospects for future peace  
18 settlements.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
20 memorialize the Congress of the United States to support the nation of Israel in the wake of  
21 the October 7, 2023, terror attacks, support Israel's ongoing efforts to root out Hamas,  
22 reaffirm support for Israel's principled stance on negotiations, and stand with Israel in  
23 opposition to any unilateral impositions that will serve to undermine Israel's right to defend  
24 its people and territory.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 Consul General of the State of Israel to the Southwest in Houston, Texas, to the Embassy of  
27 Israel in Washington, D.C. for transmission to the proper authorities in the State of Israel,  
28 and to the Louisiana Chapter of American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and the  
29 Louisiana Chapter of Christians United for Israel.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted  
2 to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of  
3 Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States  
4 Congress.

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The original instrument was prepared by Jonathon Wagner. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Xavier Alexander.

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DIGEST

SCR 21 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Hodges

Memorializes Congress to support the nation of Israel in the wake of the October 7, 2023, terror attacks, support Israel's ongoing efforts to root out terrorism perpetrated by Hamas, reaffirm support for Israel's principled stance on negotiations, and stand with Israel in opposition to any unilateral impositions that will serve to undermine Israel's right to defend its people and territory.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Changes the term "eradicate" to "root out", throughout the entirety of the resolution.
2. Adds legislative sentiment that the purpose of the resolution is to mourn the loss of innocent civilians who died and recognize those injured and suffering due to the fighting in the Middle East.
3. Makes technical changes.