

# VARIOUS MEASURES

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## MARKUP

BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H. Res. 185, H. Res. 218, H. Res. 274, H. Res. 317,  
H. Res. 359 and H.R. 2646**

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JUNE 29, 2017

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## VARIOUS MEASURES

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THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:06 a.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. The subcommittee will come to order. We have members who are here and drinking some coffee in the side room, so I am not starting without Ted. He is really here. And, Mr. Connolly, I don't know if you have seen the current issue of Time Magazine, but like President Trump, Mr. Connolly is the cover boy for this week's edition and the headline is "Connolly is Winning So Much He's Increasingly Tired of Winning," correct? But congratulations. It is not everyone who can be on the cover of Time.

But we meet today pursuant to notice——

Mr. CONNOLLY. If I may?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

Mr. CONNOLLY. It tells you something about how literal-minded some people can be, though. I have had people saying congratulations, it is about time you get recognized, will you sign the cover for me, you know. Oh, well. So thank you, everybody.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Congratulations. I will have to bring in my edition and you can sign it for me, as well. We will auction it, give it to charity.

But we meet today pursuant to notice to mark up six bipartisan measures. As your offices were previously notified, it is the intent of the Chair to consider today's measures en bloc, and so without objection, the following items, which were provided to members earlier this week, are in your packet are considered as read and will be considered en bloc.

House Resolution 185, Calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history; House Resolution 218, Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation; Ros-Lehtinen amendment in the nature of a substitute to House Resolution 218; House Resolution 274, Condemning the Government of Iran state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; Ros-Lehtinen amendment 28 to House Resolution

to 274; House Resolution 317, Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran; Ros-Lehtinen amendment in the nature of a substitute to House Resolution 317; House Resolution 359, Urging the European Union to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members; and H.R. 2646, The United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act.

[The information referred to follows:]

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 185

Calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history.

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a resident of Coral Springs, Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, father of their seven children, and grandfather of their six grandchildren;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas, after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, Robert Levinson disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas, in December 2007, Robert Levinson's wife, Christine, traveled to Kish Island to retrace Mr. Levinson's steps and met with officials of the Government of Iran who pledged to help in the investigation;

Whereas for 10 years, the United States Government has continually pressed the Government of Iran to provide any information on the whereabouts of Robert Levinson and to help ensure his prompt and safe return to his family;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007;

Whereas, in November 2010, the Levinson family received a video of Mr. Levinson in captivity, representing the first proof of life since his disappearance and providing some initial indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas, in April 2011, the Levinson family received a series of pictures of Mr. Levinson, which provided further indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry stated on August 28, 2013, "The United States respectfully asks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to work cooperatively with us in our efforts to help U.S. citizen Robert Levinson.";

Whereas, on September 28, 2013, during the first direct phone conversation between the heads of governments of the United States and Iran since 1979, President Barack Obama raised the case of Robert Levinson to President

of Iran Hassan Rouhani and urged the President of Iran to help locate Mr. Levinson and reunite him with his family;

Whereas, on August 29, 2014, Secretary of State Kerry again stated that the United States “respectfully request[s] the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran work cooperatively with us to find Mr. Levinson and bring him home”;

Whereas, on January 16, 2016, the Government of Iran released five United States citizens detained in Iran;

Whereas, on January 17, 2016, President Obama stated that “even as we rejoice in the safe return of others, we will never forget about Bob,” referring to Robert Levinson, and that “each and every day but especially today our hearts are with the Levinson family and we will never rest until their family is whole again”;

Whereas, on January 19, 2016, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest stated that the United States Government had “secured a commitment from the Iranians to use the channel that has now been opened to secure the release of those individuals that we know were being held by Iran . . . to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson’s possible whereabouts”;

Whereas the Government of Iran’s most recent commitment to assist in and the diplomatic channel dedicated to locating and returning Bob Levinson have not yielded any meaningful results;

Whereas, on November 23, 2016, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) issued Opinion No. 50/2016, concerning Robert Levinson in

which the UNWGAD found Iran responsible for the arbitrary detention of Mr. Levinson;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, Mr. Levinson became the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history;

Whereas March 9, 2017, marks 10 years since the disappearance of Robert Levinson from Kish Island, Iran; and

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation continues to offer a \$5,000,000 reward for information leading to Mr. Levinson's safe return: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes that Robert Levinson is the long-  
3       est held United States civilian in our Nation's his-  
4       tory;

5               (2) notes that repeated pledges by officials of  
6       the Government of Iran to provide their Govern-  
7       ment's assistance in the case of Robert Levinson  
8       have not led to any meaningful progress in locating  
9       or returning Robert Levinson;

10              (3) urges the Government of Iran to take mean-  
11      ingful steps towards fulfilling its repeated promises  
12      to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson,  
13      including immediately providing all available infor-  
14      mation from all entities of the Government of Iran  
15      regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to  
16      the United States Government;

1           (4) urges the President and the allies of the  
2       United States to continue to press the Government  
3       of Iran at every opportunity to locate and return  
4       Robert Levinson, notwithstanding ongoing and seri-  
5       ous disagreements the United States Government  
6       has with the Government of Iran on a broad array  
7       of issues, including Iran's ballistic missile program,  
8       sponsorship of international terrorism, and human  
9       rights abuses;

10          (5) notes that in addition to these other serious  
11       issues, further delay in locating and returning Rob-  
12       ert Levinson remains a significant obstacle to im-  
13       proving United States-Iran relations; and

14          (6) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert  
15       Levinson for their anguish and expresses hope that  
16       their ordeal can be brought to an end in the near  
17       future.

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 218

Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship  
and encouraging new areas of cooperation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MARINO, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. QUIGLEY, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. ROKITA, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Ms. MENG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation.

Whereas the deep bond between the United States and Israel is exemplified by its many facets, including the robust economic and commercial relationship;

Whereas, on April 22, 2017, the United States will celebrate the 32nd anniversary of its free trade agreement with

Israel, which was the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States;

Whereas the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement established the Joint Committee to facilitate the agreement and collaborate on efforts to increase bilateral cooperation and investment;

Whereas since the signing of this agreement, two-way trade has multiplied tenfold to over \$40,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas Israel is the third largest importer of United States goods in the Middle East and North Africa region after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, despite representing only 2 percent of the region's population;

Whereas nearly 40 percent of all investment in the United States from the Middle East and North Africa region comes from Israel;

Whereas Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange than any other country except for the United States and China;

Whereas in 1956, the United States-Israel Education Foundation was established to administer the Fulbright Program in Israel, and has facilitated the exchange of nearly 3,300 students between the United States and Israel since its inception;

Whereas, in 1972, the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation was established to promote scientific relations between the United States and Israel by supporting collaborative research projects in basic and applied scientific fields, and has generated investments of over \$480,000,000 to over 4,000 projects since its inception;

Whereas Binational Science Foundation grant recipients have included 45 Nobel Laureates, 19 winners of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award, and 38 recipients of the Wolf Prize;

Whereas in 1977, the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation was established to stimulate, promote, and support non-defense industrial research and development of mutual benefit to both countries in agriculture, communications, life sciences, electronics, electro-optics, energy, healthcare information technology, homeland security, software, water, and other technologies, and has provided over \$300,000,000 to over 700 joint projects since its inception;

Whereas recent successful United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation projects include the ReWalk system that helps paraplegics walk, a medical teaching simulator for Laparoscopic Hysterectomies, and a new drug to treat chronic gout;

Whereas in 1978, the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund was established as a competitive funding program for mutually beneficial, mission-oriented, strategic and applied research of agricultural problems conducted jointly by United States and Israeli scientists, and has provided over \$250,000,000 to over 1,000 projects since its inception;

Whereas an independent review of the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund estimated that the dollar benefits of just 10 of its projects through 2010 came to \$440,000,000 in the United States and \$300,000,000 in Israel, far exceeding total investment in the program;

Whereas in 1984, the United States and Israel began convening the Joint Economic Development Group to regularly discuss economic conditions and identify new opportunities for collaboration;

Whereas, in 1994, the United States-Israel Science and Technology Foundation was established to promote the advancement of science and technology for mutual economic benefit and has developed joint research and development programs that reach 12 States;

Whereas the United States-Israel Innovation Index, which was developed by the United States-Israel Science and Technology Foundation to track and benchmark innovation relationships, ranks the United States-Israel innovation relationship as top-tier;

Whereas in 2007, the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation's Energy program was established to provide support for joint United States-Israel research and development of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and has provided \$18,000,000 to 20 joint projects since its founding;

Whereas, since 2011, the United States Department of Energy and the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy, and Water Resources have led an annual United States-Israel Energy Meeting with participants across government agencies to facilitate bilateral cooperation in that sector;

Whereas, in 2012, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–150), which set United States policy to expand bilateral cooperation across the spectrum of civilian sectors,

including high technology, agriculture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and energy;

Whereas in 2013, President Obama said in reference to Israel's contribution to the global economy, "That innovation is just as important to the relationship between the United States and Israel as our security cooperation.";

Whereas, in 2014, Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew said, "As one of the most technologically-advanced and innovative economies in the world, Israel is an important economic partner to the United States.";

Whereas, in 2014, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296), which deepened cooperation on energy, water, agriculture, trade, and defense, and expressed the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the 2015 Global Venture Capital Confidence Survey ranked the United States and Israel as the two countries with the highest levels of investor confidence in the world; and

Whereas economic cooperation between the United States and Israel has also thrived at the State and local levels through both formal agreements and bilateral organizations in over 30 States that have encouraged new forms of cooperation in fields such as water conservation, cybersecurity, and alternative energy and farming technologies: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) affirms that the United States-Israel eco-

3       nomic partnership has achieved great tangible and

1 intangible benefits to both countries and is a  
2 foundational component of the strong alliance;

3 (2) recognizes that science and technology inno-  
4 vation present promising new frontiers for United  
5 States-Israel economic cooperation, particularly in  
6 light of widespread drought, cybersecurity attacks,  
7 and other major challenges impacting the United  
8 States;

9 (3) encourages the President to regularize and  
10 expand existing forums of economic dialogue with  
11 Israel and foster both public and private sector par-  
12 ticipation; and

13 (4) expresses support for the President to ex-  
14 plore new agreements with Israel, including in the  
15 fields of energy, water, agriculture, medicine,  
16 neurotechnology, and cybersecurity.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. RES. 218  
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the deep bond between the United States and Israel is exemplified by its many facets, including the robust economic and commercial relationship;

Whereas the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States was signed in 1985 with Israel;

Whereas the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement established the Joint Committee to facilitate the agreement and collaborate on efforts to increase bilateral cooperation and investment;

Whereas since the signing of this agreement, two-way trade has multiplied tenfold to over \$40,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas Israel is the third largest importer of United States goods in the Middle East and North Africa region after Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, despite representing only 2 percent of the region's population;

Whereas nearly 40 percent of all investment in the United States from the Middle East and North Africa region comes from Israel;

Whereas Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange than any other country except for the United States and China;

Whereas in 1956, the United States-Israel Education Foundation was established to administer the Fulbright Pro-

gram in Israel, and has facilitated the exchange of nearly 3,300 students between the United States and Israel since its inception;

Whereas, in 1972, the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation was established to promote scientific relations between the United States and Israel by supporting collaborative research projects in basic and applied scientific fields, and has generated investments of over \$480,000,000 to over 4,000 projects since its inception;

Whereas in 1977, the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation was established to stimulate, promote, and support non-defense industrial research and development of mutual benefit to both countries in agriculture, communications, life sciences, electronics, electro-optics, energy, healthcare information technology, homeland security, software, water, and other technologies, and has provided over \$300,000,000 to over 700 joint projects since its inception;

Whereas in 1978, the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund was established as a competitive funding program for mutually beneficial, mission-oriented, strategic and applied research of agricultural problems conducted jointly by United States and Israeli scientists, and has provided over \$250,000,000 to over 1,000 projects since its inception;

Whereas in 1984, the United States and Israel began convening the Joint Economic Development Group to regularly discuss economic conditions and identify new opportunities for collaboration;

Whereas, in 1994, the United States-Israel Science and Technology Foundation was established to promote the advancement of science and technology for mutual economic benefit and has developed joint research and development programs that reach 12 States;

Whereas the United States-Israel Innovation Index, which was developed by the United States-Israel Science and Technology Foundation to track and benchmark innovation relationships, ranks the United States-Israel innovation relationship as top-tier;

Whereas, since 2011, the United States Department of Energy and the Israeli Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy, and Water Resources have led an annual United States-Israel Energy Meeting with participants across government agencies to facilitate bilateral cooperation in that sector;

Whereas, in 2012, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–150), which set United States policy to expand bilateral cooperation across the spectrum of civilian sectors, including high technology, agriculture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and energy;

Whereas in 2013, President Obama said in reference to Israel’s contribution to the global economy, “That innovation is just as important to the relationship between the United States and Israel as our security cooperation.”;

Whereas, in 2014, Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew said, “As one of the most technologically-advanced and innova-

tive economies in the world, Israel is an important economic partner to the United States.”;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–296), which deepened cooperation on energy, water, agriculture, trade, and defense, and expressed the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the 2015 Global Venture Capital Confidence Survey ranked the United States and Israel as the two countries with the highest levels of investor confidence in the world; and

Whereas economic cooperation between the United States and Israel has also thrived at the State and local levels through both formal agreements and bilateral organizations in over 30 States that have encouraged new forms of cooperation in fields such as water conservation, cybersecurity, and alternative energy and farming technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

- 1       That the House of Representatives—
- 2           (1) affirms that the United States-Israel eco-
- 3       nomic partnership has achieved great tangible and
- 4       intangible benefits to both countries and is a
- 5       foundational component of the strong alliance;
- 6           (2) recognizes that science and technology inno-
- 7       vation present promising new frontiers for United

1 States-Israel economic cooperation, particularly in  
2 light of widespread drought, cybersecurity attacks,  
3 and other major challenges impacting the United  
4 States;

5 (3) encourages the President to regularize and  
6 expand existing forums of economic dialogue with  
7 Israel and foster both public and private sector par-  
8 ticipation; and

9 (4) expresses support for the President to ex-  
10 plore new agreements with Israel, including in the  
11 fields of energy, water, agriculture, medicine,  
12 neurotechnology, and cybersecurity.



115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 274

Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. SCHNEIDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2016 Annual Report states—

(1) “The Baha’i community, the largest non-Muslim religious minority in Iran, long has been subject to particularly severe religious freedom violations. The government views Baha’is, who number at least 300,000, as ‘heretics’ and consequently they face repression on the grounds of apostasy.”;

(2) “Since 1979, authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha’i leaders, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs.”; and

(3) “Over the past 10 years, approximately 850 Baha’is have been arbitrarily arrested.”;

Whereas the Department of State 2015 International Religious Freedom Report states—

(1) religious minorities in Iran “continued to face societal discrimination, especially the Bahai community, which reported continuing problems at different levels of society, including personal harassment.”;

(2) the Government of Iran “continued to prohibit Bahais from officially assembling or maintaining administrative institutions, actively closed such institutions, harassed Bahais, and disregarded their property rights.”;

(3) in Iran, “Bahai blood may be spilled with impunity, and Bahai families are not entitled to restitution” and “Bahais cannot receive compensation for injury or crimes committed against them and cannot inherit property.”;

(4) the Government of Iran “requires universities to exclude Bahais from access to higher education or expel them if their religious affiliation becomes known.”; and

(5) in Iran, “Bahais are banned from government employment” and “[t]here were reports of non-Bahais

being pressured to refuse employment to Bahais or dismissing Bahais from their private sector jobs.”;

Whereas, on June 8, 2016, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief issued a joint statement condemning the “wave of incitement of hatred of the Baha’i community reflected in speeches made by religious, judiciary and political officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran”;

Whereas, on September 6, 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General issued a report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/71/374), which stated that “human rights violations have continued at an alarming rate”;

Whereas, on December 17, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/70/179), which “[e]xpresse[d] serious concern about ongoing severe limitations and restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and restrictions on the establishment of places of worship, as well as attacks against places of worship and burial, as well as other human rights violations, including but not limited to harassment, persecution and incitement to hatred that lead to violence against persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, including Christians, Jews, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Zoroastrians and members of the Baha’i Faith and their defenders”;

Whereas since May 2008, the Government of Iran has imprisoned the 7 members of the former ad hoc leadership group of the Baha’i community in Iran, known as the Yaran-i-Iran, or “friends of Iran”—Mrs. Fariba

Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Aff Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm—and these individuals were convicted of charges including “spying for Israel, insulting religious sanctities, propaganda against the regime and spreading corruption on earth” and sentenced to 20-year prison terms, the longest sentences given to any prisoner of conscience in Iran at that time, now reportedly reduced to 10 years;

Whereas beginning in May 2011, officials of the Government of Iran in 4 cities conducted sweeping raids on the homes of dozens of individuals associated with the Baha’i Institute for Higher Education (referred to in this Resolution as “BIHE”) and arrested and detained several educators associated with BIHE, with 16 BIHE educators ultimately sentenced to 4- or 5-year prison terms, 7 of whom remain in prison;

Whereas scores of Baha’i cemeteries have been attacked, and in 2014, Revolutionary Guards began excavating a Baha’i cemetery in Shiraz, which is the site of 950 graves, and built a cultural and sport center on the cemetery site;

Whereas the Baha’i International Community reported that there has been a recent surge in anti-Baha’i hate propaganda in Iranian state-sponsored media outlets, noting that—

(1) in 2010 and 2011, approximately 22 anti-Baha’i articles were appearing every month;

(2) in 2014, the number of anti-Baha’i articles rose to approximately 400 per month; and

(3) by 2016, the number of anti-Baha’i articles rose to approximately 1,500 per month;

Whereas there are currently 90 Baha’is in prison in Iran;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and is in violation of its obligations under such Covenants;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals “responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009”; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) condemns the Government of Iran’s state-  
3       sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority and its  
4       continued violation of the International Covenants  
5       on Human Rights;

6               (2) calls on the Government of Iran to imme-  
7       diately release the 7 imprisoned Baha’i leaders, the  
8       7 imprisoned Baha’i educators, and all other pris-  
9       oners held solely on account of their religion;

10              (3) calls on the President and the Secretary of  
11       State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to im-  
12       mediately condemn the Government of Iran’s contin-

1        ued violation of human rights and demand the im-  
2        mediate release of prisoners held solely on account  
3        of their religion; and

4            (4) urges the President and the Secretary of  
5        State to utilize available authorities to impose sanc-  
6        tions on officials of the Government of Iran and  
7        other individuals directly responsible for serious  
8        human rights abuses, including abuses against the  
9        Baha'i community of Iran.

**AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 274**  
**OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA**

In the 6th clause of the preamble—

(1) strike “December 17, 2016” and insert  
“December 19, 2016”; and

(2) strike “(A/RES/70/179)” and insert “(A/  
RES/71/204)”.

In the 8th clause of the preamble, strike “7 of  
whom” and insert “6 of whom”.

In the 11th clause of the preamble, strike “90 Ba-  
ha’is” and insert “93 Baha’is”.

Page 5, line 8, strike “7” and insert “6”.



115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 317

Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. DEUTCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran.

Whereas Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has taken as hostages Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Karan Vafadari, and a fourth not publicly identified United States citizen as well as United States legal permanent residents Afarin Niasari and Nizar Zakka;

Whereas Siamak Namazi was detained on October 15, 2015, falsely accused and convicted on October 18, 2016, for "collaborating with a hostile government", and has been held for extended periods in solitary confinement and under constant interrogation;

Whereas former UNICEF official Baquer Namazi, the 80-year old father of Siamak Namazi and has a deteriorating health status, was detained on February 22, 2016, falsely accused and convicted to 10 years in prison for the identical crime as his son;

Whereas former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Iranian authorities to release Baquer Namazi to allow his family to care for him;

Whereas UNICEF has issued four public statements on Baquer Namazi's behalf;

Whereas Karan Vafadari, a United States citizen, and his wife, Afarin Niasari, an Iranian national and United States legal permanent resident alien, were detained in late July 2016 and has been held without charge or access to counsel;

Whereas a fourth United States citizen is detained in Iran though his family has wished for him not to be publicly identified;

Whereas Robert Levinson, a United States citizen and retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, traveled to Kish Island, Iran, and disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas the United States Government had "secured a commitment from the Iranians . . . to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson's possible whereabouts" but has not received any information thus far;

Whereas Nizar Zakka, a United States legal permanent resident alien and Lebanese national, who is also in a weakened physical state, was unlawfully detained on September 18, 2015, in Iran after attending a women's Arab Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) con-

ference, at Iran’s invitation, and was later falsely charged of being a spy sentenced to 10 years at the Evin prison;

Whereas, on April 13, 2017, the U.S. Department of the Treasury sanctioned the Tehran Prisons Organization and its former head, Sohrab Soleimani, and White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer noted “The sanctions against human rights abusers in Iran’s prisons come at a time when Iran continues to unjustly detain in its prisons various foreigners, including US citizens Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi”;

Whereas, on April 25, 2017, at the meeting of the Joint Commission overseeing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Department of State reported that the United States delegation had “raised with the Iranian delegation its serious concerns regarding the cases of U.S. citizens detained and missing in Iran, and called on Iran to immediately release these U.S. citizens so they can be reunited with their families”;

Whereas elements of the Iranian regime are reportedly using nationals and dual-nationals from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and other countries to exact political or financial concessions; and

Whereas reports indicate that the Government of Iran is seeking additional payments or other concessions, including relief from economic sanctions, from the families of hostages and their governments as a condition of release, a practice banned by the 1979 International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages and other international legal norms: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1           (1) calls on the Government of the Islamic Re-  
2 public of Iran to release unconditionally Siamak  
3 Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Karan Vafadari, Afarin  
4 Niasari, Nizar Zakka, and any other United States  
5 citizen, legal permanent resident alien, or foreign na-  
6 tional being held in Iran;

7           (2) urges the President to make the release of  
8 United States citizens and legal permanent resident  
9 aliens held hostage by the Government of Iran the  
10 highest of priorities;

11          (3) requests that the United States and its al-  
12 lies whose nationals have been detained consider es-  
13 tablishing a multinational task force to secure the  
14 release of the detainees;

15          (4) urges the Government of Iran to take mean-  
16 ingful steps towards fulfilling its repeated promises  
17 to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson,  
18 including immediately providing all available infor-  
19 mation from all entities of the Government of Iran  
20 regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to  
21 the United States Government;

22          (5) encourages the President to take meaning-  
23 ful action to secure the release of Siamak Namazi,  
24 Baquer Namazi, Karan Vafadari, Afarin Niasari,  
25 Nizar Zakka, and any other United States citizen,

1        legal permanent resident alien, or foreign national  
2        being held in Iran if the Government of Iran does  
3        not release such United States citizens, legal perma-  
4        nent resident aliens, and foreign nationals; and

5            (6) encourages the President to take meaning-  
6        ful action to secure the return of Robert Levinson  
7        if the Government of Iran does not locate and return  
8        him.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. RES. 317  
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has taken as hostages several United States citizens, including Siamak and Baquer Namazi, as well as United States legal permanent resident, Nizar Zakka;

Whereas Siamak Namazi was detained on October 15, 2015, falsely accused and convicted on October 18, 2016, for “collaborating with a hostile government”, and has been held for extended periods in solitary confinement and under constant interrogation;

Whereas former UNICEF official Baquer Namazi, the 80-year old father of Siamak Namazi, was detained on February 22, 2016, falsely accused and convicted to 10 years in prison for the identical crime as his son;

Whereas former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Iranian authorities to release Baquer Namazi, whose health status is deteriorating, to allow his family to care for him;

Whereas UNICEF has issued four public statements on Baquer Namazi’s behalf;

Whereas Robert Levinson, a United States citizen and retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, traveled to Kish Island, Iran, and disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas the United States Government had “secured a commitment from the Iranians . . . to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson’s possible whereabouts” but has not received any information thus far;

Whereas Nizar Zakka, a United States legal permanent resident alien and Lebanese national, who is also in a weakened physical state, was unlawfully detained around September 18, 2015, after presenting at a conference in Iran at Iran’s invitation, and was later falsely charged with being a spy and sentenced to 10 years at the Evin prison;

Whereas, on April 13, 2017, the U.S. Department of the Treasury sanctioned the Tehran Prisons Organization and its former head, Sohrab Soleimani, and White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer noted “The sanctions against human rights abusers in Iran’s prisons come at a time when Iran continues to unjustly detain in its prisons various foreigners, including US citizens Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi”;

Whereas, on April 25, 2017, at the meeting of the Joint Commission overseeing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Department of State reported that the United States delegation had “raised with the Iranian delegation its serious concerns regarding the cases of U.S. citizens detained and missing in Iran, and called on Iran to immediately release these U.S. citizens so they can be reunited with their families”;

Whereas elements of the Iranian regime are reportedly using nationals and dual-nationals from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and other countries to exact political or financial concessions; and

Whereas reports indicate that the Government of Iran is seeking additional payments or other concessions, including relief from economic sanctions, from the families of hostages and their governments as a condition of release, a practice banned by the 1979 International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages and other international legal norms: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

- 1       That the House of Representatives—
- 2           (1) calls on the Government of the Islamic Re-
- 3       public of Iran to release unconditionally Siamak
- 4       Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Nizar Zakka, and any
- 5       other United States citizen, legal permanent resident
- 6       alien, or foreign national being unjustly detained in
- 7       Iran;
- 8           (2) urges the President to make the release of
- 9       United States citizens and legal permanent resident
- 10      aliens held hostage by the Government of Iran the
- 11      highest of priorities;
- 12          (3) requests that the United States and its al-
- 13      lies whose nationals have been detained consider es-
- 14      tablishing a multinational task force to secure the
- 15      release of the detainees;
- 16          (4) urges the Government of Iran to take mean-
- 17      ingful steps towards fulfilling its repeated promises

1 to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson,  
2 including immediately providing all available infor-  
3 mation from all entities of the Government of Iran  
4 regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to  
5 the United States Government;

6 (5) encourages the President to take meaning-  
7 ful action to secure the release of Siamak Namazi,  
8 Baquer Namazi, Nizar Zakka, and any other United  
9 States citizen, legal permanent resident alien, or for-  
10 eign national being unjustly detained in Iran if the  
11 Government of Iran does not release such United  
12 States citizens, legal permanent resident aliens, and  
13 foreign nationals; and

14 (6) encourages the President to take meaning-  
15 ful action to secure the return of Robert Levinson  
16 if the Government of Iran does not locate and return  
17 him.



115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 359

Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. SCHNEIDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members.

Whereas in July 2012 a Hizballah terror attack in Bulgaria killed five Israeli tourists and one Bulgarian;

Whereas in March 2013 a Hizballah operative in Cyprus was convicted of planning terror attacks after admitting he was a member of Hizballah, was trained in the use of weapons, and used a dual Swedish-Lebanese passport to travel around Europe on missions as a courier and scout for Hizballah;

Whereas though such Hizballah operative was convicted on criminal-related charges, authorities had to drop ter-

rorism charges against him because Hizballah was not listed as a terrorist organization;

Whereas the European Union (EU) in July 2013 designated Hizballah’s so-called “military wing”—but not the organization as a whole—as a terrorist organization;

Whereas despite restrictions put on Hizballah since the designation of its military wing, the group continues to conduct illicit narco-trafficking, money laundering, and weapons trafficking throughout Europe;

Whereas EU designation of Hizballah’s military wing has enabled substantial and important cooperation between United States and European authorities aimed at uncovering and thwarting Hizballah’s international criminal activities, such as drug trafficking and money laundering, the proceeds of which are used to purchase weapons and advance Hizballah’s terrorist aims;

Whereas in December 2015 the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102) was signed into law in the United States, broadening financial sector sanctions against Hizballah to compel foreign financial institutions to refrain from supporting the terrorist group;

Whereas in February 2016 the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection partnered with counterparts in France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium to arrest top leaders of the European cell of Hizballah’s External Security Organization Business Affairs Component—a cell that engages in international money laundering and drug trafficking to support Hizballah’s terror activities;

Whereas for many years, the Governments of Iran and Syria have been the prime sponsors of Hizballah, harboring, financing, training, and arming the group;

Whereas Department of Defense officials estimate that Iran provides as much as \$200,000,000 per year to Hizballah in the form of financial and logistical support, weapons, and training;

Whereas Hizballah now has an arsenal of approximately 150,000 missiles and rockets, many of which can reach deep into Israel, at a time when Hizballah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah is threatening to attack and invade Israel;

Whereas Hizballah fighters have been supporting the Assad regime in Syria, often leading operations in the conflict which has left more than 465,000 dead;

Whereas Russia has established fusion centers in Syria to coordinate with Iran, the Assad regime, and Hizballah, and Russian air cover has given Hizballah an advantage on the battlefield against Syria rebels;

Whereas the conflict in Syria has fueled a migrant crisis that has brought nearly 400,000 migrants and refugees to Europe in 2016 and 2017 alone;

Whereas Lebanon continues to be plagued by instability and violence;

Whereas due to Hizballah's actions in Syria, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has carried out retaliatory terrorist attacks in Beirut;

Whereas the Lebanese Armed Forces, the legitimate security establishment of the country as set forth in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), are strug-

gling to control the flow of weapons and Hizballah fighters at its borders;

Whereas Hizballah trains and provides weapons for Shiite militias in Iraq and Yemen, further destabilizing the region and perpetuating violence in those countries;

Whereas in October 2012 Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem stated that “[Hizballah does not] have a military wing and a political one . . . Every element of Hizballah, from commanders to members as well as our various capabilities, are in the service of the resistance”;

Whereas the United States, Canada, Israel, and the Netherlands have designated Hizballah in its entirety as a terror organization, while Australia and New Zealand have applied the designation to the organization’s so-called military wing;

Whereas in March 2016 the Gulf Cooperation Council, the bloc of six Gulf Arab nations, formally branded Hizballah, in its entirety, a terrorist organization, and the League of Arab States shortly thereafter adopted the same designation;

Whereas in April 2016 the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, denounced Hizballah’s “terrorist acts” in the Middle East;

Whereas Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah said in May 2017 that the conflict in Syria had entered a “new and critical phase” in which Damascus, Moscow, Tehran, and Hezbollah were “in more harmony politically and militarily than at any time”; and

Whereas in May 2017 the United States and Saudi Arabia sanctioned Hashem Saffiedine, a member of Hizballah’s executive council which oversees the organization’s polit-

ical, organizational, social and educational activities, for his involvement in terrorist activity: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2           (1) expresses appreciation to the European  
3       Union (EU) for the progress made in countering  
4       Hizballah since the EU designated Hizballah's mili-  
5       tary wing as a terrorist organization;

6           (2) applauds and expresses support for the con-  
7       tinued, increased cooperation between the United  
8       States and the EU in thwarting Hizballah's criminal  
9       and terrorist activities;

10          (3) supports transcontinental efforts within Eu-  
11       rope to share intelligence information among police  
12       and security services to facilitate greater cooperation  
13       in tracking, apprehending, and prosecuting terror-  
14       ists, foreign fighters, and potential offenders;

15          (4) encourages the EU to, whenever possible  
16       and applicable with due process standards, imple-  
17       ment sanctions against Hizballah-affiliated terrorists  
18       in tandem with the United States; and

19          (5) urges the EU to designate Hizballah in its  
20       entirety as a terrorist organization and increase  
21       pressure on the group, including through—

22            (A) facilitating better cross-border coopera-  
23       tion between EU members in combating  
24       Hizballah;

1 (B) issuing arrest warrants against mem-  
2 bers and active supporters of Hizballah;

3 (C) freezing Hizballah's assets in Europe,  
4 including those masquerading as charities; and

5 (D) prohibiting fundraising activities in  
6 support of Hizballah.

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2646

To reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky,  
Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was  
referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense  
Cooperation Act of 2015, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Jordan  
5 Defense Cooperation Extension Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF UNITED STATES-JORDAN**  
7 **DEFENSE COOPERATION ACT OF 2015.**

8 Section 5(a) of the United States-Jordan Defense Co-  
9 operation Act of 2015 (22 U.S.C. 2753 note) is amend-  
10 ed—

1           (1) by striking “During the 3-year period” and  
2           inserting “During the period”; and

3           (2) by inserting “and ending on December 31,  
4           2022” after “enactment of this Act”.

5   **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6           It is the sense of Congress that—

7           (1) Jordan faces threats to its security from on-  
8           going regional instability in the Middle East, par-  
9           ticularly from the ongoing conflict in Syria; and

10          (2) the Governments of the United States and  
11          Jordan should negotiate a new Memorandum of Un-  
12          derstanding, for fiscal years 2018 through 2022, to  
13          significantly enhance Jordan’s military capacity and  
14          local economy.

15   **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF ENTERPRISE FUND FOR JOR-**  
16                **DAN.**

17          (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

18           (1) In December 2011, Congress passed section  
19           7041(b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act,  
20           2012 (Public Law 112–74; 125 Stat. 1223), which  
21           appropriated funds made available under the head-  
22           ing “Economic Support Fund” to establish an enter-  
23           prise fund for Jordan.

24           (2) The intent of an enterprise fund is to at-  
25           tract private investment to help entrepreneurs and

1       small businesses create jobs and to achieve sustain-  
2       able economic development.

3       (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF JORDAN ENTERPRISE  
4 FUND.—The President is authorized to establish and op-  
5 erate an enterprise fund to provide assistance to Jordan.

6       (c) PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS.—The provi-  
7 sions contained in section 201 of the Support for East  
8 European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C.  
9 5421), excluding the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c),  
10 (d)(3), (f), and (j) of that section, shall be deemed to apply  
11 with respect to the Jordan Enterprise Fund and to funds  
12 made available to the enterprise fund in the same manner  
13 and to the same extent as such provisions apply with re-  
14 spect to enterprise funds established pursuant to such sec-  
15 tion or to funds made available to such established enter-  
16 prise funds.

17       (d) OPERATION OF FUND.—

18               (1) EXPENDITURES.—Funds made available to  
19 the Jordan Enterprise Fund shall be expended at  
20 the minimum rate necessary to make timely pay-  
21 ments for projects and activities.

22               (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more  
23 than 3 percent of the funds made available to the  
24 Jordan Enterprise Fund may be obligated or ex-

1        pending for the administrative expenses of the enter-  
2        prise fund.

3        (e) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The Jordan Enterprise  
4        Fund shall be governed by a Board of Directors comprised  
5        of 6 private citizens of the United States and 3 private  
6        citizens of Jordan who have pursued international busi-  
7        ness careers and have demonstrated expertise in inter-  
8        national and emerging market investment activities.

9        (f) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
10       of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until  
11       the Jordan Enterprise Fund terminates in accordance  
12       with subsection (h), the enterprise fund shall—

13            (1) submit to the appropriate congressional  
14            committees a report detailing the administrative ex-  
15            penses of the enterprise fund; and

16            (2) publish, on an Internet website adminis-  
17            tered by the enterprise fund, each report submitted  
18            pursuant to subsection (e) in accordance with sec-  
19            tion 201(p) of the Support for East European De-  
20            mocracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5421(p)).

21        (g) LIQUIDATION.—Prior to the distribution of any  
22        funds resulting from any liquidation, dissolution, or wind-  
23        ing up of the Jordan Enterprise Fund, in whole or in part,  
24        the President shall submit to the appropriate congres-

1 sional committees a plan for the distribution of the assets  
2 of the enterprise fund.

3 (h) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Jordan En-  
4 terprise Fund to provide assistance shall terminate on the  
5 earlier of December 31, 2022, or the date on which the  
6 enterprise fund is liquidated in accordance with subsection  
7 (g).

8 (i) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—  
9 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
10 mittees” means—

11 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
12 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
13 resentatives; and

14 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and  
15 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. After my remarks and the ranking member's remarks on these measures, I will be glad to recognize any other members seeking recognition. Without objection, all members may have 5 days to submit statements for the record on today's business.

Today, we have before us a series of important measures that get to the heart of some of the subcommittee's top priorities. Unfortunately, for the third straight Congress, we are marking up yet another resolution presented by Ranking Member Deutch on behalf of his constituent, Robert Levinson, who went missing in Iran and is the longest held United States citizen in our history.

While the Levinson family laments his absence, his life's milestones continue without Bob. We dedicate our commitment to bringing him home to his family and to continuing to press the administration to demand the regime fulfill its promises. And we do so in tandem with my resolution, House Resolution 317, which calls upon Iran to release unconditionally all U.S. citizens, U.S. legal permanent resident aliens, and foreign nationals that the regime has unjustly detained and is holding hostage.

Ever since Iran signed the JCPOA and received a ransom payment in exchange for American hostages, it has sought to take advantage of what it believed was a lucrative policy. It was emboldened and has since imprisoned dual U.S.-Iranian citizens: The Namazis, a father and son, who have been separated from their family, sentenced to prison on unjust and trumped-up charges and whose health and well-being are in jeopardy.

The regime has imprisoned U.S. legal resident, Nizar Zakka, and sentenced him to 10 years under false charges. Mr. Zakka announced this week that he has begun a hunger strike. This subcommittee has received an audio of Mr. Zakka where he states, "I am innocent. Never done any crime in my life." I would like to ask unanimous consent to insert into the record a transcript of the transcribed telephone conversation of Mr. Zakka from Evin Prison in Iran.

[The information referred to follows:]

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,  
A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND CHAIRMAN,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

**Message from Nizar Zakka**

*U.S. Legal Permanent Resident and Internet Freedom Advocate*

Recorded via Telephone from Evin Prison  
Tehran, Iran  
June 27, 2017

**Transcript:**

[Evin Prison Recording]

[Zakka]: I am innocent. Never done any crime in my life.

Have been arrested un-unjustly by, for over 20 months.

And my, over 20 months.

And my change in the so called [sic].

I came to this country based on the official invitation of it's Vice  
President for Women and Family Affairs who also happened to help me  
a visa to speak at her conference.

This is against all international laws, therefore I went, I went on an  
ongoing hunger strike as of yesterday. And ongoing under my [sic] of  
freedom.

I came to the conclusion after having tried every possible option to get  
the Iranian authorities to do the right thing.

Finally, I would like to meet with [Deleted for Privacy] to provide him  
with my will.

Thank you for your understanding if available.

And hope to be able to meet with the International Red Cross  
Committee [sic] before my situation degrades significantly.

Thank you.

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Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. My resolution also calls on Iran to fulfill its promises regarding Robert Levinson, Mr. Deutch's constituent. This will be the third consecutive Congress that Ted and I mark up a resolution on Iran's persecution of the Baha'i, and we would like to recognize some of them are in the audience today. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, over 200 Baha'i leaders have been executed. Many more have been arbitrarily imprisoned. More than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university posts.

We are calling on the United States and others to use these tools and all available authorities to sanction individuals directly responsible for these serious human rights abuses, and not just against the Baha'is.

We must be willing to do what is right and demand that Iran release all hostages and hold the regime accountable for its human rights abuses and for its illicit activities. That is why we are also here to take up House Resolution 359, urging the European Union to designate Hezbollah, in its entirety, as a terrorist organization, and this is authored by Ranking Member Deutch and Mr. Bilirakis. The notion that they could be separate wings of a terrorist organization and that one wing is bad, and full of terrorists, but the other wing is merely a political organization; that is an absurd thought. There can be no justification for such a bifurcation.

Iran is a state sponsor of terror, and Hezbollah is its foremost proxy. The European Union needs to wake up, and we must urge it and its member states to designate the whole of Hezbollah as the terrorists that they are. Also a great tool to combat Hezbollah's activities is to strengthen our relationship with the democratic Jewish state of Israel, which is why we are pleased to take up Ted Lieu's House Resolution 218—thank you, Mr. Lieu—recognizing the importance of that economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation. Israel was the first country we signed a free trade agreement with over 30 years ago, and while the economic and commercial ties remain strong, we can certainly find ways to upgrade and improve those.

That is why Mr. Lieu's resolution is important, because it stresses the support not only to expand our economic relationship, but it also urges the President to explore new agreements with Israel in the fields of cybersecurity, technology, medicine, agriculture, water, and energy. We have already seen this happening between Israel and Jordan, especially in the fields of energy and water.

And that is one of the major goals of our final measure, a bill I authored alongside Mr. Deutch, Hal Rogers, Nita Lowey, and Adam Schiff, the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act. I am glad to see that Congresswoman Kay Granger of Texas has also cosponsored the bill. The Act would authorize the U.S. to enter into a new 5-year memorandum of understanding, MOU, with Jordan. The Kingdom has been on the front lines in the fight against ISIS, and in the humanitarian crisis, we must stand with our ally and continue to strengthen its security capabilities.

This bill would also authorize the creation of a Jordanian Enterprise Fund, which is precisely what Jordan needs to attract private investment to help entrepreneurs and small businesses create jobs and spur economic development in Jordan. We are hopeful that we

can tie some economic developments in Jordan alongside its neighbors, including Israel, to spur economic growth and bring these nations closer together to create long-term stability.

So I urge my colleagues to support all of these measures, and the Chair now recognizes the ranking member, Mr. Deutch, for his statement.

Mr. DEUTCH. Thank you, Madam Chairman, I would like to express my support for all of these measures before us today. I am proud to be a cosponsor of each of them, and I thank the chairman for moving this bipartisan slate of bills.

The U.S.-Jordan relationship is one that provides needed stability throughout the region, and I am pleased to join the chair in offering this legislation, which will further ensure that Jordan has the resources she needs to defend herself and to help shore up the Jordanian economy.

I would like to thank Mr. Lieu for his resolution highlighting the U.S.-Israel economic partnership, the country with the third most companies listed on the NASDAQ is Israel. Israel has been a true incubator for innovation, just one of the many reasons that the United States and Israel enjoy deep cooperation on a wide range of issues.

I want to thank the chairman for bringing forward the resolution I introduced with Mr. Bilirakis urging the EU to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. I thank the many members of this committee who have cosponsored this measure.

In 2013, the EU listed Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organization. It has yet to include Hezbollah's political wing. There is no distinction. This is one terrorist organization, one that is wreaked havoc across the globe for over 30 years, from the bombing of a Jewish center in Argentina in 1994 to the bombing of a tourist bus in Bulgaria in 2012, to its thousands and thousands of fighters doing Iran's dirty work inside Syria, propping up the murderous Assad regime.

The so-called business affairs component of Hezbollah brings in hundreds of millions of dollars a year through narcotrafficking, money laundering, and counterfeiting operations throughout Latin America, Africa, and Europe. I applaud the cooperation that has taken place between law enforcement agencies across Europe, and our own, to crack down on these illicit activities, but we cannot continue to pretend that any part of Hezbollah has any sort of legitimacy. I urge our European friends to take action now and designate the whole of Hezbollah as the terrorist organization that it is.

I would like to spend my remaining time talking about the despicable human rights abuses taking place in Iran against the Iranian people, and against foreign nationals. First, House Resolution 274 condemns the horrific persecution of the Baha'i faith in Iran.

For years, Baha'is have been subject to government raids on their businesses, their schools, and their homes. They are prevented from working in government jobs, from attending colleges, and from worshipping. There are currently 93 Baha'is in prison in Iran. Iran's persecution of the Baha'is and another minorities is just another example of this brutal regime's complete and total disregard for human rights and international norms.

Second, House Resolution 317 calls for the immediate release of all Americans held in Iran. For too long, this regime has taken American and other foreign nationals prisoners on trumped-up charges resulting in sham trials and outrageous sentences. There is no rule of law. There is no due process. This is nothing more than hostage taking, and it must stop. This committee has a long history of speaking out against these unjust attentions, and we will not sit idly by while Americans languish in Iranian jails. And every responsible nation should join us in condemning Iran and calling for the immediate release of these Americans and other foreign nationals unjustly held in Iran.

And, finally, I would like to thank the chairman and the other cosponsors of House Resolution 185, which calls on Iran to return my constituent, Bob Levinson. For those of you who have served on this committee for a while now, you have heard me tell Bob's story many times. You have heard me tell it to three Secretaries of State, to U.N. Ambassadors, to State Department officials. You have heard it while members of the Levinson family sat before you in this very room. I will keep telling Bob's story until Bob is home in South Florida with his wife of over 40 years, Christine, with his seven children, Susan, Stephanie, Sarah, Samantha, Dan, David, and Doug, his sons and daughter-in-law and his seven grandchildren.

One of Bob's grandsons recently underwent treatment for cancer. Thankfully his prognosis is good, but it makes me sick to think that this family had to endure those months of treatment without their husband, their father, and their grandfather. Bob's eighth grandchild is due any day now.

On the 10th anniversary of Bob's disappearance back on March 9th, I said that Bob should be home in time for the birth, but here we are, 10 years, 3 months and 20 days from the date Bob went missing in Iran. That is too long for any family to go without their loved ones. Iran must return Bob now. If this regime claims it doesn't have Bob, it knows who does. More promises of assistance are too little too late. The time for action is now.

Iran wants sanctions relief? Iran wants foreign investment? Why would any responsible company do business in a country that illegally kidnaps and detains foreigners? And I might ask, why would any reasonable American company do business in a country that kidnaps American citizens?

Bob Levinson is now the longest-held American hostage, but I remain hopeful. I am hopeful that this administration will continue to exert pressure on Iran. I am hopeful that we will soon welcome Bob home to Coral Springs, Florida. I am hopeful that Bob will be home to see the birth of his next grandchild.

Madam Chairman, you have been a heroic ally with me in this effort. I thank you for being my partner. I thank you for bringing forward all of these bipartisan measures today, and for continuing to conduct this committee in such a strong bipartisan manner. And I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Deutch, and I am sure the family is just so grateful for you being a fighter for Bob all the time. Thank you, Ted.

Mr. Chabot of Ohio.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for holding this hearing, this markup this morning. I first want to speak briefly on H. Res. 185 by first commending you and also Mr. Deutch for your relentless dedication to the case of Robert Levinson, as my colleagues mentioned, the longest-held U.S. civilian hostage in American history. And I would like to associate myself with both of the remarks that you have made this morning and not repeat everything.

I know that my colleagues will continue to press this issue. The U.S. has consistently called for the safe return of Mr. Levinson and requested Iranian assistance in the matter, and the administration and our allies must continue to include Mr. Levinson's disappearance in any future communications with Iran. Iran has continued to make promises, yet no tangible results. Unfortunately, it is probably not surprising, as we are talking about Iran here.

I also rise in support of H. Res. 218, a resolution that I cosponsored, aims to strengthen U.S.-Israel economic relationship. A strong economic partnership is critical to Israel, and it is also obviously in the United States' best interests, as well. Israel continues to be one of our, if not our strongest allies, on the globe, and we want to make sure that that continues.

Furthermore, in light of Ambassador Haley's remarks, and she, of course, was before the full committee as recently as yesterday, regarding the U.N. Human Rights Council's targeted assaults on Iran this legislation is particularly timely. As we all know, Israel consistently seems to be the target, of all things, the Human Rights Council in the U.N. They spend, it seems, at least, half their time targeting Israel, criticizing Israel. It is absolutely absurd. And then they will say nothing about human rights abuses in Venezuela or Cuba or a whole range of other pretty horrible places right now for human rights on the globe.

Yet, Israel consistently is a target, so I think this is very timely that we are passing this today. We have to show our partners all around the world that we will continue to support Israel in every possible way, and H. Res. 218 reaffirms that position.

So I would urge my colleagues to support all of the measures we have before us. I think they are all good, but I wanted to particularly talk about those two. Thank you very much. I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Mr. Chabot. Thank you for your words. And now we will turn to cover boy, Mr. Connolly.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Madam Chairman. And thank you for bringing these bipartisan bills to us today. I am proud to support all of them. I would ask unanimous consent that I be added before we vote to as a cosponsor—

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Without objection, will do so.

Mr. CONNOLLY [continuing]. H.R. 2646. Thank you. And I particularly want to thank my friend and colleague, Ted Deutch, for his passion and commitment to the Levinson family and for the cause of Bob Levinson. Everything he said is absolutely correct. No civilized nation can kidnap somebody visiting that country with impunity, indefinitely, and with no cause. And that is not the rule of law. That is not how civilized nations behave. And we certainly hope Mr. Levinson can be rejoined with his family at the earliest possible time.

Madam Chairman, I think it is also important, I was listening to my friend, Mr. Chabot, and I agree with him about the hypocrisy involving human rights in Israel and the Human Rights Commission at the United Nations, but I think it is important we have to be consistent. It would be nice if the President of the United States would speak out about human rights when he has the opportunity, an opportunity he did not choose to use when he visited Saudi Arabia, an opportunity he did not choose to use when he visited with the Russian foreign minister, and one can go down the list. It is vital that we speak with one voice and that we speak consistently in upholding rule of law and universal human rights, whether it be in Cuba, or Iran, or Venezuela.

And we need to speak with one voice, and, so, I would hope the President would hear that message from Mr. Chabot and myself and others. It is really important that it come from the top if we really mean it, and if we are going to effectuate change.

With that, Madam Chairman, I, again, thank you for bringing these bills to us today. Happily I support all of them, and thank you for your leadership. I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, sir. Thank you.

And our hero, Mr. Mast.

Mr. MAST. Thank you, Madam Chair. What an incredible series of resolutions. I applaud this committee for their work on them. They get directly to the heart of the most important issues for this committee. We identify and work with our allies like Jordan, with our friends like Israel. They seek to be the light. We call out evil. We call out injustice in Iran, Hezbollah where we see it. These resolutions, they vow truth. I am proud to support them, proud of this committee for their work on them, and I yield back. Thank you.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, Mr. Mast.

Mr. Schneider was here. He is not here? Mr. Lieu.

Mr. LIEU. Thank you, Madam Chair and Ranking Member Deutch for holding today's markup. I support all the legislation under consideration today and am pleased that one of those measures is a resolution I introduced with Congressman Ted Poe. I also want to thank Congressman Chabot for his kind words today and for being a coauthor of the resolution.

This legislation recognizes the incredible economic partnership and relationship between the United States and Israel, and encourages the administration to explore new areas of cooperation in promising fields like energy, water conservation, neurotechnology, and cybersecurity.

Today, two-way trade is \$40 billion annually, and despite representing only 2 percent of the population in the region, Israel is the third largest importer of U.S. goods in the region. And Israel, in fact, as mentioned before, has more companies listed on the NASDAQ than any other country, except the U.S. and China, and this is fueling amazing innovations in companies from Silicon Beach in Los Angeles to Silicon Wadi in Tel Aviv, and the partnership has even thrived at the State level with over 30 U.S. States, including my home State of California, signing agreements with Israel to deepen cooperation on mutual areas of interest.

This revolution enjoys broad support in both the House and Senate, and I hope we continue to move it through Congress to send

a strong bipartisan support for deepening U.S.-Israel cooperation in a promising field of science and technology. And with that, I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Lieu. Mr. Schneider of Illinois.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Thank you, chairman, and I want to thank Chairman Ros-Lehtinen and Ranking Member Deutch for holding this markup today. I appreciate the timely consideration of these bipartisan pieces of legislation that address key foreign policy issues, and also wish to express my support for all of them. One such issue is the terrorist organization, Hezbollah, and its impact around the globe.

I was pleased to see that in 2013, the European Union designated Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organization. But this is simply not enough. That is why I am proud to colead with my colleagues H. Res. 359, which is a resolution that urges the EU to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.

The resolution also expresses appreciation to the EU for progress in countering Hezbollah activities since the 2013 designation, and urges the EU to increase pressure on the group by freezing assets in Europe, prohibiting fundraising activities, and improving cross-border cooperation between EU members in combating Hezbollah.

I am also proud to cosponsor H. Res. 218, which highlights the importance of the U.S.-Israel economic relationship, and encourages continued cooperation in the fields of science and technology.

The U.S. and Israel have a robust partnership when it comes to innovation, and we have seen this manifested through the creation and success of programs, such as the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation, U.S.-Israel Science and Technology Foundation, and the U.S.-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Foundation.

I look forward to the continued collaboration between our two nations and the innovative creations this partnership will deliver.

I am also proud to be a cosponsor and colead of House Resolution 274, Condemning the Government of Iran's persecution of its Baha'i minority and continued violations of human rights.

While Iran is a diverse country and home to religious minorities, including the Baha'is, as well a Jewish community with roots that go back to thousands of years, the government's autocratic rule in the name of a narrow interpretation of one version of Islam denies freedom of religion to many of its citizens, a liberty we value so deeply here in the United States, and enshrine in the First Amendment of our Constitution.

This persecution of Iranian members of the Baha'i faith, which ranges from blatant discrimination in the educational and employment spheres, to the brutality of imprisonment and execution, cannot be tolerated. We must not forget that in addition to Iran's flagrant testing of intercontinental ballistic missiles, and outright support for terrorism that threaten Israel and our other allies in the region, the Iranian people also suffer at the hands of the regime.

The U.S. Baha'i House of Worship is headquartered in the Chicago area, and I firmly stand with Baha'i community in the U.S. and Iran in calling for an end to this horrific religious persecution.

I would also like to join my colleagues in highlighting the case of Robert Levinson, as has been noted, the longest-held U.S. civilian in our Nation's history. No family should have to go through what Mr. Levinson's family has gone through. I am pleased to see this subcommittee take up House Resolution 185, which calls on the Government of Iran to fulfill its repeated promises to assist in this case of Robert Levinson, and I look forward to him joining his family and welcoming his eighth grandchild.

I would like to thank the subcommittee again for considering these important and relevant bills, and with that, I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much. Mr. Suozzi?

Mr. SUOZZI. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman. I want to thank you and the ranking member for your excellent bipartisan cooperation on all of these different issues, and I want to make a special thank you to Ranking Member Deutch, for actually reintroducing me to Mr. Levinson's sons recently. There are seven children in the Levinson family, and it was 12 years ago that Mr. Levinson's mother-in-law passed away, and on Long Island I was there for the family wake, I was serving as the county executive at the time, and we were reintroduced here in the hallway, not long ago, by Mr. Deutch, and I want to thank him so much for doing that. And I want to thank him for his personal commitment to this family in trying to help relieve the suffering that they are undergoing. And in each of these different issues that we are addressing, everyone on this committee is working together to try and relieve suffering in different parts of the world, and this is really important work, and it is wonderful that when everything in politics seem so petty and small these days, that people can work together to try and achieve some common good. So I am happy to support each of these initiatives. Thank you so much.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir. And we are glad to see Mr. DeSantis and Mr. Zeldin with us, as well. And hearing no further requests for recognition, the question occurs on the items considered en bloc. All those in favor say aye. Aye. All those opposed say no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the measures considered en bloc are agreed to. Without objection the measures considered en bloc are ordered favorably reported to the full committee as amended, and staff is directed to make any technical and conforming changes.

That concludes our markup. The subcommittee stands adjourned. And thank you ladies and gentlemen for being with us.

[Whereupon, at 10:33 a.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

## A P P E N D I X

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MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

**SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE**  
**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

**Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa**  
**Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chairman**

June 26, 2017

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held by the Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

**DATE:** Thursday, June 29, 2017

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**MARKUP OF:** H. Res. 185, Calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history;

H. Res. 218, Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation;

H. Res. 274, Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

H. Res. 317, Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran;

H. Res. 359, Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members; and

H.R. 2646, United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act.

**By Direction of the Chairman**

*The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.*



**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON the Middle East and North Africa MARKUP

Day Thursday Date 06/29/17 Room 2172

Starting Time 10:05 a.m. Ending Time 10:33 a.m.

Recesses 0 (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ )

Presiding Member(s)

*Chairman Ros-Lehtinen*

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session ☒

Executive (closed) Session ☐

Televised ☒

Electronically Recorded (taped) ☒

Stenographic Record ☒

**BILLS FOR MARKUP:** (Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)

H. Res. 185, Calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history; H. Res. 218, Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation; H. Res. 274, Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; H. Res. 317, Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran; H. Res. 359, Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members; H.R. 2646, United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

*GOP- Chairman Ros-Lehtinen, Reps. Chabot, DeSantis, Mast*

*Dem- Ranking Member Deutch, Reps. Connolly, Boyle, Schneider, Suozzi, Lieu*

**NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD:** (List any statements submitted for the record.)

*Message from Mr. Zakka Submitted by Chairman Ros-Lehtinen*

**ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP:** (Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)

*The measures considered en bloc were agreed to by voice vote.*

*By unanimous consent, the measures as amended were ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee, as amended.*

**RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP):** (Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
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TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE \_\_\_\_\_

or

TIME ADJOURNED 10:33 a.m.

*Antonelle Damelin*  
Subcommittee Staff Associate

6/29/17 Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa Markup Summary

By unanimous consent, the Chair called up the following measures and amendments, previously provided to Members, to be considered *en bloc*:

1. H. Res. 185 (Deutsch), Calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history.
2. H. Res. 218 (Lieu), Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation;
  - a. Ros-Lehtinen Amendment in Nature of a Substitute.
3. H. Res. 274 (Ros-Lehtinen), Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;
  - a. Ros-Lehtinen amendment 28 to H. Res. 274.
4. H. Res. 317 (Ros-Lehtinen), Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran;
  - a. Ros-Lehtinen Amendment in Nature of a Substitute.
5. H. Res. 359 (Deutsch), Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members.
6. H.R. 2646 (Ros-Lehtinen), United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act.

The measures considered *en bloc* were agreed to by voice vote.

By unanimous consent, the measures as amended were ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee, as amended.

The Committee adjourned.