

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3629

To affirm United States recognition of Israel's sovereignty, security, and legal right to its lands, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 2, 2013

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To affirm United States recognition of Israel's sovereignty, security, and legal right to its lands, 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 “Israel Sovereignty and
5 Security Recognition Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) For more than 3,000 years, the Jewish Peo-
9 ple have maintained a continuous connection and

1 presence in the Land of Israel and their eternal and
2 indivisible capital city of Jerusalem.

3 (2) In 1920, the legal title of the Jewish People
4 to their homeland, including the present lands of the
5 State of Israel, was affirmed and recognized under
6 modern international law in the San Remo Resolu-
7 tion, and has not been subsequently abrogated by
8 any binding legal instrumentality.

9 (3) In 1922, the aforementioned act of inter-
10 national law was acknowledged by both chambers of
11 the United States Congress via a joint resolution
12 and signed by President Warren G. Harding.

13 (4) In 1945, Article 80 of the United Nations
14 charter recognized the continued validity of the
15 rights granted to states or peoples which already ex-
16 isted under international instruments, including
17 those of the Jewish People and their homeland.

18 (5) On May 14, 1948, the Jewish national
19 homeland declared its renewed independence and
20 self-governance as the modern State of Israel, with
21 the United States being the first country to offer
22 recognition of Israel's statehood.

23 (6) From 1948 to 1967, Syria controlled the
24 Golan Heights and used it as a military stronghold

1 from which its troops routinely attacked Israeli civil-
2 ians.

3 (7) In 1967, the Golan Heights was restored to
4 Israel after Israel was attacked by Syria during the
5 conflict known as the Six Day War. Since then
6 Israel has guaranteed the peace and safety of all
7 who reside there.

8 (8) The Golan Heights contains more than one-
9 third of Israel's water resources, and are vital and
10 strategically indispensable to the security, well-being,
11 and continued existence of the State of Israel, allow-
12 ing Israel to detect and defend from infiltration, at-
13 tacks, and hostilities that have historically originated
14 and currently emanate from Syria.

15 (9) From 1948 to 1967, Jerusalem was a di-
16 vided city where persons of all faiths were precluded
17 from freely worshiping or visiting their respective
18 holy sites in the area controlled by Jordan.

19 (10) In 1967, the city of Jerusalem was re-
20 united after Israel was attacked by Jordan during
21 the conflict known as the Six Day War. Since then
22 Israel has guaranteed freedom of religion and full
23 access to holy sites for people of all faiths.

24 (11) Israel's government and civil institutions,
25 including the Knesset, the Bank of Israel, the Min-

1 istry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister’s and
2 President’s offices, and the Supreme Court, are all
3 based in Jerusalem.

4 (12) In 1990, Congress unanimously adopted
5 Senate Concurrent Resolution 106, which declares
6 that Congress “strongly believes that Jerusalem
7 must remain an undivided city in which the rights
8 of every ethnic religious group are protected”.

9 (13) In 1995, Congress overwhelmingly ap-
10 proved the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public
11 Law 104–45), requiring the establishment of the
12 United States Embassy in Jerusalem by not later
13 than May 31, 1999.

14 (14) The United States Government maintains
15 its embassy in the functioning capital of every coun-
16 try except in the State of Israel.

17 (15) The United States Government owns prop-
18 erty in Tel Aviv, where its embassy is presently lo-
19 cated, that was acquired at a cost of \$1.00 in 1957.

20 (16) The United States Government maintains
21 five Government locations in Jerusalem, totaling
22 more than 40,000 square feet of building space and
23 14 acres of land.

24 (17) The United States Government’s consular
25 building located at 14 David Flusser Street in Jeru-

1 salem is an ideal location for the United States Em-
2 bassy to Israel. The Department of State completed
3 construction of the facility in 2010, and the six-acre
4 site is under lease for 75 years.

5 (18) Recognizing Israel’s sovereignty, security,
6 and legal right to Jerusalem and the Golan Heights
7 is consistent with the will of the overwhelming ma-
8 jority of Americans, and in this action the United
9 States will send a much-needed signal of support for
10 Israel, its security, and its rights under international
11 law.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) the United States should recognize Israel’s
15 sovereignty, security, and legal right to its lands, in-
16 cluding the Golan Heights and the city of Jerusalem
17 as the indivisible and eternal capital of the State of
18 Israel;

19 (2) transferring the United States Embassy
20 from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem will send a much-needed
21 signal of United States support for Israel, its secu-
22 rity, and its rights under international law; and

23 (3) the Secretary of State should—

1 (A) without delay, transfer the United
2 States Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, to 14 David
3 Flusser Street, Jerusalem, Israel; and

4 (B) take such actions as are necessary to
5 either repurpose or sell at an appropriate mar-
6 ket rate the United States Embassy in Tel
7 Aviv, Israel, and, if the Embassy is sold, de-
8 posit in the Asset Management Account of the
9 Department of State the proceeds from such
10 sale.

11 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENT TO THE JERUSALEM EMBASSY ACT OF**
12 **1995.**

13 (a) REPEAL.—Subject to subsection (b), section 7 of
14 the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–
15 45) is repealed.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal specified in sub-
17 section (a) shall take effect on the date that is 30 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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