

Reps. Knollenberg, David Law, Moss, Bieda, Casperson, Clack, Condino, Dean, DeRoche, Garfield, Hildenbrand, Horn, Rick Jones, LaJoy, Palmer, Pastor, Proos, Scott, Stahl and Wojno offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 159.

A resolution to urge the President of the United States, the United States Congress and the United States Department of State to consult with appropriate officials in Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority regarding the status of missing Israeli soldiers and demand the immediate and unconditional release of three Israeli soldiers currently believed to be held by Hamas and Hezbollah.

Whereas, The United States Congress expressed its concern for Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon and the Hezbollah-controlled territory of Lebanon in Public Law 106-89 (113 Stat. 1305; November 8, 1999) which required the Secretary of State to probe into the disappearance of Israeli soldiers with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other governments in the region, and to submit to the Congress reports on those efforts and any subsequent discovery of relevant information; and

Whereas, Israel completed its withdrawal from southern Lebanon on May 24, 2000. On June 18, 2000, the United Nations Security Council welcomed and endorsed United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's report that Israel had withdrawn completely from Lebanon under the terms of United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 (1978). Nearly five years later, Israel completed its withdrawal from Gaza on September 12, 2005; and

Whereas, On June 25, 2006, Hamas and allied terrorists crossed into Israel to attack a military post, killing two soldiers and wounding a third, Gilad Shalit, who was kidnapped. On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah terrorists crossed into Israel to attack Israeli troops patrolling the Israeli side of the border with Lebanon, killing three, wounding two, and kidnapping two Israelis, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev; and

Whereas, Gilad Shalit has been held in captivity by Hamas for more than a year, while Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev have been held by Hezbollah for a year. Hamas and Hezbollah have withheld all information on the health and welfare of these kidnapped men. Additionally, contrary to the most basic standards of humanitarian conduct, Hamas and Hezbollah have prevented access to the Israeli captives by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This failure to meet even the most basic medical needs of the kidnapped soldiers must be reversed at once; and

Whereas, It is incumbent upon our government to express its vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare and survival of the state of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders, and its vested interest in achieving a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside the state of Israel. The United States government should convey its ongoing concern for the families of Gilad Shalit, Ehud Goldwasser, and Eldad Regev and all other missing Israeli soldiers as well as its full commitment to seek the immediate and unconditional release of the Israeli captives; and

Whereas, As a function of the precepts on which this country was founded, we must condemn Hamas and Hezbollah for the cross-border attacks and kidnappings which precipitated weeks of intensive armed conflict among Israel, Hezbollah, and armed Palestinian groups, and condemn Iran and Syria, the primary state sponsors of global terrorism and the patrons of Hezbollah and Hamas, for their ongoing support of international terrorism; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the United States Department of State to consult with appropriate officials in Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority regarding the status of missing Israeli soldiers and demand the immediate and unconditional release of three Israeli soldiers currently believed to be held by Hamas and Hezbollah; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.