

**Excerpts on Hizballah from the Syria Accountability and Lebanese
Sovereignty Act**

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H.R.1828

*One Hundred Eighth Congress
of the
United States of America*

The `Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003'.

FINDINGS

Congress makes the following findings:

(5) Terrorist groups, including **Hizballah**, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command, maintain offices, training camps, and other facilities on Syrian territory, and operate in areas of Lebanon occupied by the Syrian armed forces and receive supplies from Iran through Syria.

(6) United Nations Security Council Resolution 520 (September 17, 1982) calls for `strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon **under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon through the Lebanese Army throughout Lebanon**'.

(11) **Israel has withdrawn all of its armed forces from Lebanon in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 425** (March 19, 1978), as certified by the United Nations Secretary General.

(12) Even in the face of this United Nations certification that acknowledged Israel's full compliance with Security Council Resolution 425, Syrian- and Iranian-supported **Hizballah** continues to attack Israeli outposts at Shebaa Farms, **under the pretense that Shebaa Farms is territory from which Israel was required to withdraw** by Security Council Resolution 425, and Syrian- and Iranian-supported **Hizballah and other militant organizations continue to attack civilian targets in Israel.**

(13) Syria will not allow Lebanon--a sovereign country--to fulfill its obligation in accordance with Security Council Resolution 425 to deploy its troops to southern Lebanon.

(14) As a result, **the Israeli-Lebanese border and much of southern Lebanon is under the control of Hizballah, which continues to attack Israeli positions, allows Iranian Revolutionary Guards and other militant groups to operate freely in the area, and maintains thousands of rockets along Israel's northern border, destabilizing the entire region.**

(15) On February 12, 2003, Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet stated the following with respect to **the Syrian- and Iranian-supported Hizballah**: '[A]s an organization with capability and worldwide presence [it] is [al Qaeda's] equal if not a far more capable organization * * * [T]hey're a notch above in many respects, in terms of in their relationship with the Iranians and the training they receive, [which] puts them in **a state-sponsored category with a potential for lethality that's quite great.**'

SENSE OF CONGRESS

It is the sense of Congress that--

(1) the Government of Syria should immediately and **unconditionally halt support for terrorism**, permanently and openly declare its total renunciation of all forms of terrorism, and close all terrorist offices and facilities in Syria, including the offices of **Hamas, Hizballah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command**;

(4) **the Government of Lebanon should deploy the Lebanese armed forces to all areas of Lebanon, including South Lebanon**, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 520 (September 17, 1982), in order to assert the sovereignty of the Lebanese state over all of its territory, and **should evict all terrorist and foreign forces from southern Lebanon, including Hizballah** and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards;

(6) the Governments of Lebanon and Syria should enter into serious unconditional bilateral negotiations with the Government of Israel in order to realize a full and permanent peace;

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) **Syria should bear responsibility for attacks committed by Hizballah** and other terrorist groups with offices, training camps, or other facilities in Syria, or bases in areas of Lebanon occupied by Syria;

(3) **the Secretary of State will continue to list Syria as a state sponsor of terrorism until Syria ends its support for terrorism, including its support of Hizballah and other terrorist groups in Lebanon** and its hosting of terrorist groups in Damascus, and comes into full compliance with United States law relating to terrorism and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (September 28, 2001);

PENALTIES

(a) PENALTIES-

Until the President makes the determination that Syria meets all the requirements described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (d) and certifies such determination to Congress in accordance with such subsection—.....the President shall impose two or more of the following sanctions.....

(d) CERTIFICATION- A certification under this subsection is a certification transmitted to the appropriate congressional committees of a determination made by the President that--

(1) **the Government of Syria has ceased providing support for international terrorist groups and does not allow terrorist groups, such as Hamas, Hizballah,** Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine--General Command to maintain facilities in territory under Syrian control;

REPORT

Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 12 months thereafter until the conditions described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 5(d) are satisfied, **the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on--**

(3) how the United States is increasing its efforts against Hizballah and other terrorist organizations supported by Syria.