

Whereas public servants—

- (1) defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world;
- (2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;
- (3) fight crime and fires;
- (4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;
- (5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;
- (6) fight disease and promote better health;
- (7) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;
- (8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;
- (9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;
- (10) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;
- (11) teach and work in our schools and libraries;
- (12) develop new technologies and explore the earth, moon, and space to help improve our understanding of how our world changes;
- (13) improve and secure our transportation systems;
- (14) promote economic growth; and
- (15) assist our Nation's veterans;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 1 through 7, 2011, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 27th anniversary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;
- (2) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;
- (3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;
- (4) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and
- (5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

CALLING ON THE UNITED NATIONS TO RESCIND THE GOLDSTONE REPORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 138 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 138) calling on the United Nations to rescind the Goldstone report, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 138) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 138

Whereas, on January 12, 2009, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed Resolution S-9/1, authorizing a "fact-finding mission" regarding the conduct of the Government of Israel during Operation Cast Lead between December 27, 2008, and January 18, 2009;

Whereas that resolution prejudged the outcome of the fact finding mission by mandating that it investigate "violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the occupying power, Israel, against the Palestinian people";

Whereas, on September 15, 2009, the "United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict" released its report, now known as the "Goldstone report", named for its chair, South African Jurist Richard Goldstone;

Whereas the report made numerous unsubstantiated assertions against Israel, in particular accusing the Government of Israel of committing war crimes by deliberately targeting civilians during its operations in Gaza;

Whereas the report downplayed the overwhelming evidence that Hamas deliberately used Palestinian civilians and civilian institutions as human shields against Israel and deliberately targeted Israeli civilians with rocket fire for over eight years prior to the operation;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council voted to welcome the report, to endorse its recommendations, and to condemn Israel without mentioning Hamas;

Whereas, as a result of the report, the United Nations General Assembly has passed two resolutions endorsing the report's findings, the United Nations Secretary-General has been requested to submit several reports on implementation of its recommendations, and the Human Rights Council is scheduled to follow up on implementation of the report during future sessions;

Whereas the findings of the Goldstone report and the subsequent and continued

United Nations member state actions following up on those findings have caused and continue to cause extensive harm to Israel's standing in the world and could potentially create legal problems for Israel and its leaders;

Whereas Justice Richard Goldstone publicly retracted the central claims of the report he authored in an op-ed in The Washington Post on April 2, 2011;

Whereas Justice Goldstone wrote in that article that if he "had known then what I know now, the Goldstone Report would have been a different document";

Whereas Justice Goldstone concluded that, contrary to his report's findings, the Government of Israel did not intentionally target civilians in the Gaza Strip as a matter of policy;

Whereas, in contrast, Justice Goldstone states that the crimes committed by Hamas were clearly intentional, were targeted at civilians, and constitute a violation of international law;

Whereas Justice Goldstone also conceded that the number of civilian casualties in Gaza was far smaller than the report alleged;

Whereas Justice Goldstone admitted that Israel investigated the findings in the report, while expressing disappointment that Hamas has not taken any steps to look into the report's findings; and

Whereas Justice Goldstone concluded that "Israel, like any other sovereign nation, has the right and obligation to defend itself and its citizens": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council members to reflect the author's repudiation of the Goldstone report's central findings, rescind the report, and reconsider further Council actions with respect to the report's findings;

- (2) urges United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon to work with United Nations member states to reform the United Nations Human Rights Council so that it no longer unfairly, disproportionately, and falsely criticizes Israel on a regular basis;

- (3) requests Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon to do all in his power to redress the damage to Israel's reputation caused by the Goldstone report;

- (4) asks the Secretary-General to do all he can to urge member states to prevent any further United Nations action on the report's findings; and

- (5) urges the United States to take a leadership role in getting the United Nations and its bodies to prevent any further action on the report's findings and limit the damage that this libelous report has caused to our close ally Israel and to the reputation of the United Nations.

PERMITTING USE OF THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 33.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 33) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.