



115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To strengthen prohibitions regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CRUZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to  
the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To strengthen prohibitions regarding the Palestine Liberation  
Organization, 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 “PLO Accountability  
5 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Palestine Liberation Organization  
9 (PLO) Mission office, representing the PLO, and by  
10 extension, the Palestinian Authority (PA), in Wash-

1        ington, DC, was opened in 1994 in order to imple-  
2        ment the Oslo Accords, which initiated direct nego-  
3        tiations between the PLO and the Government of  
4        Israel.

5            (2) Section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of  
6        1987 (title X of Public Law 100-204; 22 U.S.C.  
7        5202), makes it unlawful to “establish or maintain  
8        an office, headquarters, premises, or other facilities  
9        or establishments within the jurisdiction of the  
10       United States at the behest or direction of, or with  
11       funds provided by the Palestine Liberation Organi-  
12       zation or any of its constituent groups, any suc-  
13       cessor to any of those, or any agents thereof”.

14           (3) Using various authorities, the executive  
15       branch has waived the provisions of section 1003 of  
16       the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987.

17           (4) Article XXXI, clause 7, of the Israeli-Pales-  
18       tinian Interim Agreement on the Status of the West  
19       Bank and the Gaza Strip (September 28, 1995)  
20       states that “Neither side shall initiate or take any  
21       step that will change the status of the West Bank  
22       and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the per-  
23       manent status negotiations”.

24           (5) In January 2009, the PLO sent a declara-  
25       tion to the International Criminal Court under Arti-

1     Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute of the International  
2     Criminal Court on behalf of the Palestinian Author-  
3     ity.

4             (6) On October 31, 2011, the United Nations  
5     Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
6     (UNESCO) voted to admit the “State of Palestine”  
7     as its 195th full member. Since being admitted, the  
8     Palestinians have used UNESCO to pass anti-Israel  
9     resolutions, including a recent effort to deny the his-  
10    torical connection of the Jewish people to holy sites  
11    including the Temple Mount and Western Wall in  
12    Jerusalem.

13            (7) On November 29, 2012, the United Nations  
14    General Assembly voted to accord the “State of Pal-  
15    estine” status as a nonmember observer State at the  
16    United Nations.

17            (8) On April 2, 2014, the PLO joined the Gene-  
18    va Conventions as well as 13 other organizations.

19            (9) On January 2, 2015, the PLO acceded to  
20    the Rome Statute, and on January 16, 2015, the  
21    Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court  
22    opened a “preliminary examination of the situation  
23    in Palestine” after accepting jurisdiction of the  
24    International Criminal Court over “alleged crimes

1 committed in the occupied Palestinian territory, in-  
2 cluding East Jerusalem, since June 13, 2014”.

3 (10) The PLO’s decision to accede to the Rome  
4 Statute as well as several international organizations  
5 is an attempt to change the status of the West Bank  
6 and the Gaza Strip outside of direct negotiations be-  
7 tween the Israelis and Palestinians.

8 (11) On January 7, 2015, the Department of  
9 State’s Office of the Spokesperson stated, “We have  
10 made clear our opposition to Palestinian action in  
11 seeking to join the Rome Statute of the Inter-  
12 national Criminal Court.”

13 (12) On April 1, 2015, the “State of Palestine”  
14 officially became a member of the International  
15 Criminal Court.

16 (13) The PLO and PA continue to engage in  
17 incitement and glorify terrorism, and reward terror-  
18 ists, their families, and the families of those who  
19 died committing terrorist attacks with roughly  
20 \$300,000,000 annually in salaries and benefits, pro-  
21 viding a higher reward to those with longer jail sen-  
22 tences.

23 (14) On August 30, 2016, Deputy Secretary of  
24 State, Anthony J. Blinken, submitted to Congress a  
25 report as required under section 804(b) of the For-

1       eign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990  
2       and 1991 (Public Law 101–246), sections 603 and  
3       604 of the Middle East Peace Commitments Act of  
4       2002 (subtitle A of title VI of Public Law 107–228),  
5       and section 699 of the Foreign Relations Authoriza-  
6       tion Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228).

7           (15) In this report, Deputy Secretary of State  
8       Blinken, acting under authority delegated to him as  
9       Deputy Secretary pursuant to the President’s Dele-  
10      gation of Functions on April 30, 2009, made the de-  
11      termination that “the PLO and PA are not in com-  
12      pliance with certain commitments to prevent viola-  
13      tions, discipline violators, and assume responsibility  
14      over all PLO elements. . .thus the sanction speci-  
15      fied in section 604(a)(2) of [Public Law 107–228],  
16      calling for a downgrade in status of the PLO office  
17      in Washington, DC, has been imposed”.

18           (16) On January 31, 2017, then Acting Sec-  
19      retary of State, Thomas Shannon, pursuant to the  
20      President’s Delegation of Functions dated April 30,  
21      2009, submitted to Congress a similar report to  
22      Congress as required under section 804(b) of the  
23      Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years  
24      1990 and 1991, sections 603 and 604 of the Middle  
25      East Peace Commitments Act of 2002, and section

1       699 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fis-  
2       cal Year 2003, in which the same determination was  
3       made that the PLO and PA are not in compliance  
4       with their commitments, and imposed the same  
5       sanction of a downgrade in the status of the PLO  
6       office in Washington, D.C.

7               (17) In both the August 30, 2016, and January  
8       31, 2017, reports, the sanctions were immediately  
9       waived.

10              (18) Section 604(a) of the Middle East Peace  
11       Commitments Act of 2002 (subtitle A of title VI of  
12       Public Law 107-228) requires that if the President  
13       determines that the PLO or the Palestinian Author-  
14       ity has not complied with each of the commitments  
15       specified in such section, the President shall impose  
16       one or more of the following sanctions:

17                   (A) The denial of visas to PLO and PA of-  
18       ficials.

19                   (B) The downgrade in status of the PLO  
20       office in the United States.

21                   (C) The designation as a foreign terrorist  
22       organization of the PLO, or one or more of its  
23       constituent groups (including Fatah).

1                   (D) The prohibition on United States as-  
2                   sistance to the West Bank and Gaza (except  
3                   humanitarian assistance).

4 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5           It is the sense of Congress that—

6                   (1) the Palestine Liberation Organization  
7                   (PLO) has failed to live up to its commitment to a  
8                   bilateral peace process with Israel, renounce vio-  
9                   lence, accept Israel's right to exist, and honor pre-  
10                   vious diplomatic agreements made by the Palestin-  
11                   ians, and continues to circumvent a negotiated set-  
12                   tlement with Israel by seeking unilateral statehood  
13                   at the United Nations and from other countries, ac-  
14                   tively endorsing terror, and supporting boycotts, di-  
15                   vestments, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel;

16                   (2) the Palestinian initiation of an International  
17                   Criminal Court preliminary examination, investiga-  
18                   tion, or active support for such an investigation, that  
19                   subjects Israeli nationals to an investigation for al-  
20                   leged crimes against Palestinians, is part of a delib-  
21                   erate effort to engage in diplomatic, legal warfare  
22                   against Israel and would violate the Palestinians'  
23                   commitment to not change the status of the West  
24                   Bank and Gaza Strip;

1           (3) the only path towards solving the conflict is  
2 through direct negotiations between Israel and the  
3 Palestinians;

4           (4) the Palestinians should not turn to outside  
5 parties, including international organizations, to im-  
6 pose or otherwise influence a solution;

7           (5) it is in the national security interests of the  
8 United States to close down the PLO office in  
9 Washington, D.C.; and

10          (6) the executive branch should avail itself of  
11 the range of sanctions as allowed under the author-  
12 ity to impose sanctions under section 604 of the  
13 Middle East Peace Commitments Act of 2002 (sub-  
14 title A of title VI of Public Law 107-228) in order  
15 to hold the Palestinian leadership accountable.

16 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITIONS REGARDING THE PALESTINE LIB-**  
17 **ERATION ORGANIZATION UNDER THE ANTI-**  
18 **TERRORISM ACT OF 1987.**

19          Section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22  
20 U.S.C. 5202) is amended—

21           (1) by striking “It shall be unlawful” and in-  
22 serting “(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful”;  
23 and

24           (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
25 section:



1       “(b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision  
2 of law, including section 604 of the Middle East Peace  
3 Commitments Act of 2002 (subtitle A of title VI of Public  
4 Law 107–228), the President may waive for a period of  
5 not more than 6 months the provisions of subsection (a)  
6 if the President determines and certifies in writing to Con-  
7 gress, not later than 45 days before the waiver is to take  
8 effect, that—

9           “(1)(A) the Palestinians have not, on or after  
10       January 1, 2017, obtained in the United Nations or  
11       any specialized agency thereof the same standing as  
12       member states or full membership as a state outside  
13       an agreement negotiated between Israel and the Pal-  
14       estinians;

15           “(B) the Palestinians have officially ceased to  
16       be members of the International Criminal Court  
17       (ICC) and have withdrawn from the Rome Statute  
18       of the International Criminal Court;

19           “(C) any preliminary examination or ongoing  
20       investigation against Israel, the Government of  
21       Israel, the Israeli Armed or Security Forces, or any  
22       Israeli national initiated by, or on behalf of, the Pal-  
23       estinians, or referred to the ICC by a state party,  
24       the United Nations Security Council, or a Pre-Trial  
25       Chamber has been withdrawn and terminated;

1           “(D) the PLO and the Palestinian Authority no  
2 longer provide any financial award, payment, salary,  
3 or benefit to Palestinians who have committed ter-  
4 rorist attacks, their families, or the families of those  
5 who died committing acts of terrorism;

6           “(E) the PLO and the Palestinian Authority  
7 has ceased to engage in a pattern of incitement  
8 against or with respect to the United States or  
9 Israel; or

10           “(2) the Palestinians have entered into a final  
11 negotiated peace agreement with, and have ceased  
12 all hostilities against, Israel.

13           “(c) DEFINITION.—In subsection (b)(1)(E), the term  
14 ‘incitement’ means to advocate, endorse, or express sup-  
15 port for violence, martyrdom, or terrorism, or glorify,  
16 honor, or otherwise memorialize any person or group that  
17 has advocated, sponsored, or committed acts of terrorism,  
18 including the naming after or dedication to such person  
19 or group of any school, community center, camp, sports  
20 team, stadium, public square, street, land, landmark, wa-  
21 terway, or other facility.”.