



TAKE ACTION!!

June 14, 2006

Urge Senators to Support Peace between Israel and Palestine by co-sponsoring Senate Resolution 224

TAKE ACTION NOW! Visit the CRS Action Center – <http://actioncenter.crs.org> – today to call your Senators and urge them to co-sponsor Senate Resolution 224 in support of peace and security in Israel and Palestine.

WHY THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT: Senate Resolution 224 introduced by a bipartisan group of Senators reaffirms the Senate's dedication to a two-state solution with "the State of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security." The resolution also:

- Renounces violence and terror;
- Reiterates an unwavering commitment to Israel's security;
- Calls on the Palestinian Authority to recognize Israel, reject terrorism, and accept past agreements;
- Calls on both Israeli and Palestinian leaders to work for peace and to refrain from "any actions that would prejudice the outcome of final status negotiations;"
- Urges the U.S. "to pursue a robust diplomatic effort," to make a two-state solution "a top priority" by engaging Israel and the Palestinian Authority in negotiations and to appoint a Special Envoy for Middle East Peace; and
- Welcomes the Arab League Peace Initiative and encourages Arab states in the region to become involved in this intensified diplomatic effort.

While Senate resolutions are non-binding, Catholic Relief Services believes that its passage will propel U.S. policymakers to pay increased attention to the urgent need for greater involvement in support of lasting peace and stability between Israel and Palestine.

WHY WE SHOULD GET INVOLVED: Catholic social teaching is rooted in the fundamental dignity of every human life. As Catholics, we are called to uphold human dignity and to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters worldwide who are suffering because of war, disease, natural disaster and poverty. In response to this call, Catholic Relief Services has been working in the Holy Land for more than 40 years to improve the lives of poor people who are suffering, support human development, and foster peace and reconciliation between faith traditions.

Recently, Bishop Wenski, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on International Policy, sent [a letter to the Senate](#) urging them to co-sponsor S. 224. USCCB has also issued an action alert for Catholics to call on their Senators to support S. 224. For years USCCB has worked with key national Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious leaders to support robust U.S. leadership for peace in the Holy Land, and has spoken out on the human and moral dimensions of the continuing crisis in the Middle East. Peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors and the establishment of a viable Palestinian state living in peace alongside a secure Israel would contribute greatly to stability in the region. Ultimately, the Bishops have stated that ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be central to U.S. policy.

TALKING POINTS: Visit the CRS Action Center – <http://actioncenter.crs.org> – to call your Senators today and:

1. Urge them to co-sponsor Senate Resolution 224
2. If they have already co-sponsored S. Res. 224, thank them for their support of peace and stability for Israel and Palestine. [Click here to find out who has co-sponsored S. 224.](#)
3. Let them know that you support a two-state solution and a just and comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace.
4. Urge your Senators to support continued and robust U.S. diplomatic efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a top priority for U.S. policy.

For further information contact:

Tina Rodousakis, Legislative Network Specialist, 1-800-235-2772 x 7462; trodousa@crs.org

Catholic Relief Services' advocacy efforts flow from the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, especially the call to protect the dignity of people, uphold rights and responsibilities, safeguard the common good and to act in solidarity with people in poverty.