

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE OHIO SENATE TRANSPORTATION,  
COMMERCE AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 10  
FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

**PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF EDWARD DOUGLAS  
STATE OF OHIO DIRECTOR  
CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL**

Chairman Larose and committee members, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about my organization's support for HCR 10. My name is Edward Douglas, and I am the State of Ohio Director of "Christians United for Israel," better known as C U F I or CUFI, the largest pro-Israel organization in the U.S. Presently our membership is over 3.8 million, with members in all fifty states and many in almost every county of Ohio. Also, there are "CUFI On Campus" chapters at over 150 colleges, with 70 more chapters in the process of registration. We are on the web at [www.CUFI.org](http://www.CUFI.org).

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions of Israel, or BDS, is simply said another form of anti-Semitism for the purpose of delegitimizing Israel and the discrimination against and elimination of the Jewish people in the Middle East. These Jews have been forced by worldwide discrimination and hatred to move to Israel, a country the size of New Jersey, where they have been very capably protecting themselves, and bolstering our U.S. defense and biotech industries, as well. Israel has been helping us keep America safe.

This anti-Semitism has been exported to our universities by the same people who are lying to America, teaching hatred of Americans and Jews to their children, and now to ours, and committing acts of terror.

Why do I say this, knowing the complexity of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, or is it that complex? I personally attended a lecture last year at Siegal College in Beachwood, Ohio, entitled "Obstacles to Peace in the Israeli/ Palestinian Conflict, Where Do We Go From Here?" The speaker was Ghaith al-Omari, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute and a former member of the Palestinian negotiating team 1999 – 2001 and advisor to the Palestinian President and Prime minister, plus much more relating to Palestinian issues. I remember this verbatim from his lecture, "80% of Palestinians don't trust their leadership and know that their government is corrupt" and this is an obstacle to peace. Remember, he represented the Palestinians. So that leaves 20%, the Palestinian Authority leadership, directing the teaching of hatred of Israel and the Jewish people in their schools, and paying generous monthly salaries to Palestinian terrorists serving time in Israeli prisons for murderous crimes against civilians, and

to the families of terrorists who die while perpetrating their attacks. Yes, these are salaried workers under Palestinian Authority law, and the work they do, for which they are paid, is killing Jews, Israeli or not. And the more Jews they kill, the more they are paid. The Palestinian educational system provides powerful incentives to murder Israelis and Americans.

These monthly payments to terrorists or their families amounted to \$300 million in 2017 and that was the same approximate amount, \$300 million, given to the Palestinian Authority in 2017 by the United States in aid.

Legislation has been introduced in both houses of Congress called the "Taylor Force Act." This act, when passed, will cut off American aid to the Palestinian Authority until the PA stops making payments to terrorists. Taylor Force was an American West Point graduate, not Jewish, who survived tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. When Force visited Israel in 2016, he was stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist named Bashar Masalha. Under Palestinian law, Bashar Masalha's family is entitled to receive for the rest of their lives monthly payments far larger than the average Palestinian salary. As of today, the "Taylor Force Act" has passed the House of Representatives and is in Senate Committee.

When President Trump met President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, first in Ramallah, capital of the Palestinian Authority, and then in Washington D.C. early in his administration, President Abbas told him that our \$300 million in aid was not going for payments to terrorists, and that the Palestinian Authority was not teaching hatred of Israel and the Jewish people in their schools. President Trump determined later that that was not true, and he accurately called President Abbas a "liar." The U.S. administration has come out in strong support of the "Taylor Force Act."

You may ask why have I told you all of this, what has it to do with BDS? Well, basically the BDS movement was started by the leadership of the Palestinians, snowballing to other Arab countries, to the United Nations, to NGO's (non-governmental organizations), and now it is expanding on our campuses. Can you trust such leadership to be presenting truthful information to American college students? Do you trust them to provide anything other than false anti-Israel propaganda, hatred of America, and anti-Semitism, so foreign to our American culture and sensibilities? Do you want this BDS movement, started by leadership that has the reputation I mentioned previously, to continue on our campuses and throughout the world?

So, I ask you Chairman Larose, along with your colleagues on this committee and on the floor of the Senate, to support this resolution HCR 10 with your votes in order to reduce anti-Semitism and discrimination against Jewish students on our campuses, and to stand firmly with Israel. Thank you!!!

I'll be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

