



Vote No on H.Res.11 Objecting to UN Security Council Resolution on Israeli Settlements

- On December 23, 2016, the UN Security Council adopted [Resolution 2334](#), which reaffirmed that the “establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.” The resolution passed 14-0 with the United States abstaining.
- The abstention of the United States was fully consistent with a fifty year, bipartisan record of stated opposition to Israel’s colonization of Occupied Palestinian Territory. This opposition was encapsulated in an April 1978 [letter](#) to Congress from the Department of State’s legal advisor that Israeli settlements are “inconsistent with international law.” On December 28, 2016, Secretary of State John Kerry [stated](#) that there has been “no change since then to affect that fundamental conclusion.”
- UN Security Council Resolution 2334 merely reiterates the international community’s consensus that Israel’s settlements have no legal validity—it does not establish new policy regarding Israel’s settlements. The resolution closely parallels the language of [UN Security Council Resolution 446](#), adopted in 1979, holding that “the policy and practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity.” The United States also abstained on this resolution, but [noted](#) that its “content generally accords with the frequently stated position of the United States on settlements in the occupied territories.”
- H.Res.11 contains many inaccurate statements about the content of UN Security Council Resolution 2334. The UN resolution does not enforce binding parameters for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian issue on the parties and does not seek to supplant direct negotiations between them. Nor is the UN resolution one-sided: it also calls for “immediate steps to prevent all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation and destruction,” and calls on both parties “to observe calm and restraint, and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric.” The UN resolution does not break new ground by reaffirming that East Jerusalem is included in the West Bank for purposes of defining Occupied Palestinian Territory. Nor does the resolution include any language supporting the Palestinian civil society-led call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions.
- Secretary of State Kerry best [summarized](#) why the United States abstained from voting on this UN resolution: “If we had vetoed this resolution just the other day, the United States would have been giving license to further unfettered settlement construction that we fundamentally oppose.” H.Res.11, based on inaccurate statements about the content of UN Security Council Resolution 2334, undermines half a century of bipartisan US opposition to Israel’s colonization of Palestinian land and attempts to give Israel, in violation of international law, the license it seeks to continue its illegal settlement activities. Representatives are strongly urged by the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights to vote no or abstain on H.Res.11 and uphold the US position opposing Israeli settlements.