

**National Security Working Group**  
***Weekly National Security Working Group Update***  
**Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman**  
**Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), NSWG Chairman**  
***14 September 2011***

The National Security Working Group (NSWG) is comprised of Trent Franks, 2nd, AZ; Connie Mack, 14th, FL; Duncan Hunter, 52nd, CA and Allen West, 22nd, FL. We look forward to providing RSC members updates on national security issues and matters using this forum. We welcome your inputs.

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*- Iran's and the Muslim Brotherhood's Negative Influence to Middle East Peace (Rep Franks)*

According to Haaretz.com, the Iranian parliament applauded and praised the attack against the Israeli Embassy in Egypt last week. A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Policy Committee said parliament members voiced their support for the destruction of the Israeli Embassy by thousands of Egyptians.

Iran has not recognized Israel's sovereignty since the 1979 Islamic revolution and has publicly declared Israel as an enemy of the region. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for the elimination of Israel from the region. Furthermore, Ahmadinejad has said the Israeli state should be relocated to Europe or North America.

The continued destructive actions by Ahmadinejad and his cronies in the parliament are hastening the rapid decline and possible collapse of the longstanding peace agreements between Israel and Egypt. Egypt is at a critical crossroad after the Arab Spring; support the 1979 Camp David Accords and ensure longstanding peace with Israel or fall victim to the negative outside influence by Iran and others that will lead to isolation by the United States and friends of a free Israel.

Even more concerning is the threat of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) and their cover organization, "The Freedom and Justice Party," controlling Egypt after the upcoming elections. The MB Supreme Leader, Mohammed Badei, has previously declared war on the U.S. The MB could have a significant influence in policies towards the United States and Israel. Should the MB gain reigns of the Egyptian government, a jihadist winter could result against Israel. The Obama Administration must make it clear to the MB, Iran and other enemies of Israel that the United States will always support Israel's sovereignty.

*- Turkey's Aggressive Rhetoric and Actions towards Israel (Rep Franks)*

Over the recent weeks, Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has fuelled the rapid decline with Israel with his aggressive rhetoric. According to Suzan Fraser of the Associated Press, Turkey imposed a series of sanctions on Israel to include expelling Israel's diplomats last week. Turkey has also suspended military relations with Israel.

To make matters worse, Erdogan stated last week that Turkish warships would escort future aid ships headed to Gaza. This is in response to Israeli commandos killing nine Turkish citizens on a flotilla headed for Gaza on May 31, 2010. Erdogan expected Israel to make an apology for the raid and pay compensation to the victims' families, which Israel has not done.<sup>1</sup>

Israel has the right to defend itself by preventing militants from bringing weapons into Gaza. Israel has insisted the Gaza blockade is a necessary action to ensure smuggled weapons do not reach terrorists whose

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<sup>1</sup> Fraser, Suzan. (September 9, 2011). Turkish PM says navy will escort aid ships to Gaza. [www.heraldonline.com](http://www.heraldonline.com).

aim is to target and attack Israeli citizens. A United Nations report released last week confirmed the Israeli blockade as legitimate.<sup>2</sup>

Erdogan's comments and use of Turkish warships to break Israel's blockade are threatening actions to an already fragile Middle East. While Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has tried to ease tensions with Turkey, Erdogan's rhetoric and actions are threatening the long term peace and partnership between Israel and Turkey.

NSWG Contact: Drew Nishiyama, [Drew.Nishiyama@mail.house.gov](mailto:Drew.Nishiyama@mail.house.gov) or 5-4576 in Rep Franks' office

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*- Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act of 2011, H.R. 2881 (Rep West)*

As our nation remembers the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11th, it is important to acknowledge that the attacks in New York and Washington, DC were not the first attacks upon our nation, but rather just an escalation of previous terrorist attacks against the United States. In many of our embassies and Foreign Service posts, American employees serve alongside, and face the same hazards and risks, as our military personnel and intelligence officers. As Foreign Service employees engage more visibly in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is important that they know that their contributions and sacrifices are as highly valued as those of our military personnel.

That is why last week I introduced the Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act of 2011, H.R. 2881, with Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS), and over 20 original cosponsors. This bipartisan legislation authorizes the Department of State to provide compensation for the families of fallen Foreign Service employees that is comparable to what is provided to the families of fallen military personnel.

This legislation also recognizes our moral obligation to the families of the twelve Americans killed in the August 1998 Al Qaeda bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi Kenya. Many of the surviving family members of that incident have endured significant and continuing financial and personal hardships that serve as a poignant example of the burdens faced by such survivors. These families have been unable to seek damages through the courts as others families in similar situations have because such actions are limited to state-sponsored acts of terror.

NSWG Contact: Josh Grodin, [Josh.Grodin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Josh.Grodin@mail.house.gov), or 5-3026 in Rep West's office.

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*- Mexican Insurgency is Preeminent Threat to U.S. National Security (Rep Mack)*

With the ability to severely damage the US economy and take American lives, the insurgency in Mexico is the largest national security threat in close proximity to the United States. Drug cartels in Mexico have evolved into transnational criminal organizations and can now be accurately identified as insurgents. Yesterday, in a joint hearing of two House Foreign Affairs Subcommittees, a panel of witnesses testified that the insurgency is not only a threat to the national security of Mexico but is a threat to the national security of the United States.

The Casino Royale in the northern city of Monterrey, in the state of Nuevo Leon, was attacked on August 25, 2011 resulting in 52 deaths and is the second deadliest attack in the Mexican drug war. Days after the fire, a video emerged showing the brother of Monterrey Mayor Fernando Larrazabal accepting large amounts of cash at a blackjack table in another casino. The slaughter on August 25th exemplifies the current state of Mexico as an insurgency through the drug cartel's utilization of violence and coercion to intimidate and instill fear, and show the population that they are in control and not the government. Some refuse to recognize the situation in Mexico for what it is: a criminal insurgency that should be the main U.S. national security focus. As the cartels and criminal organizations continue to undermine rule of law, the United States must quickly update its definition of the problem and offer new counter-insurgency strategies before this insurgency soon becomes more dangerous than any we've seen to date.

NSWG Contact: Kristin Jackson, [Kristin.Jackson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kristin.Jackson@mail.house.gov), or 5-2536 in Rep Mack's office.

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Questions/comments regarding RSC NSWG items can be directed to Bruce Miller [bruce.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:bruce.miller@mail.house.gov)

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<sup>2</sup> Fraser, Suzan. (September 9, 2011). Turkish PM says navy will escort aid ships to Gaza. [www.heraldonline.com](http://www.heraldonline.com).