

VARIOUS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

**H.R. 3202, H.R. 6328, H.R. 6456, H. Res. 937,
H. Res. 1008, H. Res. 1069, H. Res. 1159,
H. Res. 1254, H. Res. 1266, H. Res. 1279,
H. Res. 1290, H. Res. 1307, H. Con. Res. 344,
H. Con. Res. 361 and H. Con. Res. 371**

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VARIOUS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2008

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:40 p.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Howard L. Berman (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman BERMAN. The committee will come to order. I assume my boilerplate language about protests has been read and pursuant to notice, I call up the bill, H.R. 3202, the Foreign Service Overseas Pay Equity Act of 2007. Without objection, the amendment in the nature of a substitute before the members will be considered as the base text for purposes of amendment, will be considered as read, will be open for amendment at any point.

[The information referred to follows:]

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3202

To amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to extend comparability pay adjustments to members of the Foreign Service assigned to posts abroad, and to amend the provision relating to the death gratuity payable to surviving dependents of Foreign Service employees who die as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WOLF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to extend comparability pay adjustments to members of the Foreign Service assigned to posts abroad, and to amend the provision relating to the death gratuity payable to surviving dependents of Foreign Service employees who die as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Service Over-
3 seas Pay Equity Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. OVERSEAS COMPARABILITY PAY ADJUSTMENT.**

5 (a) OVERSEAS COMPARABILITY PAY ADJUSTMENT.—
6 Chapter 4 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C.
7 3961 and following) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 **“SEC. 415. OVERSEAS COMPARABILITY PAY ADJUSTMENT.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Service who is
11 designated class 1 or below and whose official duty station
12 is neither in the continental United States nor in a non-
13 foreign area shall receive the same locality-based com-
14 parability payment under section 5304 of title 5, United
15 States Code (stated as a percentage) as would be payable
16 to such member if such member’s official duty station
17 were in the District of Columbia.

18 “(b) TREATMENT AS BASIC PAY.—The amount of
19 any locality-based comparability payment which is payable
20 to a member by virtue of this section—

21 “(1) shall be considered to be part of the basic
22 pay of such member for the same purposes as pro-
23 vided for under section 5304(c)(2)(A) of title 5,
24 United States Code; and

25 “(2) shall be subject to any applicable limita-
26 tions on pay.

1 “(c) PHASE-IN.—The locality-based comparability
2 payment payable to a member under this section shall—

3 “(1) in fiscal year 2008, be equal to 33.33 per-
4 cent of the adjustment which would otherwise apply
5 under subsection (a);

6 “(2) in fiscal year 2009, be equal to 66.67 per-
7 cent of the adjustment which would otherwise apply
8 under subsection (a); and

9 “(3) in fiscal year 2010 and each subsequent
10 fiscal year, be equal to the adjustment determined
11 under subsection (a).

12 “(d) NON-FOREIGN AREA DEFINED.—For purposes
13 of this section, the term ‘non-foreign area’ has the same
14 meaning as is given such term in regulations carrying out
15 section 5941 of title 5, United States Code.”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
17 tents set forth in section 2 of such Act is amended by
18 inserting after the item relating to section 414 the fol-
19 lowing:

“Sec. 415. Overseas comparability pay adjustment.”.

20 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 this section shall apply with respect to pay periods begin-
22 ning on or after October 1, 2007, or the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, whichever is later.

1 **SEC. 3. DEATH GRATUITY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 413(a) of the Foreign
3 Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3973(a)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(a)(1)”;
5 and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(2) For purposes of any computation under this sec-
8 tion, the rate of basic salary payable to a Foreign Service
9 employee at time of death shall—

10 “(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B),
11 be deemed to have been equal to the rate that was
12 then payable for level II of the Executive Schedule
13 under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code;
14 or

15 “(B) if the decedent was subject to a local com-
16 pensation plan under section 408 at time of death,
17 be deemed to have been equal to the highest basic
18 salary rate that was then payable under such plan.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
20 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to deaths occurring
21 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3202
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Service Over-
3 seas Pay Equity Act of 2008”.

4 SEC. 2. OVERSEAS COMPARABILITY PAY ADJUSTMENT.

5 (a) OVERSEAS COMPARABILITY PAY ADJUSTMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of the Foreign
7 Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3961 and following)
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “SEC. 415. OVERSEAS COMPARABILITY PAY ADJUSTMENT.

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Service who is
11 designated class 1 or below for purposes of section 403
12 and whose official duty station is neither in the continental
13 United States nor in a non-foreign area shall receive, in
14 accordance with the phase-in schedule set forth in sub-
15 section (c), the same locality-based comparability payment
16 under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code (stated
17 as a percentage) as would be payable to such member if

1 such member's official duty station were in the District
2 of Columbia.

3 “(b) TREATMENT AS BASIC PAY.—The amount of
4 any locality-based comparability payment which is payable
5 to a member of the Service by virtue of this section—

6 “(1) shall be considered to be part of the basic
7 pay of such member—

8 “(A) for the same purposes as provided for
9 under section 5304(e)(2)(A) of title 5, United
10 States Code; and

11 “(B) for purposes of chapter 8; and

12 “(2) shall be subject to any limitations on pay
13 applicable to locality-based comparability payments
14 under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code.

15 “(c) PHASE-IN.—The locality-based comparability
16 payment payable to a member of the Service under this
17 section shall—

18 “(1) beginning on the first day of the first pay
19 period beginning on or after the date that fiscal
20 year 2009 appropriations are made available by en-
21 actment of the Department of State, Foreign Op-
22 erations, and Related Programs Appropriations
23 Act, 2009, or April 1, 2009, whichever is earlier,
24 be equal to 33.33 percent of the payment which
25 would otherwise apply under subsection (a);

1 “(2) beginning on the first day of the first pay
2 period in fiscal year 2010, be equal to 66.67 percent
3 of the payment which would otherwise apply under
4 subsection (a); and

5 “(3) beginning on the first day of the first pay
6 period in fiscal year 2011 and each subsequent fiscal
7 year, be equal to the payment determined under sub-
8 section (a).

9 “(d) NON-FOREIGN AREA DEFINED.—For purposes
10 of this section, the term ‘non-foreign area’ has the same
11 meaning as is given such term in regulations carrying out
12 section 5941 of title 5, United States Code.”.

13 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
14 contents set forth in section 2 of such Act is amend-
15 ed by inserting after the item relating to section 414
16 the following:

“Sec. 415. Overseas comparability pay adjustment.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE
18 FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS.—

19 (1) CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND.—Effective
20 as of the first pay period beginning on or after Octo-
21 ber 1, 2010, section 805(a) of the Foreign Service
22 Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4045(a)) is amended—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
2 “7.25 percent” and inserting “7 percent”;
3 and

4 (ii) in the second sentence, by striking
5 “The contribution by the employing agen-
6 cy” through “and shall be made” and in-
7 serting “An equal amount shall be contrib-
8 uted by the employing agency”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “,
11 plus an amount equal to .25 percent of
12 basic pay”; and

13 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
14 “, plus an amount equal to .25 percent of
15 basic pay”; and

16 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking all that
17 follows “Code” and inserting a period.

18 (2) COMPUTATION OF ANNUITIES.—Section
19 806(a)(9) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 4046(a)(9)) is
20 amended by striking “is outside the continental
21 United States shall” and inserting “was outside the
22 continental United States during the period begin-
23 ning on December 29, 2002, and ending on the day
24 before the first day of the first pay period beginning
25 on or after October 1, 2010 (or during any portion

1 thereof) shall, to the extent that such computation
 2 is based on the basic salary or basic pay of such
 3 member for such period (or portion thereof),”.

4 (3) ENTITLEMENT TO ANNUITY.—Section
 5 855(a)(3) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 4071d(a)(3)) is
 6 amended—

7 (A) by striking “section 8414” and insert-
 8 ing “section 8415”; and

9 (B) by striking “is outside the continental
 10 United States shall” and inserting “was outside
 11 the continental United States during the period
 12 beginning on December 29, 2002, and ending
 13 on the day before the first day of the first pay
 14 period beginning on or after October 1, 2010
 15 (or during any portion thereof) shall, to the ex-
 16 tent that such computation is based on the
 17 basic salary or basic pay of such member for
 18 such period (or portion thereof),”.

19 (4) DEDUCTIONS AND WITHHOLDINGS FROM
 20 PAY.—Section 856(a)(2) of such Act (22 U.S.C.
 21 4071e(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

22 “(2) The applicable percentage under this sub-
 23 section shall be as follows:

“Percentage	Time Period
7.5	Before January 1, 1999.
7.75	January 1, 1999, to December 31, 1999.
7.9	January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2000.

“Percentage	Time Period
7.55	January 11, 2003, to the day before the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after October 1, 2010.
7.5	Beginning on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after October 1, 2010.”.

1 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1,
3 2010, the Secretary of State shall submit to the ap-
4 propriate congressional committees an assessment of
5 all allowances provided to members of the Foreign
6 Service under the Foreign Service Act of 1980 or
7 under title 5, United States Code, and in particular,
8 how such allowances have been or will be affected by
9 the amendments to the Foreign Service Act of 1980
10 made by this Act.

11 (2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
12 section, the term “appropriate congressional commit-
13 tees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
14 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
15 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

16 **SEC. 3. DEATH GRATUITY.**

17 The first sentence of section 413(a) of the Foreign
18 Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3973(a)) is amended by
19 striking “at the time of death” and inserting “at level II
20 of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5,
21 United States Code, at the time of death, except that for
22 employees compensated under local compensation plans

1 established under section 408, the amount shall be equal
2 to the greater of 1 year's salary at the time of death or
3 1 year's salary at the highest step of the highest grade
4 on the local compensation plan from which the employee
5 was being paid at the time of death''.



Chairman BERMAN. I yield to the distinguished ranking member on the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, Mr. Smith, the sponsor of the legislation, 5 minutes to explain the bill and the amendment.

Mr. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. And I want to thank you and the ranking member for your very strong support, not only for the legislation, but for moving this legislation today before the committee. It is greatly appreciated by me, but especially by our Foreign Service Officers (FSO) who are deployed throughout the world as well as here in Washington, DC.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, there are about 11,500 Foreign Service Officers who have been significantly and disproportionately malaffected by this pay disparity that has grown year after year. And just to put it into perspective, the number of Foreign Service Officers, who do a great job on behalf of the United States of America, are less than one U.S. Army division. If you look at how many U.S. servicemen and women are deployed to Hawaii, for example, there are approximately 36,000. We are talking about one-third of that number and they carry on the business of our diplomacy and do so, so ably, in our 167 U.S. Embassies and 100 consulates overseas.

Let me note for the record that about two-thirds of an FSO's career is spent overseas, 20 years out of the 30 on average that they spend, if they make a career out of that kind of work. There is a gross disparity, a 21 percent difference. If a member of the Foreign Service is serving in Washington, DC, they get a 21 percent basic pay increase vis-à-vis those who are deployed overseas. This disparity would be corrected in a phase-in over 3 years with this legislation. The differential, like I said, is the direct result—well, I did not say, but I am saying it now—of legislation passed back in 1990. That law upgraded the amount of pay that our Foreign Service Officers would get to include comparability pay—the idea that when they are compared to the private sector, we tried to make it more equal back in 1990—and then this differential, like I said, has just caused a gross disparity because it ends when you are deployed overseas.

In a poll of about 4,300 of our Foreign Service Officers, this pay disparity was ranked as the top parity, the top concern. And I believe if it goes unchecked, if we do not correct it, we will see numbers of, maybe even huge numbers over time, leaving the Foreign Service. Some of our best and brightest will say this pay differential is just too much. "I cannot stay housed in Washington forever. I am in the Foreign Service to do my work abroad and I am just going to find some other line of work." Thankfully, that has not happened yet, but I think it is a very real possibility unless we correct this pay disparity.

H.R. 3202 would rectify the problem, bottom line, by establishing a global pay scale, by extending the Washington, DC, locality pay rate to Foreign Service members serving overseas. The locality pay would be phased in over a 3-year period, beginning in Fiscal Year 2009. The President's budget, Dr. Rice, in particular, and John Negroponte have made this a very high priority issue. I know Dr. Rice has made phone calls and written letters on behalf of correcting this difference because they know that the core of our for-

eign policy is not only those who implement it, but those who are our eyes and ears overseas, our Foreign Service Officers and we have to treat them fairly and not have this differential between serving in Washington and serving abroad.

The legislation would also amend the Foreign Service death gratuity. It would provide a more standard amount to be paid to the surviving dependents of Foreign Service employees who die as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad. This amendment is particularly timely, given the terrorists attacks this month involving U.S. personnel in Iraq and Turkey. The death of Stephen Farley, a State Department employee who was also serving on a provisional reconstruction team in Baghdad, has brought home to all of us the heroic service that civilian as well as military American men and women are providing in dangerous areas around the world. And I say this because I know all of us at one time or another, some more than others, do travel and when you talk to the Foreign Service Officers, you just come to appreciate the difficulties, the arduous nature of their work and the impact upon their families, as well. If you serve in Africa, not only you, but your dependents suffer a very high possibility of getting diseases like malaria. Our people who are deployed in that part of the world are constantly trying to mitigate that threat to themselves. So, there is real hardship associated with this job.

I know they love their jobs. I have talked to them enough and I am sure my colleagues have as well, to know that they love this work. We cannot have this pay disparity go on forever. It is 21 percent now. Next year, it will go higher. The year after that, it will go still higher. And that gap, like I said, would be a major problem and could lead to an exodus of many of these very highly talented people. I do hope my colleagues will support the bill.

Finally, and very briefly, this is the third time we have been to this point. This legislation has passed before in H.R. 2601, which was the State Department Reauthorization bill. We had provisions exactly like this and, unfortunately, that was never considered by the Senate. And 2 years ago, we had legislation all teed up to move forward and regrettably the crush of the schedule at the end of the year precluded its passage. So, let us get it done. I will yield to you.

Chairman BERMAN. The gentleman yields back. All time has expired. I yield to the ranking member, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, so much, Mr. Chairman, and I am pleased to support the Smith bill, H.R. 3202. I appreciate the many members of this committee who have co-sponsored this legislation, and I particularly thank my good friend from New Jersey for putting this bill forward.

The U.S. Foreign Service Officers are professionals who believe deeply in the values of our country. Foreign Service personnel often operate in extremely challenging situations and at times under extremely dangerous circumstances. Many in the Foreign Service have stepped up to the plate volunteering for assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other troubled spots on the forefront of our Nation's diplomacy around the globe. This legislation ends an unintended pay disparity that has gone on for far too long. By ending this disparity and phasing in locality pay for Foreign Service Officers worldwide, this committee is validating the exemplary service

and the sacrifice made by men and women of the Foreign Service each and every day.

The 110th Congress and this committee have an exceptional, perhaps unique opportunity to resolve this problem in the remaining months of this Congress. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for scheduling Mr. Smith's measure for the committee's consideration today and I urge all members to support it.

Chairman BERMAN. The time of the young lady has expired. Now, I yield myself 5 minutes in support of the bill.

I want to really congratulate Congressman Smith and Congressman Payne, as co-sponsor, as well as the ranking member for putting forward legislation in the first place and supporting it. I just briefly repeat some of the points that Congressman Smith made.

Federal employees who work in the District of Columbia, currently receive a locality adjustment of 20.89 percent. This almost 21 percent enhancement, which grows in size each year, is, of course, given to all Foreign Service Officers working in Foggy Bottom here in the District of Columbia. But because of an oversight, the Foreign Service Act does not provide for this very large portion of the normal base salary to be provided to the same Foreign Service Officers when they serve abroad. As a result, when we transfer our officers to their overseas post on assignment, the first thing they get is a 21-percent pay cut. Officers, who by statute, are entitled to a 20-percent bonus above their base salary for serving in a hardship post, like Libreville, La Paz, Ulaanbaatar, Damascus, Tripoli, and Sarajevo, actually receive a pay cut as a reward for their willingness to serve in uncomfortable, dangerous, and high-risk posts. Adding insult to injury, the most senior members of the Foreign Service—ambassadors, deputy mission chiefs—no longer suffer from this inequity in basic pay, as the pay gap for senior officers was removed when a pay for performance system was implemented for senior executives throughout the government in 2004.

Punishing our junior and mid-ranking diplomats when serving abroad makes no sense, and as locality pay increases each and every year, maintaining this two-tiered system of pay becomes more of a disincentive to the most qualified young Americans considering a career in the Foreign Service. The fact that families of married Foreign Service Officers frequently give up a second income when they go abroad creates even greater inequities.

The administration and Secretary Rice, in particular, have long maintained that we should address this issue. For the past several years, the President has affirmatively included funding in his budget request for the 150 account to close the locality pay gap. This legislation, H.R. 3202, will require the administration to close the overseas pay gap in three stages starting in Fiscal Year 2009, so that by Fiscal Year 2011, we will have completely ended this pay inequity. And as the gentleman from New Jersey mentioned, H.R. 3202 also contains a provision to enhance the death gratuity provided to family members when a Foreign Service Officer or Foreign Service National is killed overseas in the line of duty.

So, again, I commend the sponsors of this legislation for pushing this proposal and I strongly urge my colleagues to support it. And I yield back the balance of my time.

The gentleman from American Samoa, did you seek recognition? Oh, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Payne, co-sponsor of the legislation, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you and let me thank you, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this bill up. And I certainly appreciate the support from the sponsor from New Jersey, Chris Smith, on the Foreign Service Overseas Pay Equity Act. Let me thank Mr. Smith for introducing the bill and as an original co-sponsor of H.R. 3202, the Foreign Service Overseas Pay Equity Act.

Certainly, there are a number of reasons why I believe that we should pass this legislation today. As it has been indicated, we have seen Foreign Service move into a profession that has increased its risk and hardship. In the old days, it was a position that there was very little risk involved. Our agencies were placed in major thoroughfares where there was the maximum number of people and activity and it was done on purpose, because the United States wanted to have its Embassy and our flag and our presence shown very, very strongly and very prominently throughout the world. However, since 9/11 and even prior to 9/11, there had been a rethinking of, one, even the physical positions where embassies are situated, where there has to be more land in areas that are not as heavily traveled. They are set back. And so, we do believe that it is important that there is equity in the compensation for our Foreign Services.

There are certainly danger and hardship posts, which have increased from fewer than 200 posts at the start of the decade to over 900 posts today. As recent as March of this year, the State Department stated that 12 percent of all overseas posts remain vacant. The U.S. Foreign Service is being stretched thin, just as our military is right now with staffing demands. We are requiring officers to serve more hardship posts such as those within Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan; posts where families are exposed to violent situations, which have little or no access to quality medical care and which poses a very real threat of disease, such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, and malaria. We are asking them to undergo more training, where now that the world is becoming more of a global village, there is more need for language teaching, Arabic languages, Chinese, very difficult languages to comprehend. And so, there is much more pressure put on our applicants for these positions.

With all of that said, the demand that we have placed on our Foreign Service Officers has increased, yet we have allowed this pay inequity to continue for 14 years. Let me remind us that the bill does not entail a pay raise but a correction in the inequity to the pay schedule for which Foreign Service Officers bear the burden, while their counterparts in other agencies, such as the CIA and even in the military, get hazardous pay when they are in certain areas. And so, almost 70 percent of all Foreign Service positions are overseas and with these overseas assignments come a pay cut of almost 21 percent. At this rate for every 5 years served overseas by a Foreign Service Officer, 1 year of salary is lost. Also take into account that a majority of the spouses of Foreign Service Officers do not have the opportunity to find work overseas and that entire family expenses, such as childcare and mortgages, are paid by the salary of the Foreign Service Officer in the family. The pay in-

equity, in addition to the added hardships pressed upon families that serve in the Foreign Service, is one of the main reasons why the recent survey—44 percent of Foreign Service Officers in the survey say that they are less likely to remain in foreign service as a full-time career. They simply say they cannot afford it.

It is without a doubt that this country has taken the power of diplomacy for granted and that in our effort to secure a safe and more secure United States and the rest of the world, that we will continue to rely on diplomacy. That is the way to go in the future. So, we must make sure that we can attract the best and the brightest for that policy. With that, I urge support of this legislation.

Chairman BERMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired. Are there any amendments to the legislation? We are very close to our reporting requirement. Let us use the amendment process for others who want to speak. So, anyone who wants to move to strike the last word, this will be the time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman BERMAN. The gentlelady from Texas, Ms. Sheila Jackson Lee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. For what purpose do you seek recognition?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. To strike the last word, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. The gentlelady is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank the original co-sponsors of this legislation, Mr. Smith, Mr. Payne, and a number of others, and the chairman of the committee and the ranking member. This is a very important legislative initiative and I would like to go on record for thanking the many embassy staff that we engage with as we travel on our duties and responsibilities around the world. Having recently returned from a number of countries, including India and Pakistan, Egypt and Israel and Afghanistan, and to see the work of many of those teams is certainly beyond the hardship pay that some of those areas get, just the cost of living is an important step forward in recognizing the difficulty of living overseas. Particularly, we see it glaringly so in the face of the economy here in the United States and the unfortunate status of the dollar.

I, also, want to commend the legislation for the increase in the death benefit, if you will, tragically, that is certainly not something that we would want to envision. However, having gone through over the years the tragedy of the bombings in Tanzania and Kenya and seeing the family members, who were simply pressing the government to be compensated for the tragic loss of their love ones, we know that the embassy service in foreign countries, wherever they might be, is a dangerous service and it subjects you to possibilities of loss of life, whether it is intentional or accidental.

So, I want to commend the authors and I join in supporting this legislation for the fairness that it enacts and also the increase in the death benefit, recognizing death gratuity vis-à-vis for compensation to the families and the fairness in the treatment of State Department employees and also the recognition of the difficult service that they give. With that, I yield back.

Chairman BERMAN. The time for the gentlelady has expired. The question—

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman BERMAN. The gentlemen from California, for what purpose do you seek recognition?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Well, if I might just have 5 minutes, strike the last word.

Chairman BERMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Pardon me for again being the skunk at the lawn party in this love fest.

Chairman BERMAN. It is not the first time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. It is not the first time nor will it be the last time. And let me, before I go into this, let me note that I have traveled overseas and worked with career Foreign Service Officers probably more than most of the people on this committee, anyway, and I have a great personal regard for the people I am dealing with and who are representing our country. They are generally superior people who are very dedicated. And I have absolutely nothing but praise in terms of the job they are doing.

But let me just note, I think what we are talking about here is a pay raise and, quite frankly, we should just think of it as a pay raise. And perhaps if this was being presented to me forthrightly, instead of so diplomatically, I might even support the idea of our diplomats getting a higher level of pay. But I think one definition of diplomacy is achieving one's goals without confrontation and rancor. And, in fact, I think what I have here is an example of how the Foreign Service has managed to give themselves a major pay raise without confrontation and rancor.

I mean, what is this? Why do the people who work for the Foreign Service who come to Washington earn more money in the first place? Because, they came to us and said, "We cannot get by living in Washington, DC, without a pay differential, because it is more expensive in Washington." So, now, they are saying, "Well, because we have to move out of Washington, we need to get a pay raise"—everybody needs to get a pay raise. You need to keep it forever.

Now, what I want to know is, if we agree with this, won't, after a certain number of years, all of the rest of the Foreign Service Officers or most everybody will have this extra amount of money and then the people moving to Washington, back to Washington, will say, "Well, it is more expensive in Washington, we need to get more money to live in Washington." And, thus, you have a cycle that is created that will be a never-ending cycle of pay raises for people who work for the Foreign Service.

Now, that may be a good thing, that we should always give to the career Foreign Service more money and more money and more money for their pay. They are good people; as you say, top quality individuals. But, this makes—the argumentation that has been given today makes no sense at all. It is based on faulty logic because they came to us for the pay differential to begin with. Now, they want to keep that permanently. Within a very short period of time, because everybody has it, they are going to ask for another pay differential, because it is still more expensive to live in Washington, DC.

Now with that said, I just thought we needed to talk about this. I know everybody is afraid to say anything bad about the career Foreign Service, because we all respect them so much, and I do.

But I think we need to put this in perspective and I thought I would add those thoughts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. I thank the gentleman. The time of this gentleman has expired. The question occurs on the amendment in the nature of a substitute. All in favor will vote aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman BERMAN. All opposed will vote no.

[Chorus of nos.]

Chairman BERMAN. The ayes have it. The amendment is agreed to. The chair is prepared to receive a motion.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I move the favorable recommendation of H.R. 3202 as amended to the House.

Chairman BERMAN. The question occurs on the motion by the gentleman to report H.R. 3202 as amended favorably to the House. All in favor, say aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman BERMAN. All opposed, say no.

[Chorus of nos.]

Chairman BERMAN. The ayes have it. The motion is adopted. Without objection, the bill will be reported as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute, incorporating the amendments adopted by the committee, and the staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

We have a series of non-controversial bills on the agenda. It is the intention of the chair to consider these measures en bloc and by unanimous consent authorize the chair to report certain measures to the House and seek consideration of the remaining bills under suspension of the rules. All members are given leave to insert their remarks on the measures into the record, should they choose to do so.

Without objection, the amendment in the nature of a substitute, which the members have in front of them, to H.R. 6328, a bill to develop a policy to address the critical needs of Iraqi refugees, is deemed to be adopted and the bill is reported favorably to the House of Representatives. Without objection, the bill will be reported as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute incorporating the amendments adopted by the committee. Staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

[H.R. 6328 and the amendment referred to follows:]

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6328

To develop a policy to address the critical needs of Iraqi refugees.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2008

Mr. BERMAN (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SHAYS, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To develop a policy to address the critical needs of Iraqi refugees.

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. WHITE HOUSE COORDINATOR FOR IRAQI REFU-**
4 **GEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PER-**
5 **SONS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the
7 Executive Office of the President, the position of White
8 House Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Dis-
9 placed Persons (referred to in this section as the “Coordi-
10 nator”), who shall be appointed by the President.

★

1 (b) RANK; SUPERVISION.—The Coordinator shall—

2 (1) have the rank and status of Ambassador-at-
3 Large; and

4 (2) report directly to the President.

5 (c) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall—

6 (1) develop and implement United States' poli-
7 cies and strategies to—

8 (A) address the protection, resettlement,
9 and assistance needs of Iraqi refugees and dis-
10 placed persons; and

11 (B) foster long-term solutions for improv-
12 ing the lives of Iraqi citizens and nationals who
13 have been displaced;

14 (2) coordinate all Federal Government func-
15 tions to ensure that a cohesive, comprehensive policy
16 is implemented to address the resettlement and hu-
17 manitarian needs of Iraqi refugees and internally
18 displaced persons;

19 (3) monitor the development and implementa-
20 tion of assistance strategies to countries in the Mid-
21 dle East hosting Iraqi refugees;

22 (4) ensure that the President's budget requests
23 to Congress are sufficient to meet the needs of
24 Iraqis and displaced persons and seek to fund at
25 least 50 percent of all United Nations and other

1 international organizations' appeals for Iraqi refu-
2 gees and internally displaced persons;

3 (5) serve as principal liaison with—

4 (A) the Government of Iraq and the inter-
5 national community to solicit and direct bilat-
6 eral and multilateral contributions to address
7 the humanitarian needs of Iraqis in Syria, Jor-
8 dan, and other countries in the Middle East
9 and internally displaced persons in Iraq;

10 (B) the nongovernmental humanitarian
11 community; and

12 (C) organizations that are assisting Iraqi
13 refugees and internally displaced persons; and

14 (6) ensure that the United States Government
15 will encourage refugee returns only when conditions
16 permit safe, sustainable returns on a voluntary
17 basis.

18 (d) REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act and every
21 180 days thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit a
22 report on the implementation of the strategy devel-
23 oped under subsection (b)(1) to—

24 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
25 the Senate;

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
2 the House of Representatives;

3 (C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
4 Senate; and

5 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
8 this subsection shall—

9 (A) include specific financial commitments
10 made by countries in the region, Arab League
11 members, and other major donors in the inter-
12 national community for Iraqi refugees and in-
13 ternally displaced persons; and

14 (B) address challenges to securing addi-
15 tional commitments.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6328
OFFERED BY MR. BERMAN OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. WHITE HOUSE COORDINATOR FOR IRAQI REFUGES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS.**
2
3

4 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established, in the
5 Executive Office of the President, the position of White
6 House Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Dis-
7 placed Persons (in this Act referred to as the “Coordi-
8 nator”), who shall be appointed by the President.

9 (b) **RANK; SUPERVISION.**—The Coordinator shall—

10 (1) have the rank and status of Ambassador-at-
11 Large; and

12 (2) report directly to the President.

13 (c) **DUTIES.**—The Coordinator shall—

14 (1) develop and implement United States’ poli-
15 cies and strategies to—

16 (A) identify, gather comprehensive infor-
17 mation on, and address the regional protection,
18 assistance, and resettlement needs of Iraqi refu-

1 gees, including vulnerable populations, such as
2 religious minorities, women and girls vulnerable
3 to prostitution, and victims of trafficking;

4 (B) identify, gather comprehensive infor-
5 mation on, and address the protection, assist-
6 ance, and resettlement needs of internally dis-
7 placed persons in Iraq;

8 (C) foster long-term solutions for improv-
9 ing the lives of Iraqi refugees, internally dis-
10 placed persons in Iraq, and populations in
11 camps near Iraq's borders;

12 (2) coordinate all Federal Government depart-
13 ments and agencies to ensure that a cohesive, com-
14 prehensive policy is implemented to address the re-
15 settlement and humanitarian needs of Iraqi refugees,
16 internally displaced persons in Iraq, and populations
17 in camps near Iraq's borders;

18 (3) monitor the development and implementa-
19 tion of assistance programs and strategies, including
20 income support, for Iraqi refugees and internally
21 displaced persons in Iraq;

22 (4) coordinate the development and implemen-
23 tation of United States humanitarian assistance pro-
24 grams for internally displaced persons in Iraq with
25 other humanitarian assistance programs carried out

1 by the United States Agency for International De-
2 velopment for other vulnerable populations in Iraq;

3 (5) ensure that the President's budget request
4 to Congress reflects the United States' strong na-
5 tional interest in ensuring that displaced populations
6 inside and outside Iraq are not vulnerable to recruit-
7 ing efforts of violent extremist groups, takes into
8 consideration the rapidly diminishing personal re-
9 sources of the displaced, and reflects a commen-
10 surately strong response to address the needs of
11 Iraqi refugees, internally displaced persons in Iraq,
12 and populations in camps near Iraq's borders;

13 (6) encourage the Government of Iraq to pro-
14 vide adequate financial and other support to address
15 the immediate humanitarian needs of Iraqi refugee
16 populations in the Middle East and internally dis-
17 placed persons in Iraq;

18 (7) serve as principal liaison with—

19 (A) the Government of Iraq, the Arab
20 League, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Eu-
21 ropean Community, and other countries to so-
22 licit bilateral and multilateral contributions to
23 address the humanitarian needs of Iraqis in
24 Syria, Jordan, and other countries in the Mid-

1 dle East and internally displaced persons in
2 Iraq;

3 (B) international and multilateral organi-
4 zations, including United Nations agencies and
5 the International Organization for Migration,
6 that are assisting Iraqi refugees and internally
7 displaced persons in Iraq; and

8 (C) nongovernmental humanitarian organi-
9 zations that are providing assistance to Iraqi
10 refugees and internally displaced persons in
11 Iraq; and

12 (8) ensure that the United States Government
13 will encourage the return of refugees and internally
14 displaced persons in Iraq only when conditions per-
15 mit safe, sustainable returns on a voluntary basis.

16 **SEC. 2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS DISPLACE-**
17 **MENT CONCERNS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
19 nation with the Coordinator, shall increase diplomatic ef-
20 forts with the Government of Iraq on refugee and internal
21 displacement concerns and provide technical assistance to
22 the Government of Iraq, its Ministry of Displacement and
23 Migration, and related ministries within the Government
24 of Iraq to address internal displacement concerns.

1 (b) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State,
2 in coordination with the Coordinator, shall use diplomatic
3 efforts and provide technical assistance to—

4 (1) urge the Government of Iraq to provide
5 funding to address the immediate humanitarian
6 needs of Iraqi refugees, internally displaced persons
7 within Iraq, and populations in camps near Iraq’s
8 borders;

9 (2) ensure that Iraqi refugees are encouraged
10 to return to Iraq and internally displaced persons in
11 Iraq are encouraged to return to their homes only
12 when conditions permit safe and sustainable return;

13 (3) further develop the capacity of Government
14 of Iraq’s Ministry of Displacement and Migration
15 and expand the Ministry’s effectiveness and presence
16 in Iraq’s provinces;

17 (4) assist the Government of Iraq’s Ministry of
18 Displacement and Migration to increase capacity in
19 order to comprehensively identify and register inter-
20 nally displaced persons in Iraq, including through
21 enhanced outreach efforts through the Ministry’s di-
22 rectorates;

23 (5) assist the Government of Iraq’s Ministry of
24 Displacement and Migration to establish a robust
25 system, with anticorruption protections, of providing

1 financial assistance and other forms of support, in-
2 cluding housing assistance, psychosocial and medical
3 assistance, educational services, and employment
4 services to internally displaced persons in Iraq and
5 to Iraqi refugees who have returned from neigh-
6 boring countries in the region; and

7 (6) assist the Government of Iraq, in coordina-
8 tion with international organizations, in developing a
9 system to equitably address residential land and
10 housing claims and disputes arising after March 1,
11 2003, to enable Iraqi refugees and internally dis-
12 placed persons in Iraq to return to their homes or
13 receive restitution and resettlement in new homes in
14 appropriate, peaceful areas.

15 **SEC. 3. RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM IRAQ TO THE**
16 **UNITED STATES.**

17 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
18 gress that the Fiscal Year 2008 Presidential Determina-
19 tion for refugee admissions will result in the insufficient
20 resettlement of vulnerable Iraqi refugees to the United
21 States and will not fulfill the United States' historical
22 commitment to protect and welcome large numbers of ref-
23 ugees fleeing persecution in conflict areas.

24 (b) PROGRAMS FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL AND MEDICAL
25 NEEDS OF REFUGEES.—The Secretary of Health and

1 Human Services shall seek to provide adequate programs
2 to address the psychosocial and medical needs of refugees
3 resettled in the United States, especially those who were
4 victims of torture or are suffering from post-traumatic
5 stress or other psychological traumas.

6 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE TO IRAQI REFUGEES IN THE**
7 **HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN.**

8 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Government
9 of Jordan has been and remains a key United States ally
10 and has taken on the financial burden of hosting refugees
11 from Iraq.

12 (b) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, in collabo-
13 ration with the Coordinator, should consult with the Gov-
14 ernment of Jordan to ensure that assistance provided to
15 Jordan to meet the needs of Iraqi refugees is used to ad-
16 dress the economic, social, and health needs of such refu-
17 gees, including—

18 (1) to assess the feasibility of extending tem-
19 porary residence status in Jordan to Iraqi refugees;

20 (2) to assist Iraqi refugees in Jordan to main-
21 tain their educational and vocational skills; and

22 (3) to support the capacities of Jordanian com-
23 munities to host Iraqi refugees.

1 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ASSISTANCE.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that United States assist-
3 ance to address the resettlement and humanitarian needs
4 of Iraqi refugees should not be provided to the Govern-
5 ment of the Syrian Arab Republic or the Government of
6 the Islamic Republic of Iran.

7 **SEC. 6. REPORT BY COORDINATOR.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act and every 180 days
10 thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit a report on the
11 implementation of this Act to—

12 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
13 House of Representatives;

14 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
15 Senate;

16 (3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
17 House of Representatives; and

18 (4) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
19 ate.

20 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to
21 subsection (a) shall describe—

22 (1) specific financial commitments made for
23 Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons in
24 Iraq by countries in the region, Arab League mem-
25 bers, and other major donors;

1 (2) challenges to securing additional financial
2 commitments for Iraqi refugees and internally dis-
3 placed persons in Iraq;

4 (3) in accordance with technical assistance pro-
5 vided under section 2 and other appropriate existing
6 programs, efforts to provide technical assistance to
7 the Ministry of Displacement and Migration and
8 other ministries providing services to Iraqi refugees
9 or internally displaced persons in Iraq;

10 (4) efforts to develop a system for equitable set-
11 tlement of residential land claims and housing dis-
12 putes arising after March 1, 2003;

13 (5) the coordination of Federal department and
14 agency responses to the crisis of Iraqi refugees and
15 internally displaced persons in Iraq;

16 (6) efforts to secure funding from the Govern-
17 ment of Iraq for the immediate humanitarian needs
18 of Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons in
19 Iraq;

20 (7) improvements in programs to address the
21 psychosocial and medical needs of Iraq refugees in
22 the Middle East and Iraqi refugees who have been
23 resettled in the United States; and

1 (8) progress on assisting Iraqi refugees in Jor-
2 dan to maintain their educational and vocational
3 skills.



Chairman BERMAN. Without objection, the chair is authorized to seek consideration of the following bills under suspension of the rules and the amendments to those measures, which the members have before them, shall be deemed adopted: H.R. 6456, to provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; H. Res. 937, which designates the House of Representatives that the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross are vital resources for military service members and their families; H. Res. 1008, condemning the persecution of Baha'is in Iran; H. Res. 1069, condemning the use of television programming by Hamas to indoctrinate hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism toward Israel in young Palestinian children; H. Res. 1159, recognizing the historical significance of the United States sloop-of-war Constellation as a surviving witness to the horrors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and a leading participant in America's effort to end the practice; H. Res. 1254, supporting the values and goals of the "Joint Action Plan Between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality", signed by Secretary of State Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration Santos on March 13, 2008; H. Res. 1266, congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance; H. Res. 1279, recognizing the Special Olympics' 40th anniversary; H. Res. 1290, joining the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in observance of World Refugee Day and calling on the United States Government, international organizations, and aid groups to take immediate steps to secure urgently needed humanitarian relief for the more than 2,000,000 people displaced by genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman BERMAN. Let me just finish reading these provisions here: H. Res. 1307, commemorating the Kingdom of Bhutan's participation in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, commending the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan for their commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation; H. Con. Res. 344, recognizing that we are facing a global food crisis; H. Con. Res. 361, commemorating Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery saved the lives of thousands during the Holocaust and remembering her legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope; and H. Con. Res. 371, strongly supporting an immediate and just restitution of, or compensation for, property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes.

[The information referred to follows:]

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6456

To provide for extensions of certain authorities of the Department of State,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2008

Mr. BERMAN (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for extensions of certain authorities of the
Department of State, 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. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REEMPLOY-**
4 **MENT OF FOREIGN SERVICE ANNUITANTS.**

5 Section 824(g)(2) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980
6 (22 U.S.C. 4064(g)(2)) is amended by striking “2008”
7 each place it appears and inserting “2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PAY SUBSISTENCE**
2 **OF SPECIAL AGENTS ON PROTECTIVE DE-**
3 **TAILS.**

4 Section 32 of the State Department Basic Authorities
5 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2704) is amended, in the first
6 sentence, by striking “on authorized protective missions,
7 and” and inserting “on authorized protective missions,
8 whether at or away from their duty stations, and”.

9 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RADIO FREE ASIA.**

10 Section 309(c)(2) of the United States International
11 Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208(c)(2)) is
12 amended by striking “2009” and inserting “2010”.

13 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES FOR**
14 **INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES.**

15 Section 504(c) of the Foreign Relations Authoriza-
16 tion Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228; 22
17 U.S.C. 6206 note) is amended by striking “2008” and in-
18 serting “2009”.

○

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6456
OFFERED BY MR. FORTUÑO OF PUERTO RICO

Page 2, beginning line 1, insert the following new section (and redesignate subsequent sections accordingly):

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF UNITED STATES TERRITORIES AS**
2 **ELIGIBLE FOR REST AND RECUPERATION**
3 **TRAVEL FOR MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN**
4 **SERVICE.**

5 The Foreign Service Act of 1980 is amended—

6 (1) in section 901(6)(B) (22 U.S.C.
7 4081(6)(B)), by inserting after “United States” the
8 following: “or its territories, including American
9 Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam,
10 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
11 lands, and the United States Virgin Islands”; and

12 (2) in section 903(b) (22 U.S.C. 4083(b)), by
13 striking “, its territories and possessions, or the
14 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico” and inserting “or its
15 territories, including American Samoa, the Common-
16 wealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of
17 the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United
18 States Virgin Islands”.



110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 937

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross are vital resources for military service members and their families.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2008

Mr. BURGESS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross are vital resources for military service members and their families.

Whereas the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross are free for military families experiencing a crisis;

Whereas the Red Cross can provide notification of emergencies and other important events to over 1,400,000 active duty personnel, and 1,200,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves, on behalf of their family members;

Whereas in an emergency, the Red Cross reaches out to verify the emergency and provides third-party objective information to commanding officers;

Whereas commanding officers rely upon the Red Cross to provide timely and accurate information 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and such notification is vital to the commander's decision whether to release a service member from duty in order to join with his or her family in a time of hardship;

Whereas whether that service member is a reservist in 2 weeks of Arctic training in Alaska, a sailor on a ship in the Indian Ocean, or a member of an advanced team on patrol in Iraq, the Red Cross messaging system can communicate messages between family members when and where other civilian services cannot;

Whereas whether it is a birth or death notification, the Red Cross bears the emotional mission to deliver accurate and timely messages between family members;

Whereas the Red Cross ensures the delivery of the message and provides the family with the needed support until the service member returns home;

Whereas the Red Cross provides services through 756 chapters in the United States and on 58 military installations around the world to United States Armed Forces personnel, including our troops in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq; and

Whereas when all other communication fails, the Red Cross is there: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives that the emergency communications services

1 provided by the American Red Cross are vital for pro-
2 viding communication between military service members
3 and their families during emergencies or other important
4 events.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 937
OFFERED BY MR. BERMAN OF CALIFORNIA AND
MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross are free for military families experiencing a crisis;

Whereas the Red Cross can provide notification of emergencies and other important events to over 1,400,000 active duty personnel, and 1,200,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves, on behalf of their family members;

Whereas in an emergency, the Red Cross reaches out to verify the emergency and provides third-party objective information to commanding officers;

Whereas the Red Cross provides timely and accurate information 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and such information can assist a commander's decision whether to release a service member from duty in order to join with his or her family in a time of hardship;

Whereas whether that service member is a reservist in 2 weeks of Arctic training in Alaska, a sailor on a ship in the Indian Ocean, or a member of an advanced team on patrol in Iraq, the Red Cross messaging system can communicate messages between family members when and where other civilian services cannot;

Whereas whether it is a birth or death notification, the Red Cross bears the emotional mission to deliver accurate and timely messages between family members;

Whereas the Red Cross ensures the delivery of the message and provides the family with the needed support until the service member returns home; and

Whereas the Red Cross provides services through 756 chapters in the United States and on 58 military installations around the world to United States Armed Forces personnel, including our troops in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq; Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

- 1 That the House of Representatives appreciates the vital
- 2 emergency communications services provided by the Amer-
- 3 ican Red Cross between military service members and
- 4 their families during emergencies or other important
- 5 events.



110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1008

Condemning the persecution of Bahá'ís in Iran.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2008

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CANTOR, and Mr. McNULTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning the persecution of Bahá'ís in Iran.

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, and 2006, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Bahá'í community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Bahá'í faith;

Whereas on March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Asma Jahangir, revealed the existence of a confidential letter dated October 29, 2005, from the chairman of the command headquarters of Iran's Armed Forces to the Ministry of Information, the Revolutionary Guard, and the police force, stating the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah

Khamenei, instructed the command headquarters to identify members of the Bahá'í faith in Iran and monitor their activities;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur expressed “grave concern and apprehension” about the implications of this letter for the safety of the Bahá'í community;

Whereas in May 2006, 54 Bahá'ís were arrested in Shiraz and held for several days without trial in the largest roundup of Bahá'ís since the 1980s;

Whereas in August 2006, the Iranian Ministry of the Interior ordered provincial officials to “cautiously and carefully monitor and manage” all Bahá'í social activities;

Whereas in 2006, the Central Security Office of Iran's Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology ordered 81 Iranian universities to expel any student discovered to be a Bahá'í;

Whereas in November 2006, a letter issued by Payame Noor University stated that it is Iranian policy to prevent Bahá'ís from enrolling in universities and to expel Bahá'í upon discovery;

Whereas in 2007, more than two-thirds of the Bahá'ís enrolled in universities were expelled upon identification as a Bahá'í;

Whereas in February 2007, police in Tehran and surrounding towns entered Bahá'í homes and businesses to collect details on family members;

Whereas in April 2007, the Iranian Public Intelligence and Security Force ordered 25 industries to deny business licences to Bahá'ís;

Whereas in 2006 and 2007, the Iranian Ministry of Information pressured employers to fire Bahá'í employees and instructed banks to refuse to provide loans to Bahá'í-owned businesses;

Whereas in July 2007, a Bahá'í cemetery was destroyed by earthmoving equipment in Yazd, and in September 2007, a Bahá'í cemetery was bulldozed outside of Najafabad, erasing the memory of those Iranian citizens;

Whereas in November 2007, the Iranian Ministry of Information in Shiraz detained Bahá'ís Ms. Raha Sabet, 33; Mr. Sasan Taqva, 32; and Ms. Haleh Roohi, 29, for educating underprivileged children;

Whereas Mr. Taqva reportedly was detained while suffering from an injured leg which required medical attention;

Whereas on January 23, 2008, the State Department released a statement urging the Iranian regime to release all individuals held without due process and a fair trial, including the 3 young Bahá'ís being held in an Iranian Ministry of Intelligence detention center in Shiraz;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights; and

Whereas in December 2007, the Iranian Parliament published a draft Islamic penal code, which violates Iran's commitment under the International Covenants on Human Rights by requiring the death penalty for “apostates”, a term applied to Bahá'ís and any convert from Islam: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for its
3 state-sponsored persecution of Bahá'ís, calls on the

1 Government of Iran to immediately cease activities
2 aimed at the repression of the Iranian Bahá'í com-
3 munity, and continues to hold the Government of
4 Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its
5 nationals, including members of the Bahá'í commu-
6 nity;

7 (2) condemns the Government of Iran's contin-
8 ued imprisonment of individuals without due process
9 and a fair trial;

10 (3) calls on the Government of Iran to imme-
11 diately release 3 Bahá'ís: Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr.
12 Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi; and

13 (4) calls on the Government of Iran and the
14 Iranian Parliament to reject a draft Islamic penal
15 code, which violates Iran's commitments under the
16 International Covenants on Human Rights.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 1008**

**OFFERED BY MR. BERMAN OF CALIFORNIA
*and Ms. Ros-Lehtinen of Florida***

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, and 2006, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Bahá'í community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Bahá'í faith;

Whereas on March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Asma Jahangir, revealed the existence of a confidential letter dated October 29, 2005, from the chairman of the command headquarters of Iran's Armed Forces to the Ministry of Information, the Revolutionary Guard, and the police force, stating the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, instructed the command headquarters to identify members of the Bahá'í faith in Iran and monitor their activities;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur expressed "grave concern and apprehension" about the implications of this letter for the safety of the Bahá'í community;

Whereas in May 2006, 54 Bahá'ís were arrested in Shiraz and held for several days without trial in the largest roundup of Bahá'ís since the 1980s;

Whereas in August 2006, the Iranian Ministry of the Interior ordered provincial officials to “cautiously and carefully monitor and manage” all Bahá’í social activities;

Whereas in 2006, the Central Security Office of Iran’s Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology ordered 81 Iranian universities to expel any student discovered to be a Bahá’í;

Whereas in November 2006, a letter issued by Payame Noor University stated that it is Iranian policy to prevent Bahá’ís from enrolling in universities and to expel Bahá’í upon discovery;

Whereas in 2007, more than two-thirds of the Bahá’ís enrolled in universities were expelled upon identification as a Bahá’í;

Whereas in February 2007, police in Tehran and surrounding towns entered Bahá’í homes and businesses to collect details on family members;

Whereas in April 2007, the Iranian Public Intelligence and Security Force ordered 25 industries to deny business licences to Bahá’ís;

Whereas in 2006 and 2007, the Iranian Ministry of Information pressured employers to fire Bahá’í employees and instructed banks to refuse to provide loans to Bahá’í-owned businesses;

Whereas in July 2007, a Bahá’í cemetery was destroyed by earthmoving equipment in Yazd, and in September 2007, a Bahá’í cemetery was bulldozed outside of Najafabad, erasing the memory of those Iranian citizens;

Whereas in November 2007, the Iranian Ministry of Information in Shiraz detained Bahá’ís Ms. Raha Sabet, 33; Mr.

Sasan Taqva, 32; and Ms. Haleh Roohi, 29, for educating underprivileged children;

Whereas Mr. Taqva reportedly was detained while suffering from an injured leg which required medical attention;

Whereas on January 23, 2008, the State Department released a statement urging the Iranian regime to release all individuals held without due process and a fair trial, including the 3 young Bahá'ís being held in an Iranian Ministry of Intelligence detention center in Shiraz;

Whereas in March and May of 2008, Iranian intelligence officials in Mashhad and Tehran arrested and imprisoned Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, the members of the coordinating group for the Bahá'í community in Iran;

Whereas those seven individuals remain imprisoned without charge;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights; and

Whereas in December 2007, the Iranian Parliament published a draft Islamic penal code, which violates Iran's commitment under the International Covenants on Human Rights by requiring the death penalty for "apostates", a term applied to Bahá'ís and any convert from Islam: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) condemns the Government of Iran for its
2 state-sponsored persecution of Bahá'ís, calls on the
3 Government of Iran to immediately cease activities
4 aimed at the repression of the Iranian Bahá'í com-
5 munity, and continues to hold the Government of
6 Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its
7 nationals, including members of the Bahá'í commu-
8 nity;

9 (2) condemns the Government of Iran's contin-
10 ued imprisonment of individuals without due process
11 and a fair trial;

12 (3) calls on the Government of Iran to imme-
13 diately release 10 Bahá'ís: Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr.
14 Sasan Taqva, Ms. Haleh Roohi, Mrs. Fariba
15 Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif
16 Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli,
17 Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm; and

18 (4) calls on the Government of Iran and the
19 Iranian Parliament to reject a draft Islamic penal
20 code, which violates Iran's commitments under the
21 International Covenants on Human Rights.



110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION **H. RES. 1069**

Condemning the use of television programming by Hamas to indoctrinate hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism toward Israel in young Palestinian children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MAHONEY of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning the use of television programming by Hamas to indoctrinate hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism toward Israel in young Palestinian children.

Whereas Hamas uses their television network, Al-Aqsa TV, to air a children's show "Tomorrow's Pioneers" to breed new terrorists through hatred for Israel and Western nations;

Whereas in April 2008, Hamas introduced a new puppet show that depicted the murder of the President of the United States;

Whereas in February 2008, Hamas used a Bugs Bunny look-alike to indoctrinate children by inciting them toward ha-

tred and violence by telling children that he, “will finish off the Jews and eat them”;

Whereas in May 2007, Hamas used a Mickey Mouse look-alike in the same children’s program to teach terrorist doctrines to children;

Whereas Hamas continues to refuse to recognize Israel’s right to exist and renounce the use of violence;

Whereas Hamas continues to use terrorism to destabilize the region;

Whereas Hamas continues to be a major obstacle for a peaceful settlement of Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and

Whereas achieving Israeli-Palestinian peace could have a significant positive impact on security and stability in the region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns Hamas for using a children’s tel-
3 evision program to incite hatred, violence, and anti-
4 Semitism toward Israel; and

5 (2) demands that—

6 (A) Hamas immediately suspend all tele-
7 vision programming that incites hatred, vio-
8 lence, and anti-Semitism toward Israel; and

9 (B) Hamas recognize the State of Israel’s
10 right to exist, renounce the use of violence and
11 terrorism as political goals, and accept all past
12 peace agreements with the State of Israel.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 1069
OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS OF FLORIDA AND
MR. CROWLEY OF NEW YORK**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas freedom of the press and freedom of expression are the foundations of free and prosperous societies worldwide and are among America's most cherished values;

Whereas with freedom of the press and freedom of expression comes the responsibility to refrain from incitement to violence and to repudiate purveyors of such incitement;

Whereas for years, media outlets in the Middle East have repeatedly published or broadcasted incitement to violence against the United States and its citizens;

Whereas Hamas is designated as a terrorist organization by both the United States and the European Union;

Whereas Hamas owns and operates al-Aqsa TV;

Whereas Hamas uses Al-Aqsa TV to promote the organization's extremist and violent ideas by, inter alia, airing children's shows such as "Tomorrow's Pioneers" and "Those who Excel", the primary goal of which is to breed new anti-Israeli and anti-Western terrorists;

Whereas in April 2008 Hamas gruesomely depicted the murder of the President of the United States through the use of puppets on a children's show;

Whereas al-Aqsa TV has used popular cartoon figures to indoctrinate children and incite them toward hatred and violence, in one instance depicting a Bugs Bunny-like character declaring that he “will finish off the Jews and eat them”;

Whereas al-Aqsa TV is currently being transmitted by satellites owned by the France-based, privately-owned Eutelsat and by the Saudi Arabia-based, Arab League-owned Arabsat;

Whereas Hamas’ al-Aqsa TV follows the model of Lebanese Hezbollah’s al-Manar TV, which also promotes terrorism and incitement to violence against the United States and its citizens and is widely telecast throughout the Arab world via Arabsat and the Egypt-based, state-owned Nilesat;

Whereas Hezbollah launched the television station al-Manar in 1991 and has since funded and operated it as a “station of resistance”, intending to use it as a weapon to further its goals of promoting violence against the United States and Israel;

Whereas in 2000, al-Manar launched a satellite television channel that now has an estimated daily viewership of 10,000,000 people worldwide;

Whereas al-Manar regularly broadcasts video clips that glorify insurgent attacks against American and Coalition forces in Iraq;

Whereas the United States designated al-Manar TV a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) entity in 2006;

Whereas Press TV, Iran’s English-language satellite television network, is transmitted via the satellite providers

ArabSat, NileSat, AsiaSat, HotBird, HispaSat, IntelSat, and Galaxy, and is viewable in North America, South America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Africa;

Whereas al-Alam TV, Iran's Arabic-language satellite television network, is transmitted via the satellite providers ArabSat, NileSat, AsiaSat, HotBird, TelStar, and Galaxy, and is viewable in North America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Africa;

Whereas many Iranian state-controlled television channels have broadcast incitement to violence against the United States citizens, including coverage of rallies and speeches at which Iranian leaders, clerics, children, and mass audiences have declared "Death to America!";

Whereas on March 6, 2008, al-Alam broadcasted a warning from an Iraqi insurgent that if the USS *Cole* was not withdrawn from off the coast of Lebanon, his group would be "targeting all the United States interests, especially the warships [docked] in Umm Qasr beaches in southern Iraq";

Whereas al-Zawra is presently a nonoperational Iraqi satellite television channel that broadcasted during 2006 and 2007;

Whereas the Government of Iraq banned al-Zawra in November of 2006 for inciting "violence and murder";

Whereas multiple reports indicate that after being banned in Iraq, al-Zawra broadcast via a satellite uplink based in Syria until transmissions apparently ceased in July 2007;

Whereas al-Zawra broadcasted videos of violent attacks against American forces in Iraq depicting the destruction of humvees and armored vehicles, recruitment videos for the Abu Bakr al-Sadiq al-Salafi Battalion of al-Qaeda in

Iraq, and videos that feature prominently “Juba”, a sniper that allegedly targeted Coalition forces and called for viewers to engage in violence against Coalition forces in Iraq;

Whereas in 2007, al-Zawra aired a program widely known as “Hidden Camera Jihad”, a compilation of attacks filmed and executed by insurgents against Coalition forces in Iraq and accompanied by sound effects, scornful English language captions, and a “laugh track”;

Whereas al-Rafidayn, an Arabic-language satellite television channel based in Egypt with a focus on Iraq, is broadcast via NileSat to the Middle East and North Africa, and is affiliated with the Association of Muslim Scholars, an anti-American Islamist group based in Iraq;

Whereas al-Rafidayn has repeatedly broadcast video clips produced by Sunni insurgent and terrorist groups in Iraq, and the channel’s news broadcasts have frequently broadcasted videos, poems, and songs that praise those groups and their attacks on American forces in Iraq;

Whereas television channels that broadcast incitement to violence against United States citizens and others have demonstrated the ability to shift their operations to different countries and their transmissions to different satellite providers in order to continue broadcasting and to evade accountability;

Whereas television channels such as al-Aqsa, al-Manar, and al-Zawra broadcast incitement to violence against Americans and Israelis, purvey hatred against the West, and aid Foreign Terrorist Organizations in recruitment, fundraising, and propaganda;

Whereas the use of media outlets by advocates of violence against Americans poses a clear and present danger to the security of United States service members and American civilians serving throughout the Middle East; and

Whereas it is imperative for the United States to use all possible legal and diplomatic tools to counter the threats to American service and civilian personnel that result from the control or use of media outlets by SDGTs and other entities that intend to inflict violence on Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

- 1 That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) condemns the broadcast of incitement to vi-
- 3 olence and hatred against Americans, Israelis, and
- 4 the West by media based in the Middle East;
- 5 (2) urges governments throughout the Middle
- 6 East, American allies, and other responsible Nations
- 7 to officially and publicly repudiate purveyors of ha-
- 8 tred and incitement to violence against Americans,
- 9 Israelis, and others;
- 10 (3) calls on the President to designate Al Aqsa
- 11 TV a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT)
- 12 entity;
- 13 (4) condemns Hamas for using children’s tele-
- 14 vision programming to incite hatred, violence, and
- 15 anti-Semitism;

1 (5) demands Hamas recognize the State of
2 Israel's right to exist, renounce the use of violence
3 and terrorism as political goals, and accept all past
4 peace agreements with the State of Israel;

5 (6) calls on Saudi Arabia, the primary share-
6 holder in Arabsat, and on all other Arab States that
7 own shares in Arabsat, to cease immediately the
8 transmission of telecasts by al-Aqsa TV and al-
9 Manar TV;

10 (7) calls on Egypt, which owns Nilesat, to cease
11 immediately the transmission of telecasts by al-
12 Rafidayn TV and al-Manar TV;

13 (8) calls on the owners of Eutelsat and the
14 Government of France, which legislates what may be
15 broadcast on satellites based in France, to cease im-
16 mediately the transmission of telecasts by al-Aqsa
17 TV;

18 (9) urges the President to consider designating
19 as SDGTs satellite providers that knowingly and
20 willingly contract with entities designated as SDGTs
21 to broadcast their channels, or to consider imple-
22 menting other punitive measures against satellite
23 providers that transmit by al-Aqsa TV, al-Manar
24 TV, al- Rafidayn TV, or any other terrorist-owned
25 and operated station;

1 (10) calls on the President to take into consid-
2 eration state sponsorship of anti-American incite-
3 ment to violence when determining the level of as-
4 sistance to, and frequency and nature of relations
5 with, regional States; and

6 (11) urges all governments and private inves-
7 tors who own shares in satellite companies or other-
8 wise influence decisions about satellite transmissions
9 to oppose transmissions of telecasts by al-Aqsa TV,
10 al-Manar TV, al- Rafidayn TV, or any other ter-
11 rorist-owned and -operated stations that similarly
12 purvey insidiously anti-American, anti-Western, anti-
13 Israeli, and anti-Semitic messages and openly incite
14 their audiences to commit acts of terrorism.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution con-
demning the broadcasting of incitement to violence
against Americans and the United States in media based
in the Middle East, calling for the designation of al-Aqsa
TV as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity, and
for other purposes”.



110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1159

Recognizing the historical significance of the United States sloop-of-war Constellation as a surviving witness to the horrors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and a leading participant in America's effort to end the practice.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2008

Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FALCONE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORTUÑO, Ms. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. STARK, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WYNN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical significance of the United States sloop-of-war Constellation as a surviving witness to the horrors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and a leading participant in America's effort to end the practice.

Whereas on September 17, 1787, the United States Constitution was adopted and article I, section 9 of the document declared that Congress could prohibit the importation of slaves into the United States in the year 1808;

Whereas on March 22, 1794, the United States Congress passed “An Act to prohibit the carrying on the Slave Trade from the United States to any foreign place or country”, thus beginning American efforts to halt the slave trade;

Whereas on May 10, 1800, Congress enacted legislation that outlawed all American participation in the international trafficking of slaves and authorized the United States Navy to seize American vessels engaged in the slave trade;

Whereas on March 2, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed a bill that declared the importation of slaves into the United States illegal;

Whereas on January 1, 1808, the act “to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States” took effect;

Whereas on March 3, 1819, Congress authorized the Navy to cruise the African coast to suppress the slave trade. The Act declared that Africans on captured ships be placed under Federal jurisdiction and authorized the President to appoint an agent in Africa to facilitate their return to the continent;

Whereas in 1819, the Royal Navy of Great Britain established the West Coast of Africa as a separate naval station and actively plied the waters in pursuit of slave ships. Great Britain negotiated with many other nations to obtain the right to search their vessels if suspected of engaging in the slave trade;

Whereas on May 15, 1820, Congress declared the trading of slaves to be an act of piracy and those convicted subject to the death penalty;

Whereas in 1842, the Webster-Ashburton Treaty between Great Britain and the United States provided that both nations would maintain separate naval squadrons on the coast of Africa to enforce their respective laws against the slave trade. The newly formed United States African Squadron sailed for Africa in 1843 and remained in operation until the Civil War erupted in 1861;

Whereas in 1859, USS Constellation, the last all-sail vessel designed and built by the U.S. Navy, sailed to West Africa as the flagship of the United States African Squadron, consisting of eight ships, including four steam-powered vessels suitable for chasing down and capturing slavers;

Whereas on December 21, 1859, USS Constellation captured the brig Delicia after a 10-hour chase. Although Delicia had no human cargo on board upon capture, her crew was preparing the ship to take on slaves;

Whereas on the night of September 25, 1860, USS Constellation sighted the barque Cora near the mouth of the Congo River and, after a dramatic moonlit chase, captured the slave ship with 705 Africans crammed into her “slave deck”. A detachment of the Constellation’s crew sailed the surviving Africans to Monrovia, Liberia, a colony founded for the settlement of free African-Americans that became the destination for all Africans freed on slave ships captured by the Navy;

Whereas on May 21, 1861, USS Constellation captured the brig Triton. Though the ship did not have Africans captured for slavery on board when intercepted by the Constellation, a search confirmed its preparation to take on slaves. Triton, registered in Charleston, South Carolina, was one of the first Union naval captures of the American Civil War;

Whereas from 1859 to 1861, USS Constellation and the African Squadron captured 14 slave ships and liberated nearly 4,000 Africans destined for a life of servitude in the Americas, a record unsurpassed by the United States African squadron under previous commanders; and

Whereas on September 25, 2008, the USS Constellation Museum will hold a ceremony to commemorate the bicentennial of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade aboard the same ship that, 149 years before, forced the capitulation of the slave ship Cora and freed the 705 Africans confined within: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the historical and educational
3 significance of USS Constellation, a 153-year-old
4 American warship, berthed in Baltimore, Maryland,
5 as a reminder of both American participation in the
6 slave trade and the efforts of the United States Gov-
7 ernment to suppress this inhumane practice;

8 (2) applauds the preservation of this historic
9 vessel and the efforts of the USS Constellation Mu-
10 seum to engage people from all over the world with
11 this vital part of our history; and

12 (3) supports USS Constellation as an appro-
13 priate site for the Nation to commemorate the bicen-
14 tennial of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave
15 Trade.

○

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1254

Supporting the values and goals of the “Joint Action Plan Between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality”, signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration Edson Santos on March 13, 2008.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2008

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. JEFFERSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting the values and goals of the “Joint Action Plan Between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality”, signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration Edson Santos on March 13, 2008.

Whereas the United States and Brazil have many qualities in common, such as the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of their populations and each country’s efforts to protect de-

mocracy and the civil rights and liberties of all their citizens;

Whereas the United States and Brazil share common histories of slavery and colonialism, a diverse cultural demographic of European, African, Asian, and indigenous peoples, and strong values of democracy;

Whereas these commonalities result in an extraordinary ability to jointly seek solutions to distinct issues that affect both countries, such as racial discrimination and inequality;

Whereas in comparison to the general population, minority groups in the United States and Brazil are more at risk for discrimination in the areas of employment, education, law enforcement, and access to justice and basic services, including health care, housing, and lending;

Whereas African-Americans, Afro-Brazilians, and indigenous people in the United States and Brazil have been disadvantaged due to a history of racial inequality and discrimination in each country;

Whereas due to social disparities that exist as a result of racial discrimination in the United States and Brazil, there is a continuing need to combat racial discrimination and promote equality throughout both societies;

Whereas in recognition of the need to address racial and ethnic discrimination and promote equality in both countries, the Department of State, Brazil's Ministry of Exterior Relations, and the Special Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality began formal talks in October 2007 to negotiate areas of bilateral cooperation on combating discrimination and creating opportunities for ethnic minorities in the United States and Brazil;

Whereas, on March 13, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration Edson Santos signed the “Joint Action Plan Between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality”, also known as the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination;

Whereas the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination creates the Steering Group to Promote Equality of Opportunity, which will consist of a panel of government officials from both the United States and Brazil and facilitate the exchange of information on the best practices for antidiscrimination measures and development of ideas on how to bilaterally promote racial equality;

Whereas United States agencies and civil society members can share experiences in training educators, employers, workers, administrators of justice, such as police officers, judges, and prosecutors, and other members of society, on tolerance, equality, and antidiscrimination methods aimed at eliminating discrimination in education, housing, employment, law enforcement, and all other areas of society;

Whereas an Advisory Board, consisting of private sector representatives, government officials, civil society members, and experts on race relations and other relevant topics, will collaborate with Steering Group members at the periodic meetings of the Steering Group, to be held alternatively in Brazil and the United States;

Whereas the Inaugural Meeting of the Steering Group to Promote Equality of Opportunity will take place in July 2008 in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil;

Whereas the Government of Brazil and the Government of the United States each will determine their country's delegate members for the United States-Brazil Steering Group;

Whereas currently, United States Government participation in initiatives of the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination is supported by existing discretionary funds within the Department of State and other participating agencies;

Whereas the elimination of ethnic and racial discrimination in the United States and Brazil is an ongoing process that requires the long-term dedication of both countries;

Whereas additional resources may be needed to support future initiatives under the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination to address discrimination and promote racial and ethnic equality in the long term;

Whereas the specific areas of cooperation that the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination plans to address include education, communications and culture, labor and employment, housing and public accommodation, equal protection under the law and access to legal systems, domestic enforcement of antidiscrimination laws and policies, sports and recreation, health issues prevalent among minorities, access to credit and technical training, and social, historical, and cultural factors that contribute to racial and ethnic prejudices;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Brazil value the importance of promoting tolerance and equality by emphasizing education and promoting equal opportunities, democracy, and prosperity in both countries;

Whereas the Steering Group on Equality of Opportunity will make combating discrimination and the promotion of equality in education a main priority on primary, secondary, vocational, undergraduate, and graduate levels;

Whereas particular programs and initiatives to be considered by the Steering Group include, but are not limited to, training programs, strengthening democratic institutions, public-private partnerships with businesses and non-governmental organizations, workshops and seminars, exchanges of technical experts, scholarships and fellowships, cooperation with international organizations and civil society, and programs in third countries;

Whereas the promotion of cultural exchanges between minority groups in the two countries will create opportunities for the exchange of perspectives and experiences in race relations in both countries, as well as academic opportunities to study abroad and learn foreign languages; and

Whereas the struggle to eliminate racial discrimination is an ongoing process and requires the commitments of both countries in order to achieve equal opportunity societies for every citizen in the United States and Brazil: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) recognizes the need to promote equality and
- 3 continue to work towards eliminating racial discrimi-
- 4 nation in both the United States and Brazil;

1 (2) commends Secretary of State Condoleezza
2 Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration
3 Edson Santos for signing the “Joint Action Plan
4 Between the Government of the Federative Republic
5 of Brazil and the Government of the United States
6 of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimi-
7 nation and Promote Equality”;

8 (3) supports the continued involvement of the
9 Government of the United States in the bilateral
10 partnership of the United States-Brazil Joint Action
11 Plan Against Racial Discrimination through funding
12 that may be designated for programs as part of this
13 initiative;

14 (4) encourages the participation of the Depart-
15 ments of State, Labor, Justice, and Education; the
16 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Con-
17 gress; Federal, State, and local court systems; and
18 other agencies in the collaborative process of the
19 United States-Brazil Steering Group on Equality of
20 Opportunity; and

21 (5) urges the involvement of the private sector,
22 civil society, and experts on race relations and other
23 relevant topics to be considered as part of the Steer-
24 ing Group Advisory Board.

○

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1254
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the United States and Brazil have many qualities in common, such as the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of their populations and each country's efforts to protect democracy and the civil rights and liberties of all their citizens;

Whereas the United States and Brazil share strong values of democracy, a diverse cultural demographic, and histories marred by slavery;

Whereas in comparison to the general population, minority groups in the United States and Brazil have experienced discrimination in many areas;

Whereas there is a continuing need to combat racial and ethnic discrimination and promote equality in the United States and Brazil;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Brazil have committed to jointly seek solutions to issues affecting both countries, such as racial and ethnic discrimination and inequality;

Whereas the Department of State, Brazil's Ministry of Exterior Relations, and the Special Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality began formal talks in October 2007, to negotiate areas of bilateral cooperation on combating discrimination and creating opportunities for ethnic minorities in the United States and Brazil;

Whereas, on March 13, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Brazilian Minister of Racial Integration Edson Santos signed the “Joint Action Plan Between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the United States of America to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality”, also known as the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination;

Whereas the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination creates the Steering Group to Promote Equality of Opportunity, which will consist of a panel of government officials from both the United States and Brazil and facilitate the exchange of information on the best practices for antidiscrimination measures and development of ideas on how to bilaterally promote racial and ethnic equality;

Whereas United States and Brazil should discuss and consider techniques and initiatives for training educators, employers, workers, administrators of justice, such as police officers, judges, and prosecutors, and other members of society, on tolerance, equality, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination;

Whereas an Advisory Board, consisting of private sector representatives, government officials, civil society members, and experts on race relations and other relevant topics, will collaborate with Steering Group members at the periodic meetings of the Steering Group, to be held alternatively in Brazil and the United States;

Whereas the Inaugural Meeting of the Steering Group to Promote Equality of Opportunity will take place in 2008, in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil;

Whereas the Government of Brazil and the Government of the United States each will determine their country's delegate members for the United States-Brazil Steering Group;

Whereas currently, United States Government participation in initiatives of the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination is supported by existing discretionary funds within the Department of State and other participating agencies;

Whereas the elimination of ethnic and racial discrimination in the United States and Brazil is an ongoing process that requires the long-term dedication of both countries;

Whereas additional resources may be needed to support future initiatives under the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination to address discrimination and promote racial and ethnic equality in the long term;

Whereas the specific areas of cooperation that the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination plans to address include education, communications and culture, labor and employment, housing and public accommodation, equal protection under the law and access to legal systems, domestic enforcement of antidiscrimination laws and policies, sports and recreation, health issues prevalent among minorities, access to credit and technical training, and social, historical, and cultural factors that contribute to racial and ethnic prejudices;

Whereas the Steering Group on Equality of Opportunity will address the top priority of combating discrimination and

promoting equality in education at primary, secondary, vocational, undergraduate, and graduate levels;

Whereas particular programs and initiatives to be considered by the Steering Group include, but are not limited to, training programs, strengthening democratic institutions, public-private partnerships with businesses and non-governmental organizations, workshops and seminars, exchanges of technical experts, scholarships and fellowships, cooperation with international organizations and civil society, and programs in third countries;

Whereas the United States and Brazil should support cultural exchanges between minority groups in the two countries and opportunities for the exchange of perspectives and experiences in race relations in both countries; and

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Brazil value the importance of promoting tolerance and equality by emphasizing education and promoting equal opportunities, democracy, and prosperity in both countries: Now, therefore, be it



110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1266

Congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Congratulating Albania and Croatia on being invited to begin accession talks with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressing support for continuing to enlarge the alliance.

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met in April 2008 to enlarge the alliance, to reaffirm the purpose of NATO to defend the populations, territories, and forces in the Euro-Atlantic region, and to further strengthen the ability of NATO to confront existing and emerging 21st-century security threats;

Whereas NATO invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession talks to join NATO and indicated that those talks will begin immediately, with the aim of signing Accession

Protocols by the end of July 2008 and completing the ratification process without delay;

Whereas NATO expressed recognition of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by other countries that aspire to join NATO and commended those countries for their efforts to build multiethnic societies;

Whereas NATO agreed that Ukraine and Georgia have made valuable contributions to NATO operations, expressed clear support for the applications for Membership Action Plans from Ukraine and Georgia as the next step to full membership, and stated that NATO will begin a period of intensive engagement with Ukraine and Georgia to assess those applications for the December 2008 meeting;

Whereas NATO invited Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to begin an Intensified Dialogue on the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to their aspirations to join NATO;

Whereas NATO expressed the desire to develop an ambitious and substantive relationship with Serbia, making full use of Serbia's membership in the Partnership for Peace, and to make more progress toward integrating Serbia into the Euro-Atlantic community, including through an Intensified Dialogue following a request by Serbia; and

Whereas NATO's ongoing enlargement process has been a historic success in advancing stability and cooperation and reaching the transatlantic goal of ensuring that Europe is whole and free, and united in peace, democracy, and common values: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) congratulates Albania and Croatia on being
- 3 invited by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

1 (NATO) to begin accession talks and recognizes the
2 historic nature of that achievement, earned through
3 years of hard work and a demonstrated commitment
4 to common security and the shared values of NATO
5 members;

6 (2) expresses strong support for the timely com-
7 pletion of the accession process with Albania and
8 Croatia;

9 (3) fully supports the invitations to initiate an
10 Intensified Dialogue between NATO and Bosnia and
11 Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia;

12 (4) supports the enlargement of NATO and be-
13 lieves that continued engagement with all countries
14 that aspire to join NATO will strengthen security
15 for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic region;

16 (5) supports the declaration of NATO at the
17 Bucharest Summit, which states that NATO's door
18 should remain open to European democracies willing
19 and able to assume the responsibilities and obliga-
20 tions of membership, in accordance with article 10
21 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington
22 April 4, 1949 (TIAS 1964); and

23 (6) affirms the statement in that declaration
24 that any decision with respect to the membership of
25 countries in NATO will be made through consensus,

- 1 by members of NATO, and no country outside of
- 2 NATO has a vote or veto with respect to such deci-
- 3 sions.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.RES. 1266
OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGLY OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) met in April 2008 to enlarge the alliance, to reaffirm the purpose of NATO to defend the populations, territories, and forces in the Euro-Atlantic region, and to strengthen further the ability of NATO to confront existing and emerging 21st-century security threats;

Whereas NATO invited Albania and Croatia to begin accession talks to join NATO and indicated that those talks will begin immediately, with the aim of completing the ratification process without delay;

Whereas NATO expressed recognition of the hard work and commitment demonstrated by other countries that aspire to join NATO and commended those countries for their efforts to build multiethnic societies;

Whereas NATO invited Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to begin an Intensified Dialogue on the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to their aspirations to join NATO;

Whereas NATO expressed the desire to develop an ambitious and substantive relationship with Serbia, making full use of Serbia's membership in the Partnership for Peace, and to make more progress toward integrating Serbia into the

Euro-Atlantic community, including through an Intensified Dialogue following a request by Serbia; and

Whereas NATO's ongoing enlargement process has been a historic success in advancing stability and cooperation and reaching the transatlantic goal of ensuring that Europe is whole and free, and united in peace, democracy, and common values: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) congratulates Albania and Croatia on being
2 invited by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
3 (NATO) to begin accession talks and recognizes the
4 historic nature of that achievement, earned through
5 years of hard work and a demonstrated commitment
6 to common security and the shared values of NATO
7 members;

8 (2) congratulates Albania and Croatia on the
9 signing of the Accession Protocols by NATO mem-
10 bers on July 9, 2008, opening the way for full
11 NATO membership for both countries;

12 (3) expresses strong support for the timely com-
13 pletion of the accession process with Albania and
14 Croatia;

1 (4) fully supports the invitations to initiate an
2 Intensified Dialogue between NATO and Bosnia and
3 Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia;

4 (5) supports the enlargement of NATO and be-
5 lieves that continued engagement with all countries
6 that aspire to join NATO will strengthen security
7 for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic region;

8 (6) supports the declaration of NATO at the
9 Bucharest Summit, which states that NATO's door
10 should remain open to European democracies willing
11 and able to assume the responsibilities and obliga-
12 tions of membership, in accordance with article 10
13 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington
14 April 4, 1949 (TIAS 1964); and

15 (7) affirms the statement in that declaration
16 that any decision with respect to the membership of
17 countries in NATO will be made through consensus,
18 by members of NATO, and no country outside of
19 NATO has a vote or veto with respect to such deci-
20 sions.



110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1279

Recognizing the Special Olympics' 40th anniversary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2008

Mr. TERRY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the Special Olympics' 40th anniversary.

Whereas Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the first international Special Olympics Summer Games, which were held on July 20, 1968, in Chicago's Soldier Field;

Whereas the Special Olympics World Games are held every 4 years;

Whereas the Special Olympics oath is "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.", which was originally spoken by gladiators entering the arena in ancient Rome;

Whereas the Special Olympics is dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through sports training and competition;

Whereas the Special Olympics currently serves 2,500,000 people with intellectual disabilities in more than 200 programs in over 180 countries;

Whereas the Special Olympics currently has 700,000 volunteers and 500,000 coaches worldwide;

Whereas the Special Olympics programs offer year-round training and competition in 30 Olympic-type sports for both winter and summer;

Whereas at every Special Olympics awards ceremony, in addition to the traditional medals for first, second, and third places, athletes from fourth to last are presented a suitable place ribbon with appropriate ceremony;

Whereas the Special Olympics events are open to all intellectually disabled peoples that are above the age of 8 regardless of the degree of their disability;

Whereas the Special Olympics was officially recognized by the International Olympics Committee in February 1988 and is the only organization authorized by the International Olympics Committee to use the word "Olympics" worldwide;

Whereas the Flame of Hope is a symbol of the Special Olympics World Games and is lit in a special ceremony in Athens, Greece;

Whereas the Law Enforcement Torch Run is a multinational fundraising campaign for the Special Olympics programs in which the Flame of Hope is run by law enforcement officers to raise funds and awareness for the Special Olympics;

Whereas the cities of Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska will be hosts to the Special Olympics in July 2010; and

Whereas the Special Olympics provides its athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives con-
2 gratulates the Special Olympics on its 40th anniversary
3 for the contributions and opportunities it provides to all
4 its participants.

○

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1290

Joining the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in observance of World Refugee Day and calling on the United States Government, international organizations, and aid groups to take immediate steps to secure urgently needed humanitarian relief for the more than 2,000,000 people displaced by genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2008

Mr. BERMAN (for himself, Ms. LEE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WOLF, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Ms. GIFFORDS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Joining the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in observance of World Refugee Day and calling on the United States Government, international organizations, and aid groups to take immediate steps to secure urgently needed humanitarian relief for the more than 2,000,000 people displaced by genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Whereas the United States has resettled over 2,600,000 refugees since 1975, and over 160,000 in the last 5 years, yet reportedly only 5 Darfuris have been offered refuge

by the United States during the 5-year genocide that has claimed more than 300,000 lives and displaced 2,600,000 people from the Darfur region of Sudan;

Whereas a significant number of those displaced by the conflict in Darfur are unable to remain in encampments due to critical medical or security concerns and are in dire need of resettlement;

Whereas millions of Darfuris who have lost their homes and their loved ones as a result of the Sudanese regime's genocidal campaign continue to face grave security risks as refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and depend on the goodwill of neighboring countries and the generosity of the world humanitarian community for subsistence;

Whereas an estimated 70 to 80 percent of the 2,600,000 refugees and IDPs are women and children, including at least 1,000,000 children and teens;

Whereas the April 13, 2008, attack by Sudan-backed rebels on the Chadian capital of N'djamena, the May 10, 2008, attack by the Chad-backed rebel Justice and Equality Movement on a suburb of the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, and the increased splintering and violence between armed groups, including the rebels, Janjaweed, and other armed groups, have contributed to the drastic deterioration of security in and around Darfur;

Whereas the deteriorating security situation in Darfur and Chad has resulted in new displacements, further depriving already marginalized refugee communities, forcing relief agencies to curtail their operations, and placing even greater strain on refugee and IDP encampments;

Whereas the operations of humanitarian assistance groups have frequently been impeded by the hijacking and pillaging of their convoys by various armed groups, totaling roughly 100 incidents thus far in 2008, the abduction of 28 drivers who still remain missing, and the murder of 5 humanitarian aid workers this year alone;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has expressed concern that protracted conflict and displacement has eroded traditional leadership structures and may ultimately lead to the radicalization of an entire generation of Darfuri youth;

Whereas few refugees from Darfur living in refugee camps in Chad have access to secondary education, and boys and young men not attending school are at risk of being recruited by various armed groups in the region;

Whereas the most recent estimate of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs concluded that there are 243,031 refugees in Eastern Chad;

Whereas the continuing genocide and new displacements have resulted in overcrowding and malnourishment in both refugee camps in Chad and IDP camps in Sudan;

Whereas the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), that was deployed pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1769 (2007) to prevent armed attacks and protect civilians, has proven understaffed, underfunded, and consequently unprepared to completely protect displaced persons and even themselves from an onslaught of merciless attacks and banditry;

Whereas a \$48,000,000 budget shortfall at the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) threatens to substan-

tially limit food aid to the 4,500,000 people in Darfur and surrounding areas who currently rely on it, and as of June 10, 2008, the WFP has announced that it has curtailed flights for aid workers in Sudan due to funding shortfalls for the Humanitarian Aid Service;

Whereas the United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2008 humanitarian appeal for Chad is \$287,000,000;

Whereas of the \$287,000,000 requested in the CAP appeal for Chad in 2008, only \$142,509,209 in funding has been received, including \$33,780,520 received from the United States Government as of June 16, 2008;

Whereas the United States is the largest bilateral donor to Sudan and has provided more than \$3,000,000,000 for humanitarian programs in Sudan and eastern Chad since fiscal year 2004;

Whereas Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel has asked whether, after 3 continents have become prisons, killing fields, and cemeteries for countless innocent, defenseless populations, the plague of genocide—and indifference to it—will be allowed to spread through Darfur and elsewhere unabated; and

Whereas World Refugee Day affords the House of Representatives the opportunity to galvanize the collective conscience of the world community: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) reaffirms the historic commitment of the
- 3 United States as a nation founded by refugees to
- 4 serve as a place of refuge and to promote the safety,
- 5 health, and well-being of millions of refugees who

1 flee war, famine, persecution, and torture in search
2 of peace, nourishment, hope, and freedom;

3 (2) calls on the Department of State to con-
4 tinue to support the efforts of the United Nations
5 High Commissioner for Refugees and to advance the
6 work of nongovernmental organizations, especially
7 those that also have expertise in resettlement, to
8 protect refugees;

9 (3) calls on the United States Government to
10 continue and strengthen its leadership role in the
11 international community in response to the people of
12 the Darfur region of Sudan who have been displaced
13 by Sudan's genocide, including the most vulnerable
14 populations who endure sexual violence, human traf-
15 ficking, forced conscription, and exploitation;

16 (4) urges the parties to the conflicts in and be-
17 tween Chad and Sudan to immediately conclude and
18 respect a binding cessation of hostilities agreement,
19 commit themselves to finding a political solution
20 which addresses the root causes of those conflicts,
21 and create an environment conducive to the safe and
22 voluntary return of all displaced persons;

23 (5) demands that all armed groups in the re-
24 gion immediately cease their attacks on civilians,
25 peacekeepers, and humanitarian operations and halt

1 all recruitment activities in camps for displaced per-
2 sons;

3 (6) calls upon the Joint African Union-United
4 Nations Special Representative for Darfur to ensure
5 that displaced persons are fairly and equally rep-
6 resented in all peace negotiations;

7 (7) calls on the Department of State and the
8 President, to continue to work with the United Na-
9 tions, the African Union, and nongovernmental orga-
10 nizations, in an effort to help bring about real and
11 lasting peace and stability in Darfur, within refugee
12 and displaced persons camps, and along the Chadian
13 border;

14 (8) calls on the Department of State and the
15 Department of Homeland Security to facilitate the
16 resettlement of an appropriate number of Darfuris
17 who have been displaced and have little chance of re-
18 turning to their homes by formulating a program of
19 resettlement of Darfuris in fiscal year 2009;

20 (9) commends those who have risked their lives
21 working for the multitude of nongovernmental orga-
22 nizations, along with the United Nations High Com-
23 missioner for Refugees, who have provided life-sav-
24 ing assistance and helped protect those displaced by
25 the conflict in Darfur; and

1 (10) affirms the goals of World Refugee Day
2 and reiterates its strong commitment to protecting
3 the millions of refugees who live without material,
4 social, and legal protections.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 1290
OFFERED BY MR. BERMAN OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas while the United States has resettled over 2,600,000 refugees since 1975, and over 160,000 in the last 5 years, only an estimated 350 Darfuris have been offered refuge by the United States during the 5-year genocide that has claimed more than 300,000 lives and displaced 2,600,000 people from the Darfur region of Sudan;

Whereas a significant number of those displaced by the conflict in Darfur are unable to remain in encampments due to critical medical or security concerns and are in dire need of resettlement;

Whereas millions of Darfuris who have lost their homes and their loved ones as a result of the Sudanese regime's genocidal campaign continue to face grave security risks as refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and depend on the goodwill of neighboring countries and the generosity of the world humanitarian community for subsistence;

Whereas an estimated 70 to 80 percent of the 2,600,000 refugees and IDPs are women and children, including at least 1,000,000 children and teens;

Whereas the April 13, 2008, attack by Sudan-backed rebels on the Chadian capital of N'djamena, the May 10, 2008, attack by the Chad-backed rebel Justice and Equality

Movement on a suburb of the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, and the increased splintering and violence between armed groups, including the rebels, Janjaweed, and other armed groups, have contributed to the drastic deterioration of security in and around Darfur;

Whereas the deteriorating security situation in Darfur and Chad has resulted in new displacements, further depriving already marginalized refugee communities, forcing relief agencies to curtail their operations, and placing even greater strain on refugee and IDP encampments;

Whereas the operations of humanitarian assistance groups have frequently been impeded by the hijacking and pillaging of their convoys by various armed groups, totaling roughly 100 incidents thus far in 2008, the abduction of 28 drivers who still remain missing, and the murder of 5 humanitarian aid workers this year alone;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has expressed concern that protracted conflict and displacement has eroded traditional leadership structures and may ultimately lead to the radicalization of an entire generation of Darfuri youth;

Whereas few refugees from Darfur living in refugee camps in Chad have access to secondary education, and boys and young men not attending school are at risk of being recruited by various armed groups in the region;

Whereas the most recent estimate of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs concluded that there are 243,031 refugees in Eastern Chad;

Whereas the continuing genocide and new displacements have resulted in overcrowding and malnourishment in both refugee camps in Chad and IDP camps in Sudan;

Whereas the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), that was deployed pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1769 (2007) to prevent armed attacks and protect civilians, has proven understaffed, ill-equipped, and consequently unprepared to completely protect displaced persons and even themselves from an onslaught of merciless attacks and banditry;

Whereas a \$48,000,000 budget shortfall at the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) threatens to substantially limit food aid to the 4,500,000 people in Darfur and surrounding areas who currently rely on it, and as of June 10, 2008, the WFP has announced that it has curtailed flights for aid workers in Sudan due to funding shortfalls for the Humanitarian Aid Service;

Whereas the United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2008 humanitarian appeal for Chad is \$287,000,000;

Whereas of the \$287,000,000 requested in the CAP appeal for Chad in 2008, only \$142,509,209 in funding has been received, including \$33,780,520 received from the United States Government as of June 16, 2008;

Whereas the United States is the largest bilateral donor to Sudan and has provided more than \$4,000,000,000 in humanitarian, peacekeeping, and development assistance for Sudan and eastern Chad since fiscal year 2004;

Whereas Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel has asked whether, after 3 continents have become prisons, killing fields, and cemeteries for countless innocent, defenseless populations, the plague of genocide—and indifference to it—will be al-

lowed to spread through Darfur and elsewhere unabated;
and

Whereas World Refugee Day affords the House of Representatives the opportunity to galvanize the collective conscience of the world community: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) reaffirms the historic commitment of the
2 United States as a nation founded by refugees and
3 immigrants to serve as a place of refuge and to pro-
4 mote the safety, health, and well-being of millions of
5 refugees who flee war, famine, persecution, and tor-
6 ture in search of peace, nourishment, hope, and free-
7 dom;

8 (2) calls on the Department of State to con-
9 tinue to support the efforts of the United Nations
10 High Commissioner for Refugees and to advance the
11 work of nongovernmental organizations, especially
12 those that also have expertise in resettlement, to
13 protect refugees;

14 (3) calls on the United States Government to
15 continue and strengthen its leadership role in the
16 international community in response to the people of
17 the Darfur region of Sudan who have been displaced

1 by Sudan's genocide, including the most vulnerable
2 populations who endure sexual violence, human traf-
3 ficking, forced conscription, and exploitation;

4 (4) urges the parties to the conflicts in and be-
5 tween Chad and Sudan to immediately conclude and
6 respect a binding cessation of hostilities agreement,
7 commit themselves to finding a political solution
8 which addresses the root causes of those conflicts,
9 and create an environment conducive to the safe and
10 voluntary return of all displaced persons;

11 (5) demands that all armed groups in the re-
12 gion immediately cease their attacks on civilians,
13 peacekeepers, and humanitarian operations and halt
14 all recruitment activities in camps for displaced per-
15 sons;

16 (6) calls upon the Joint African Union-United
17 Nations Special Representative for Darfur to ensure
18 that displaced persons are fairly and equally rep-
19 resented in all peace negotiations;

20 (7) calls on the Department of State and the
21 President, to continue to work with the United Na-
22 tions, the African Union, and nongovernmental orga-
23 nizations, in an effort to help bring about real and
24 lasting peace and stability in Darfur, within refugee

1 and displaced persons camps, and along the Chadian
2 border;

3 (8) calls on the Department of State and the
4 Department of Homeland Security to facilitate the
5 resettlement of an appropriate number of Darfuris
6 who have been displaced and have little chance of re-
7 turning to their homes by formulating a program of
8 resettlement of Darfuris in fiscal year 2009;

9 (9) commends those who have risked their lives
10 working for the multitude of nongovernmental orga-
11 nizations, along with the United Nations High Com-
12 missioner for Refugees, who have provided life-sav-
13 ing assistance and helped protect those displaced by
14 the conflict in Darfur; and

15 (10) affirms the goals of World Refugee Day
16 and reiterates its strong commitment to protecting
17 the millions of refugees who live without material,
18 social, and legal protections.



110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1307

Commemorating the Kingdom of Bhutan's participation in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and commending the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan for their commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2008

Mr. BAIRD (for himself and Mr. UPTON) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the Kingdom of Bhutan's participation in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and commending the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan for their commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation.

Whereas Bhutan is a nation cloistered among some of the highest peaks in the eastern Himalayas and has for hundreds of years served as a sanctuary for the rich and unique Bhutanese culture;

Whereas Bhutan hosts some of the most pristine and biologically diverse natural environments in the modern world, owing to the agrarian society's unique farming traditions that are rooted in a deep appreciation for the land and humble devotion to its protection;

Whereas Bhutan is participating in the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and sharing with the people of the United States many aspects of its unique culture and traditions, including its special approach towards life, described in national policy as the pursuit of “Gross National Happiness”;

Whereas Bhutan was only in recent decades accessible by road and airplane but is now sharing with people throughout the world its special cultural traditions that include 13 traditional arts, zorig chusum, monastic dancers who perform ritual dances from sacred tsechus festivals, and weavers who create some of the most coveted textiles in the world;

Whereas Bhutan is transitioning to a parliamentary democracy, owing to the leadership of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who abdicated his throne on December 14, 2006, and his son King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, who is committed to conducting parliamentary elections; and

Whereas King Jigme Singye Wangchuck devolved all executive authority from the throne to the cabinet in 1998, initiated the process of drafting a constitution in 2001, ordered by royal decree an end to Bhutan’s absolute monarchy and the establishment of a parliamentary democracy in 2008, and issued to the people of Bhutan a historic document, or tsathrim, stating that “Bhutan is a sovereign Kingdom and the Sovereign power belongs to the people of Bhutan”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the United States House of
2 Representatives—

1 (1) commemorates Bhutan’s participation in
2 the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival;

3 (2) recognizes the important cultural, artistic,
4 agricultural, and environmental achievements of
5 Bhutan and the Bhutanese people;

6 (3) commends the Bhutanese people, the Gov-
7 ernment of the Kingdom of Bhutan, and His Maj-
8 esty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck for
9 their commitment to conducting parliamentary elec-
10 tions and transitioning from an absolute monarchy
11 to a parliamentary democracy; and

12 (4) remains committed to working with Bhutan,
13 should it so desire, to foster cultural exchange and
14 to assist in promoting democratic reform.

○

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 344

Recognizing that we are facing a global food crisis.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. HARE, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. KIND, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ARCURI, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BACA, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. WATSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. WATERS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing that we are facing a global food crisis.

Whereas according to the United Nations, over 850,000,000 people in the world are chronically or acutely malnourished, and over 300,000,000 of these are children;

Whereas the 2000 United Nations Millennium Development Summit called for halving the proportion of hungry people in the world by the year 2015, but progress reaching this goal has been slow, and, according to the United Na-

tions Food and Agricultural Organization, only the Latin American and Caribbean region has been reducing the prevalence of hunger quickly enough to reach this target;

Whereas every year, malnutrition caused by chronic hunger leads to the death of an estimated 5,600,000 children under 5 years old;

Whereas, according to UNICEF, an estimated 146,000,000 children, or roughly one in every four children under 5 years old, are underweight;

Whereas hunger and malnutrition weaken the immune system, and as a result treatable diseases pose a greater risk to malnourished children;

Whereas even temporary deprivation of essential nutrients can have a lasting impact on children's physical growth and intellectual potential;

Whereas children who are only mildly underweight are twice as likely to die of infectious diseases as children who are better nourished, and children who are moderately or severely underweight are 5 to 8 times more likely to die of infectious diseases;

Whereas according to a study conducted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 45 percent of children who died after contracting measles were malnourished, as were 60 percent of children who died after contracting severe diarrhea;

Whereas chronic hunger and undernutrition can lead to growth retardation (stunting), affecting an estimated 168,000,000 children under age 5 in developing countries;

Whereas some 42 percent of children under 5 years old are stunted in the least developed countries, compared to 30 percent globally;

Whereas women whose growth was retarded face ongoing health complications as adults, when they are more likely to have obstructed labor, are at greater risk of dying during childbirth, and are more likely to deliver low-birth-weight and stunted children;

Whereas stunted growth has also been linked to diminished work capacity and higher propensity to diseases, including diabetes and heart disease, in adults;

Whereas the global community is currently facing a food crisis, with food prices doubling over the past 3 years and rising 65 percent between January and April 2007 alone, and the World Bank has estimated that the emergency situation could push 100,000,000 people in low-income countries deeper into poverty;

Whereas rising food prices have caused riots in Haiti, Bangladesh, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Senegal, and, as of December 2007, 37 countries faced food crises;

Whereas as a result of rising food prices, individuals and families throughout the developing world have a decreased buying power, and are often forced to either buy significantly smaller quantities of food, or to buy less nutritious food;

Whereas in times of food crisis, families often must cut more expensive foods, such as meat, fruit, and vegetables, from their diets, instead relying on less nutritious staples such as rice and maize, foods without the vitamins and minerals necessary for proper child growth;

Whereas, given the scope of the current food crisis, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has proposed a task force, to be composed of the heads of United Nations agencies and the World Bank, to address the global problem caused by soaring food prices; and

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has made closing a \$755,000,000 funding gap for the World Food Programme, caused by rising food prices, a priority: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) it is the sense of Congress that—

4 (A) in emergency situations, children have
5 different needs than those of adults, and nutri-
6 tional deficiencies disproportionately affect chil-
7 dren; and

8 (B) in the context of the current global
9 food crisis, the nutritional needs of children
10 must be a humanitarian priority; and

11 (2) Congress—

12 (A) recognizes that we are facing a global
13 food crisis caused by, among other things, ris-
14 ing fuel prices, increased diversion of land to
15 biofuel production, drought, and increases in
16 population;

17 (B) recognizes that lack of adequate nutri-
18 tion is particularly damaging to children, as it

1 stunts their growth, leaves them more vulner-
2 able to numerous diseases, and hunger affects
3 children's ability to learn; and

4 (C) calls for a world forum to be held, on
5 the issue of rising food prices and international
6 response, and for the United States to play an
7 active role in alleviating the crisis.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. CON. RES. 344
OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas according to the United Nations, over 850,000,000 people in the world are chronically or acutely malnourished, and over 300,000,000 of these are children;

Whereas the 2000 United Nations Millennium Development Summit called for halving the proportion of hungry people in the world by the year 2015, but progress reaching this goal has been slow, and, according to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, only the Latin American and Caribbean region has been reducing the prevalence of hunger quickly enough to reach this target;

Whereas every year, malnutrition caused by chronic hunger leads to the death of an estimated 5,600,000 children under 5 years old;

Whereas, according to UNICEF, an estimated 146,000,000 children, or roughly one in every four children under 5 years old, are underweight;

Whereas hunger and malnutrition weaken the immune system, and as a result treatable diseases pose a greater risk to malnourished children;

Whereas even temporary deprivation of essential nutrients can have a lasting impact on children's physical growth and intellectual potential;

Whereas children who are only mildly underweight are twice as likely to die of infectious diseases as children who are better nourished, and children who are moderately or severely underweight are 5 to 8 times more likely to die of infectious diseases;

Whereas according to a study conducted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 45 percent of children who died after contracting measles were malnourished, as were 60 percent of children who died after contracting severe diarrhea;

Whereas chronic hunger and undernutrition can lead to growth retardation (stunting), affecting an estimated 168,000,000 children under the age of 5 in developing countries;

Whereas some 42 percent of children under the age of 5 are stunted in the least developed countries, compared to 30 percent globally;

Whereas women whose growth was stunted face ongoing health complications as adults, are more likely to have obstructed labor, are at greater risk of dying during childbirth, and are more likely to deliver children who are premature and stunted;

Whereas stunted growth has also been linked to diminished work capacity and higher propensity to diseases, including diabetes and heart disease, in adults;

Whereas the global community is currently facing a food crisis, with food prices doubling over the past 3 years and rising 65 percent between January and April 2007 alone, and the World Bank has estimated that the emergency situation could push 100,000,000 people in low-income countries deeper into poverty;

Whereas in times of food crisis, families often must cut more expensive foods, such as meat, fruit, and vegetables, from their diets, instead relying on less nutritious staples such as rice and maize, foods without the nutrients necessary for proper child growth;

Whereas, on June 3, 2008 through June 5, 2008, more than 180 countries, including more than 40 heads of state and more than 100 ministers, attended and participated in the High Level Conference on World Food Security in Rome, Italy; and

Whereas at the High Level Conference on World Food Security, the participating countries pledged to increase their assistance for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That it is the sense of Congress that—

- 1 (1) in emergency situations, children have dif-
- 2 ferent needs than those of adults, and nutritional de-
- 3 ficiencies disproportionately affect children;
- 4 (2) in the context of the current global food cri-
- 5 sis, the nutritional needs of children must be a hu-
- 6 manitarian priority; and
- 7 (3) the United States and the other G8 member
- 8 states should continue to monitor the impact of the
- 9 global food crisis on children and commit to increas-

- 1 ing their assistance to respond to the global food cri-
- 2 sis, and specifically, responding to the needs of chil-
- 3 dren impacted by the global food crisis

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution recognizing the disproportionate impact of the global food crisis on children in the developing world”.



110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 361

Commemorating Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery saved the lives of thousands during the Holocaust and remembering her legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. FILNER, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. WATERS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery saved the lives of thousands during the Holocaust and remembering her legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope.

Whereas on May 12, 2008, Irena Sendler, a living example of social justice, died at the age of 98;

Whereas Irena Sendler repeatedly risked her own life to rescue over 2,500 Jewish children in Poland's Warsaw ghetto from Nazi extermination during the Holocaust;

Whereas inspired by her father, a physician who spent his career treating poor Jewish patients, Irena Sendler dedicated her life to others;

Whereas Irena Sendler became an early activist at the start of World War II, heading the clandestine group Zegota and driving an underground movement that provided safe passage for Jews from the Warsaw ghetto, who were facing disease, execution, or deportation to concentration camps;

Whereas Irena Sendler became one of Zegota's most successful workers, taking charge of the children's division and using her senior position with the city's welfare department to gain access to and from the ghetto and build a network of allies to help ferry Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto;

Whereas Irena Sendler was arrested by the Gestapo on October 20, 1943, tortured, and sentenced to death by firing squad;

Whereas Irena Sendler never revealed details of her contacts, escaped from Pawiak prison, and continued her invaluable work with Zegota;

Whereas in 1965, Irena Sendler was recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Israel;

Whereas in 2006, Irena Sendler was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas Irena Sendler was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest civilian decoration;

Whereas Irena Sendler's life has been chronicled in the documentary film, "Tzedek: The Righteous" and "Life in a Jar", a play about her rescue efforts;

Whereas Irena Sendler, a woman who risked everything for the lives of others and whose bravery is unimaginable to many of us, expressed guilt for not being able to do more for the Jewish people; and

Whereas Americans, as well as the world community, are reminded not only of the horrible cruelty at the time of the Holocaust, but also the incredible difference one person can make by knowing Irena Sendler's story: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) mourns the loss of Irena Sendler, a woman
4 whose bravery and heroic efforts saved over 2,500
5 Jewish children during the Holocaust;

6 (2) pays its respect and extends its condolences
7 to the Sendler family;

8 (3) honors her legacy of courage, selflessness,
9 and hope; and

10 (4) remembers the life of Irena Sendler for her
11 heroic efforts to save over 2,500 Jewish children
12 during the Holocaust, and for her unwavering dedi-
13 cation to justice and human rights.

○

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 371

Strongly supporting an immediate and just restitution of, or compensation for, property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2008

Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. GALLEGLY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Strongly supporting an immediate and just restitution of, or compensation for, property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes.

Whereas the United States strongly supports an immediate and just restitution or compensation of property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas the wrongful and illegal confiscation of property perpetrated by Nazi and Communist regimes was often an integral part of the persecution of innocent people due to their religion, nationality, or social origin, or the expression of a view that differed from that of the ruling regime;

Whereas the protection of and respect for property rights is a basic principle tenet for all democratic governments that operate according to the rule of law;

Whereas the participating countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have agreed to achieve or maintain full recognition and protection of all types of property, including private property, and the right to prompt, just, and effective compensation in the event private property is taken for public use;

Whereas the Paris Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE Assembly) in July 2001 noted that the process of restitution, compensation, and material reparation of victims of Nazi persecution has not been pursued with the same degree of comprehensiveness by all of the OSCE participating countries;

Whereas the OSCE Assembly passed a resolution during the 10th session that urged the OSCE participating countries to ensure that they implement appropriate legislation to secure the restitution of, or compensation for, both property loss by victims of Nazi persecution and property loss by communal organizations and institutions or their successors during the Nazi era, irrespective of the current citizenship or place of residence of victims or their heirs, or the relevant successor to communal property;

Whereas the Government of the United States has, since 1949, with the passing of Military Law 47 in the occupied American Zone of Germany, supported the return of property looted during the National Socialist era to the rightful owners, or the heirs, of such property;

Whereas during the last decade, Congress has passed resolutions that endorsed, reiterated, and emphasized the long

standing support of the United States for the restitution and compensation for property illegally confiscated during the Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas some post-Communist countries in Europe have taken steps toward compensating victims whose property was seized and confiscated by the Nazis during World War II or subsequently seized by Communist governments after World War II;

Whereas the legislation addressing the return of or compensation for such confiscated property enacted by post-Communist countries in Europe has, in various instances, not been implemented in an effective, transparent, and timely manner;

Whereas private properties were seized and confiscated by the Nazis in occupied Poland during the Nazi era and by the Communist Polish government after World War II;

Whereas Poland, virtually alone among post-Communist countries, has failed to enact any legislation that provides for a process for the restitution of, or compensation for, private property seized and confiscated by the Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas Jewish communal properties were seized and confiscated by the Nazis in Lithuania during the Nazi era and by the Communist Lithuanian government after World War II; and

Whereas Lithuania, virtually alone among post-Communist countries, has failed to implement legislation that provides for the restitution of, or compensation for, Jewish communal property seized and confiscated by the Nazi and Communist regimes: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) praises the efforts by those countries in
4 Central and Eastern Europe that have enacted legis-
5 lation for the restitution of, or compensation for,
6 private and communal religious property improperly
7 confiscated during the Nazi and Communist eras
8 and urges each of those countries to ensure that the
9 legislation is effectively and justly implemented;

10 (2) urges the countries in Central and Eastern
11 Europe which have not already done so to return
12 looted and confiscated properties to their rightful
13 owners or, where restitution is not possible, pay eq-
14 uitable compensation, in accordance with principles
15 of justice and in an expeditious manner that is just,
16 transparent, and fair;

17 (3) calls on the Government of Poland to—

18 (A) immediately enact fair, comprehensive,
19 and just legislation so that persons (or the heirs
20 of such persons) who had their private property
21 seized and confiscated by the Nazis during
22 World War II or subsequently seized by the
23 Communist Polish government after the war
24 are able to obtain either restitution of their

1 property or, where restitution is not possible,
2 fair compensation should be paid; and

3 (B) ensure that such restitution and com-
4 pensation legislation establishes an unbureau-
5 cratic, simple, transparent, and timely process,
6 so that it results in a real benefit to those many
7 persons who suffered from the unjust such con-
8 fiscation of their property, many of whom are
9 well into their 80s or older;

10 (4) calls on the Government of Lithuania to im-
11 mediately enact, fair, comprehensive, and just legis-
12 lation so communities that had communal and reli-
13 gious property seized and confiscated by the Nazis
14 during World War II or subsequently seized by the
15 Communist Polish government after World War II
16 (or the relevant successors to the communal and re-
17 ligious property or the relevant foundation) are able
18 to obtain either restitution of their property or,
19 where restitution is not possible, fair compensation;

20 (5) calls on the President and the Secretary of
21 State to continue to engage in an open dialogue with
22 the Governments of Poland and Lithuania sup-
23 porting the adoption of legislation requiring, in Po-
24 land, the fair, comprehensive, and nondiscriminatory
25 restitution of, or compensation for, private property

1 that was seized and confiscated during the Nazi and
2 Communist eras and, in Lithuania, the fair, com-
3 prehensive, and just restitution of Jewish communal
4 and religious property that was seized and con-
5 fiscated during the Nazi and Communist eras; and

6 (6) calls on the Secretary of State to deliver a
7 report to Congress, every six months, regarding the
8 implementation of this concurrent resolution.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. CON. RES. 371
OFFERED BY MR. WEXLER OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the United States strongly supports an immediate and just restitution or compensation of property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas the wrongful and illegal confiscation of property perpetrated by Nazi and Communist regimes was often an integral part of the persecution of innocent people due to their religion, nationality, or social origin, or the expression of a view that differed from that of the ruling regime;

Whereas the protection of and respect for property rights is a basic principle tenet for all democratic governments that operate according to the rule of law;

Whereas the participating countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have agreed to achieve or maintain full recognition and protection of all types of property, including private property, and the right to prompt, just, and effective compensation in the event private property is taken for public use;

Whereas the Paris Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE Assembly) in July 2001 noted that the process of restitution, compensation, and material reparation of victims of Nazi persecution has not been pursued

with the same degree of comprehensiveness by all of the OSCE participating countries;

Whereas the OSCE Assembly passed a resolution during the 10th session that urged the OSCE participating countries to ensure that they implement appropriate legislation to secure the restitution of, or compensation for, both property loss by victims of Nazi persecution and property loss by communal organizations and institutions or their successors during the Nazi era, irrespective of the current citizenship or place of residence of victims or their heirs, or the relevant successor to communal property;

Whereas the Government of the United States has, since 1947, with the passing of Military Law 59 in the occupied American Zone of Germany, supported the return of property looted during the National Socialist era to the rightful owners, or the heirs, of such property;

Whereas during the last decade, Congress has passed resolutions that endorsed, reiterated, and emphasized the long standing support of the United States for the restitution and compensation for property illegally confiscated during the Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas some post-Communist countries in Europe have taken steps toward compensating victims whose property was seized and confiscated by the Nazis during World War II or subsequently seized by Communist governments after World War II;

Whereas the legislation addressing the return of or compensation for such confiscated property enacted by post-Communist countries in Europe has, in various instances, not been implemented in an effective, transparent, and timely manner;

Whereas private properties were seized and confiscated by the Nazis in occupied Poland during the Nazi era and by the Communist Polish government after World War II;

Whereas Poland, virtually alone among post-Communist countries, has failed to enact any legislation that provides for a process for the restitution of, or compensation for, private property seized and confiscated by the Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas Jewish communal properties were seized and confiscated by the Nazis in Lithuania during the Nazi era and by the Communist Lithuanian government after World War II; and

Whereas Lithuania, virtually alone among post-Communist countries, has failed to implement legislation that provides for the restitution of, or compensation for, Jewish communal property seized and confiscated by the Nazi and Communist regimes: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That Congress—

1 (1) praises the efforts by those countries in
2 Central and Eastern Europe that have enacted legis-
3 lation for the restitution of, or compensation for,
4 private and communal religious property improperly
5 confiscated during the Nazi and Communist eras
6 and urges each of those countries to ensure that the
7 legislation is effectively and justly implemented;

1 (2) urges the countries in Central and Eastern
2 Europe which have not already done so to return
3 looted and confiscated properties to their rightful
4 owners or, where restitution is not possible, pay eq-
5 uitable compensation, in accordance with principles
6 of justice and in an expeditious manner that is just,
7 transparent, and fair;

8 (3) calls on the Government of Poland to—

9 (A) immediately enact fair, comprehensive,
10 and just legislation so that persons (or the heirs
11 of such persons) who had their private property
12 seized and confiscated by the Nazis during
13 World War II or subsequently seized by the
14 Communist Polish government after the war
15 are able to obtain either restitution of their
16 property or, where restitution is not possible,
17 fair compensation should be paid; and

18 (B) ensure that such restitution and com-
19 pensation legislation establishes an
20 unbureaucratic, simple, transparent, and timely
21 process, so that it results in a real benefit to
22 those many persons who suffered from the un-
23 just such confiscation of their property, many
24 of whom are well into their 80s or older;

1 (4) calls on the Government of Lithuania to im-
2 mediately implement, fair, comprehensive, and just
3 legislation so communities that had communal and
4 religious property seized and confiscated by the
5 Nazis during World War II or subsequently seized
6 by the Communist Lithuanian government after
7 World War II (or the relevant successors to the com-
8 munal and religious property or the relevant founda-
9 tion) are able to obtain either restitution of their
10 property or, where restitution is not possible, fair
11 compensation;

12 (5) calls on the President and the Secretary of
13 State to continue to engage in an open dialogue with
14 the Governments of Poland and Lithuania sup-
15 porting the adoption of legislation requiring, in Po-
16 land, the fair, comprehensive, and nondiscriminatory
17 restitution of, or compensation for, private property
18 that was seized and confiscated during the Nazi and
19 Communist eras and, in Lithuania, the fair, com-
20 prehensive, and just restitution of Jewish communal
21 and religious property that was seized and con-
22 fiscated during the Nazi and Communist eras; and

1 (6) calls on the Secretary of State to deliver a
2 report to Congress, every six months, regarding the
3 implementation of this concurrent resolution.



Chairman BERMAN. Does the gentlelady wish to be heard?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Reserving the right to object and will not object on H. Res. 1290, and if I may speak on H. Con. Res. 344, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. Okay, yes. Okay, go ahead. The gentlelady is recognized.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you very much. Let me commend the chairman and I am delighted to be a co-sponsor of H. Res. 1290. And I think it is important to note that as so many of us have been involved in this whole crucial issue of Darfur and Sudan, there are many other hot spots around the country. Our late chairman, of course, was arrested in front of the Sudanese Embassy. It is tragic that we are still confronting this major crisis. And I do want to commend this legislation because it does call upon the ceasing of the killing of civilians.

What I think, Mr. Chairman, I would like to put on the record that as we work with the United Nations, as difficult as it is, we need to ensure that the peacekeepers are on the ground in full complement, working with as many countries as possible. It seems that the Khartoum government is hard to listen and refuses to listen. People are continuing to die in enormous numbers or living in very trying circumstances. It is sad to look into the camps of Darfur and see babies, who were born there, are now 4 years old and probably may grow up there.

So, I want to commend this legislation to our colleagues and just indicate how important it is because of the continuing humanitarian crisis. And, of course, the refusal of Bashir's Government to even acknowledge an indictment that it has recently received and it may be important for a statement to be made by this Congress, as it relates to the indictment.

I want to quickly move to H. Con. Res. 344, which the crux of it is, of course, recognizing the global food crisis, legislation that I authored. But, the priority or the emphasis of it is having seen feeding camps, many of us have been to those camps, to try to get world food organizations to emphasize the serving and the feeding of children, who suffer most by dehydration and the lack of nutrition, as they formulate their feeding programs in some of the most devastating areas around the world. And I ask my colleagues to support the legislation. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman BERMAN. The time for the gentlelady has expired. The gentleman—

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Reserving the right to object.

Chairman BERMAN. On the gentleman's resolution?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Let me just note that my colleague, Ms. Jackson Lee, just made a very significant point about Darfur. And as we do our business and as we move forward and we turn on our television sets and look at our President at the opening ceremony of the Olympics in Beijing, let us just note that the horror story that was just described by Ms. Jackson Lee, which is accurate, an accurate description of what is going on in Darfur, that this crime can be traced directly to the hosts of the Olympics in Beijing. And that while we talk about these things here, which are important, we need to let the world know that we are serious about these type of atrocities that are being committed. In a country like China, is

actually accountable and should be held accountable for the crimes that it is committing in Africa. And so, I would just suggest that I would like to associate myself with Ms. Jackson Lee's remarks, but also remind us that it is China who is the culprit behind this, as well as the Government of Sudan. And we are moving forward to pay that government respect as a decent country by having our President go to the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, which should never have been given to the Communist Chinese regime in the first place.

Thank you, very much. I now yield back.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Would the gentleman yield for a moment?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Do I have the right to yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I will just say one sentence. I associate myself with your remarks regarding the Olympics and the People's Republic of China. I yield back.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. The committee will be having a hearing next Wednesday on China, and on Thursday we will be scheduling a markup where I believe one of the issues before us will be the issue raised by both the gentlelady from Texas and the gentleman from California. The gentleman from New Jersey?

Mr. PAYNE. I just wanted to associate myself with the remarks made in regard to the behavior of the People's Republic of China, as it relates to the tragedy in Darfur. I, also, commend the prosecutor for the indictment that will be sent to the International Criminal Court, Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo. I had the opportunity to meet with him when he was preparing to gather information regarding the indictment. And there will be a series of judges to review in the next 3 months the information, to follow-up on the indictment. As we know, the People's Republic of China, also, recently voted against arms embargo for Zimbabwe. They also opposed the indictment for Al-Bashir, President of Sudan. And as it has been mentioned by my colleague, he is not always the skunk at the party, sometimes he really makes good statements.

Chairman BERMAN. And sometimes the party needs a skunk.

Mr. PAYNE. That is right. I would like to certainly associate my remarks, that I think the President to be attending the opening ceremonies and the Olympics. Actually, people are just asking for him to forego the opening ceremonies and a number of heads of states will not be attending the opening ceremonies. But, President Bush felt that he did not want to—he said it would insult the Chinese, so he had better go. And I just think the rationale is ridiculous. I commend the work that Mia Farrow has done in calling these "Blood Olympics" and Steven Spielberg for refusing, as he had the contract for the opening ceremonies, he rejected the contract at the urging of human rights groups to be involved in the opening and closing. And so, as these Olympics go on, I would hope that we will all continue to remember what is happening in Darfur. And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman BERMAN. And with that, the UC request is agreed to and the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:23 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE GENE GREEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for holding this markup on several pieces of legislation.

I am pleased that the committee and staff were able to work together to make sure that we have several good bills before us today.

Having said that, I quickly want to mention several important bills.

First I would like to express my support for H.Con.Res 361 and H.Con.Res 371, two bills that acknowledge and address both the amazing bravery and the terrible atrocities that have occurred in the past century due to the Nazi and Communist regimes.

I would also like to address House Resolutions 6328, 1008 and 1069. These bills address important human rights issues in the Middle East, including the situation with Iraqi refugees, the persecution of Baha'is in Iran, and the continued use of anti-Semitic propaganda by Hamas.

The United States must take a firm stand on these issues, and these bills are an important first step towards showing the world that we will not condone unjust persecution or hateful indoctrination.

Finally, I would like to mention the Foreign Service Overseas Pay Equity Act of 2007, which will establish pay equity for Foreign Service members serving overseas and at home in Washington.

Currently, Foreign Service members based in Washington, D.C. receive a locality pay that is 20.89% higher than the pay received by Foreign Service members based overseas. These members risk their lives and well-being every day, and they should not receive less pay because of the simple fact that they are based overseas.

It is important that this Congress make a commitment to pay equality for our diplomatic corps, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

We will be marking up several other bills today, and I support those as well.

Again, thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this markup and I yield back my time.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH CROWLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Thank you Chairman Berman and Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen for holding this mark-up and including my resolution on Al-Aqsa TV.

And, thank you to my colleague Representative Bilirakis for working with me to further expand the resolution to include all media outlets that promote hate and intolerance in the Middle East.

I strongly believe that peace is not just about a lasting end to military hostilities between warring factions, but the creation of an environment where people can live and coexist side-by-side.

While Israel and Hamas have agreed to a temporary cessation on hostilities, which I support, we need to focus on what breeds extremists and hatred toward Israel and the United States.

I initially introduced this resolution because of the reports of how Hamas is using their television network, Al-Aqsa TV, to air the children's show "Tomorrow's Pioneers." The show has depicted Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny look-alikes telling children they, "will finish off the Jews and eat them." A puppet show on the network also depicted President Bush being murdered.

The use of children's programming to send these kinds of messages is despicable, and we cannot stand by and let this blatant propaganda to continue. Because, at best it perpetuates misinformation, and at its worst it will serve to indoctrinate children, incite them toward hatred and violence against Israel and possible others, and undermine efforts to firmly establish peace in the Middle East for generations to come.

Instead of promoting violence, our children should be taught to respect and accept all people, no matter their faith or nationality.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Thank you

