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H. CON. RES. 16

Recognizing the threat that the spread of radical Islamist terrorism and Iranian adventurism in Africa poses to the United States, our allies, and interests.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the threat that the spread of radical Islamist terrorism and Iranian adventurism in Africa poses to the United States, our allies, and interests.

Whereas nearly 500,000,000 Muslims live in Africa, and Islam reportedly is the fastest growing religion on the continent;

Whereas according to the World Bank, Africa hosts the world's largest proportion of people living on less than \$1 per day;

Whereas despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of Muslims in Africa practice moderate and tolerant forms of Islam, poverty, corruption, and political marginalization have facilitated the spread of radicalism in a

number in areas in Africa, particularly among growing populations of impoverished and disaffected youth;

Whereas the spread of radical Islam undermines the historically moderate influence of Islam in Africa, exacerbates existing political and religious tensions within African nations, provides fertile ground for recruitment by international terrorist organizations, and poses a direct threat to the security of the United States and our partners on the African continent;

Whereas despite the purported intention to target western interests and “infidels”, attacks perpetrated by radical Islamist terrorist groups in Africa have resulted in a devastatingly disproportionate number of deaths and casualties among Africans and fellow Muslims;

Whereas the terrorist al Qaeda network has publicly expressed its intention to expand in Africa, most notably calling for jihad in Nigeria, Sudan, and Somalia, and Hezbollah has developed a sophisticated and deeply embedded financial infrastructure in a number of African countries;

Whereas, on August 7, 1998, 229 people, including 12 United States citizens, were killed and another 5,000 people were injured during simultaneous car bomb attacks against the United States Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;

Whereas the 1998 East Africa Embassy bombings were the first major terrorist attacks directed against United States interests by Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda network;

Whereas, on November 8, 2002, nearly simultaneous terrorist attacks were launched in Mombasa, Kenya, including a

car bomb attack that killed at least 13 people at the Israeli-owned Paradise Hotel and an unsuccessful missile attack on a charter aircraft as it departed Moi International Airport en route to Israel;

Whereas Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, a senior al Qaeda operative from the Comoros Islands who is on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Top 22 Most Wanted list in connection with the 1998 East Africa Embassy bombings and the 2002 attacks in Mombasa, and who most recently has been linked to the al-Shabaab radical Islamist terrorist group in Somalia, reportedly evaded capture in Malindi, Kenya, on August 2, 2008;

Whereas a number of radical Islamist terrorist organizations from Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria allegedly have merged with al Qaeda and have claimed responsibility for attacks against western interests in North Africa;

Whereas in May 2003, and between March and April 2007, the Moroccan city of Casablanca was rocked by a series of suicide bombings, including a bombing outside the United States Consulate on April 14, 2007, allegedly carried out by members of Salafia Jihadia, an offshoot of the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group which is believed to have links to al Qaeda, or by members of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, also believed to have links to al Qaeda;

Whereas in September 2006, the Algerian radical Islamist terrorist group, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), formally merged with al Qaeda, renaming itself al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM);

Whereas AQIM has since claimed responsibility for more than a dozen deadly suicide attacks in Algeria, including

the December 2006 attack on a bus belonging to a United States-Algeria joint venture carrying several expatriate workers, the April 11, 2007, simultaneous bombings of multiple targets, including the office of Algeria's prime minister, and the December 11, 2007, bombings of the Algerian Constitutional Council and the United Nations headquarters in Algeria;

Whereas AQIM has found sanctuary in the vast ungoverned spaces of the region, easily crossing the porous borders between Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Algeria, and Chad to recruit extremists for training and terrorist operations in the Trans-Sahara region and beyond;

Whereas in late December 2002, Ethiopian and Transitional Government of Somalia forces overthrew the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), which had seized control of vast parts of Somalia and, along with its radical Islamist al-Shabaab militia, are believed to have harbored senior al-Qaeda operatives, including Fazul Abdallah Mohammed and Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan;

Whereas in an Internet video released in January 2007, Ayman al-Zawahiri, a leading al-Qaeda figure, urged all mujahedin, specifically those in the Maghreb, to extend support to Somali Muslims in a holy war against occupying Ethiopian forces;

Whereas al-Shabaab has since been designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist under section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224, and is believed to be responsible for numerous suicide bombings, the use of landmines, remote controlled roadside bombs, attacks against African Union peacekeeping forces, and targeted assassinations against

Ethiopian and Transitional Government of Somalia security forces, other government officials, journalists, and civil society leaders in Somalia;

Whereas in Nigeria, more than 10,000 people have been killed as a result of violent ethnic and religious clashes over the past decade, 12 of the country's 36 states have proclaimed Islamic Sharia law, and recent press reports indicate that Hezbollah has become active in northern Nigeria;

Whereas Hezbollah has long been active in West Africa, most notably engaging in terrorist financing through the exploitation of blood diamonds which have fueled deadly conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire;

Whereas according to the Department of State's 2007 Country Reports on Terrorism, Hezbollah remains the most technically capable terrorist group in the world;

Whereas the 2007 Country Reports on Terrorism also assert that Iran remains "the most significant state sponsor of terrorism", that "a critically important element of Iranian national security strategy is its ability to conduct terrorist operations abroad", and that "Hezbollah, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, is key to Iran's terrorism strategy";

Whereas in mid-September 2008, it was reported that the MV Iran Deyanat, a ship owned and operated by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), a state-owned company run by the Iranian military and currently under United States sanctions, had been hijacked by pirates in the Gulf of Aden while attempting to deliver "mysterious cargo", thought to include small arms and chemical weapons, to Eritrea for use by Islamist insur-

gents in Somalia and that within days, pirates who boarded the ship had developed “strange health complications, skin burn and loss of hair”;

Whereas it was widely reported nearly two years earlier that Iran had supplied Islamist insurgents in Somalia with sophisticated anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons, including SA-7 Strella and SA-18 Igla shoulder fired surface-to-air missiles and AT-3 Sagger anti-tank missiles, in direct violation of a United Nations arms embargo;

Whereas in recent years, Iran has embarked upon a campaign to strengthen military, economic, and diplomatic ties with countries on the African Continent;

Whereas, on January 29, 2008, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki declared that 2008 would mark a “milestone in Iran-Africa ties”, a notion that was reinforced by his attendance three days later at the African Union summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and a subsequent announcement that Iran would soon convene an Iran-Africa Summit in Tehran;

Whereas while many African countries sorely need the increased trade opportunities and investments in energy, agriculture, and infrastructure that Iran has offered, Iran’s assistance does not come without a price;

Whereas Senegal and Iran have signed a number of agreements to expand economic relations, including agreements on the construction of an oil refinery, a chemical plant, and an automotive assembly plant in Senegal and, in return, Senegal has expressed support for Iran’s nuclear program;

Whereas Iran reportedly is pursuing similar deals for expanded diplomatic relations and strengthened commercial

ties with Mali, Malawi, Uganda, Lesotho, Namibia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Cote d'Ivoire, in exchange for support of Iran's nuclear ambitions;

Whereas in exchange for strengthened energy and trade ties, as well as in recognition of Iran's support for the African National Congress during the apartheid era, South Africa frequently has intervened on behalf of Iran at the United Nations Security Council in defense of Iran's nuclear ambitions;

Whereas Iran also is seeking to align itself more closely with fellow despots and "outposts of tyranny" on the African Continent;

Whereas Iran is among the top four arms suppliers to the genocidal regime in Khartoum, and, upon visiting Khartoum in March 2007, Iran's defense minister reportedly asserted that developing military ties with Africa and the "especially brotherly and friendly country of Sudan, is on top of Iran's foreign policy agenda";

Whereas Zimbabwe's embattled dictator, Robert Mugabe, reportedly was hailed as a hero while visiting Tehran in 2006, proclaiming "Iran and Zimbabwe think alike", securing Iran's pledge to shield Zimbabwe from sanctions before the United Nations Security Council, and inking deals to boost energy cooperation, rehabilitate Zimbabwe's oil refinery, and expand agricultural ties;

Whereas after signing four deals to expand bilateral ties with Eritrea in May 2008, Iran's leader announced that there was "no limit for expansion of mutual cooperation" between Iran and Eritrea and that "fostering friendship and cooperation among countries that are independent as well as peace and justice-loving is vital for ensuring inter-

national peace and cooperation”, even as Eritrean forces were launching a military incursion into neighboring Djibouti;

Whereas up to 2,000 members of the United States Armed Forces currently are stationed at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti as part of the Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa (CJTF–HOA) to promote regional stability and prevent conflict in the region;

Whereas in August 2006, the Sunday Times (UK) published a report outlining Iran’s efforts to smuggle uranium 238 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, citing a July 18, 2006, report by the United Nations Group of Experts and interviews with Tanzanian customs officials who discovered the shipment;

Whereas while the motivations behind Tehran’s adventurism in Africa may vary widely between seeking diplomatic allies among members of the Non-aligned Movement, to countering the dominance of Sunni Muslims in the region, to establishing new or expanding existing bases for Hezbollah and other militant Islamist groups, to increasing access to Africa’s vast natural resources, including uranium, the threat that Iran poses on the continent must not be overlooked;

Whereas the African continent faces unique development and security challenges which demand significant attention and unique policy approaches;

Whereas the United States provides nearly \$9,000,000,000 in assistance to Africa each year, with programs ranging from providing humanitarian relief to strengthening health and education systems, breaking down trade barriers and promoting economic development, combating

corruption and other illicit activities, and promoting critical democratic, judicial, and human rights reforms;

Whereas United States military security assistance programs in Africa represent about 3 percent of the United States total aid and development package for Africa;

Whereas a number of African countries have engaged with the United States in efforts to combat terrorism, deny terrorist sanctuary, and disrupt terrorist financing, through programs such as the Tran-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP), and the East Africa Counterterrorism Initiative (EACTI);

Whereas a number of African countries also have embarked upon efforts to counter the influence of radical Islamist ideology by promoting religious tolerance and intercommunal dialogue;

Whereas according to the African Union, “International terrorism over the past decade has come to constitute the most serious threat to global peace, security and development. . . . This unfortunate development and all its evil manifestations around the world and particularly in Africa, undermine the most cherished values and fundamental principles of the 21st century”, and “The African Union strongly condemns all acts and forms of terrorism in Africa and wherever they may occur”;

Whereas in February 2007, the President announced his decision to create a unified command for Africa, the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), in an effort to “[build] partnership capacities, [conduct] theater security cooperation, [build] important counter-terrorism skills and, as appropriate, [support] U.S. Government agencies

in implementing other programs that promote regional stability”; and

Whereas while AFRICOM is expected to support, not shape, United States foreign policy in Africa, communicating the purposes of AFRICOM to African governments and citizens remains an important challenge: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes the threat that the spread of rad-
4 ical Islamist terrorism and Iranian adventurism in
5 Africa poses to the United States, our allies, and in-
6 terests;

7 (2) acknowledges the commitment and coopera-
8 tion of some governments and regional organizations
9 in Africa to deny the use of their territory to radical
10 Islamist terrorist organizations and calls on all gov-
11 ernments to intensify their efforts toward that end;

12 (3) expresses concern over the emerging na-
13 tional security implications of the Iranian regime’s
14 efforts to expand its influence in Africa;

15 (4) calls on the United States Government to
16 work with governments in Africa to pursue an
17 antiterrorism campaign based on mutual cooperation
18 and constant vigilance;

19 (5) urges the United States Government to
20 work bilaterally and multilaterally with countries in

1 Africa to help them create antiterrorism legislation
2 that would give governmental authorities new tools
3 to take action against terrorist networks;

4 (6) recommends that the President of the
5 United States create more mechanisms for joint
6 counterterrorism operations and intraregional infor-
7 mation sharing among supportive countries in Afri-
8 ca, especially in light of Iran's increased involvement
9 in the region; and

10 (7) urges the new, unified Combatant Com-
11 mand for Africa (AFRICOM) to play a constructive
12 role in coordinating United States security objectives
13 in the region in close cooperation with our African
14 partners.

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