

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE IN JANUARY 2009 BY LANDSLIDE
IN GUATEMALA AND EARTHQUAKE IN COSTA RICA AND
EXPRESSING THAT THE U.S. SHOULD ASSIST THE AFFECTED
PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES; EXPRESSING THAT THE U.S.
REMAINS COMMITTED TO NATO; EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINED U.S. ENGAGEMENT
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EU; CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT
AND ALLIES OF THE U.S. TO ENGAGE WITH THE GOVERN-
MENT OF IRAN TO RAISE THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H. Res. 76, H. Res. 152, H. Res. 171 and
H. Con. Res. 36**

MARCH 25, 2009

Serial No. 111-11

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Affairs



Available via the World Wide Web: <http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/>

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

48-331PDF

WASHINGTON : 2009

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512-1800; DC area (202) 512-1800
Fax: (202) 512-2104 Mail: Stop IDCC, Washington, DC 20402-0001

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MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE IN JANUARY 2009 BY LANDSLIDE IN GUATEMALA AND EARTHQUAKE IN COSTA RICA AND EXPRESSING THAT THE U.S. SHOULD ASSIST THE AFFECTED PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES; EXPRESSING THAT THE U.S. REMAINS COMMITTED TO NATO; EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINED U.S. ENGAGEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EU; CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND ALLIES OF THE U.S. TO ENGAGE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO RAISE THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

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

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

Chairman BERMAN. The committee will now come to order. Pursuant to notice, we have a series of noncontroversial 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 seek consideration of the bills under suspension of the rules.

All members are given leave to insert remarks on the measures into the record should they choose to do so. The measures to be considered are as follows: H. Res. 76, Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities; H. Res. 152, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); H. Res. 171, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU); and H. Con. Res. 36, Calling on the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on the Government of Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[The resolutions and amendments follow:]

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 76

Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MACK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. CROWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities.

Whereas, on January 4, 2009, millions of tons of earth fell onto a road in the Alta Verapaz area north of Guatemala City, Guatemala;

Whereas it is suspected that a geological fault triggered the movement of earth, sending 10,000,000 tons of mud and rock down a hillside onto a road that runs from San Cristobal Verapaz to Chicaman, north of Guatemala City;

3

2

Whereas at least 38 people have been confirmed dead and up to 60 may be missing, many of whom are coffee workers in the region;

Whereas rescue organizations, volunteers, and agencies from throughout Guatemala had been working at the site until danger of another landslide shut down the operation;

Whereas on January 8, 2009, at 1:21, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake shook the Capital region of San Jose, Costa Rica, including the areas of Sarapiquí, Varablanca, and Poasito;

Whereas the earthquake's epicenter was 20 miles from San Jose at a depth of 21.7 miles and the shaking continued for 40 seconds;

Whereas 20 Costa Ricans have been confirmed dead, over 100 have been treated for injuries, and up to 17 may be missing, including many buried by resulting landslides;

Whereas 518 homes have been destroyed to the point where they are uninhabitable, 26 kilometers of road are unusable, and 61 communities have been affected;

Whereas roads, businesses, government buildings, and the popular tourist sites at the Poas Volcano and the La Paz waterfalls have been severely damaged; and

Whereas Guatemala and Costa Rica have been frequently impacted by significant natural disasters including those in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan in Guatemala in 2005 that led to hundreds of deaths: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

3 (A) mourns the terrible loss of life caused

4 by the landslide that occurred on January 4,

1 2009, in Guatemala and the earthquake on
2 January 8, 2009, in Costa Rica;

3 (B) expresses its deepest condolences to
4 the families of the many victims; and

5 (C) applauds the prompt humanitarian re-
6 sponses to these natural disasters by the Gov-
7 ernments of Guatemala and Costa Rica; and

8 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
9 tives that it should be the policy of the United
10 States—

11 (A) in collaboration with the Government
12 of Guatemala, the Government of Costa Rica,
13 humanitarian organizations, and multilateral
14 development banks in the region, to imme-
15 diately assist as appropriate the Governments
16 of Guatemala and Costa Rica in humanitarian
17 and reconstruction efforts from the January 4,
18 2009, landslide and the January 8, 2009,
19 earthquake;

20 (B) to continue technical assistance to
21 Central American governments in order to
22 strengthen their capacity at the national, pro-
23 vincial, and local levels in the area of disaster
24 management coordination and preparedness, in-
25 cluding implementing information and commu-

5

4

1 communications systems to help with the response to
2 natural disasters; and

3 (C) to work closely with the governments
4 of these countries to improve disaster mitiga-
5 tion techniques and compliance among all key
6 sectors of their societies.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.RES. 76
OFFERED BY MR. BURTON OF INDIANA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on January 4, 2009, millions of tons of earth fell onto a road in the Alta Verapaz area north of Guatemala City, Guatemala;

Whereas it is suspected that a geological fault triggered the movement of earth, sending 10,000,000 tons of mud and rock down a hillside onto a road that runs from San Cristobal Verapaz to Chicaman, north of Guatemala City;

Whereas at least 36 people were confirmed dead and up to 60 were missing, many of whom are coffee workers in the region;

Whereas rescue organizations, volunteers, and agencies from throughout Guatemala had been working at the site until danger of another landslide shut down the operation;

Whereas on January 8, 2009, at 1:21, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake shook the Capital region of San Jose, Costa Rica, including the areas of Sarapiquí, Varablanca, and Poasito;

Whereas the earthquake's epicenter was 20 miles from San Jose at a depth of 21.7 miles and the shaking continued for 40 seconds;

Whereas 23 individuals were confirmed dead, over 100 were treated for injuries, and nearly a dozen went missing, including many buried by the resulting landslides;

Whereas 518 homes were destroyed to the point where they were uninhabitable, 26 kilometers of road were unusable, and 61 communities were affected;

Whereas roads, businesses, government buildings, and the popular tourist sites at the Poas Volcano and the La Paz waterfalls were severely damaged; and

Whereas Guatemala and Costa Rica have been frequently impacted by significant natural disasters including those in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan in Guatemala in 2005 that led to hundreds of deaths: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That—

- 1 (1) the House of Representatives—
- 2 (A) mourns the terrible loss of life caused
- 3 by the landslide that occurred on January 4,
- 4 2009, in Guatemala and the earthquake on
- 5 January 8, 2009, in Costa Rica;
- 6 (B) expresses its deepest condolences to
- 7 the families of the many victims; and
- 8 (C) applauds the prompt humanitarian re-
- 9 sponses to these natural disasters by the Gov-
- 10 ernments of Guatemala and Costa Rica; and
- 11 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
- 12 tives that it should be the policy of the United
- 13 States—

1 (A) to continue technical assistance to
2 Central American governments in order to
3 strengthen their capacity at the national, pro-
4 vincial, and local levels in the area of disaster
5 management coordination and preparedness, in-
6 cluding implementing information and commu-
7 nications systems to help with the response to
8 natural disasters; and

9 (B) to work closely with the governments
10 of these countries to improve disaster mitiga-
11 tion techniques and compliance among all key
12 sectors of their societies.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution mourn-
ing the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by
a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa
Rica”.



111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 152

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Mr. TANNER (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. MEEK of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Whereas for 60 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the territories of its member states against all external threats;

Whereas NATO, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law, has proved an indispensable instrument for forging a trans-Atlantic community of nations working together to safeguard the free-

dom and common heritage of its peoples, and promoting stability in the North Atlantic area;

Whereas NATO has acted to address new risks emerging from outside the treaty area in the interests of preserving peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area, and maintains a unique collective capability to address these new challenges which may affect Allied interests and values;

Whereas such challenges to NATO Allied interests and values include the potential for the re-emergence of unresolved historical disputes confronting Europe, rogue states and non-state actors possessing nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons and their means of delivery, transnational terrorism and disruption of the flow of energy resources, and conflicts outside the treaty area that affect vital security interests;

Whereas the security of NATO member states is inseparably linked to that of the whole of Europe, and the consolidation and strengthening of democratic and free societies on the entire continent, in accordance with the principles and commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, is of direct and material concern to the NATO Alliance and its partners;

Whereas NATO enhances the security of the United States by providing an integrated military structure and a framework for consultations on political and security concerns of any member state;

Whereas NATO remains the embodiment of United States engagement in Europe and therefore membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States;

Whereas the impending membership of Albania and Croatia will add to NATO's ability to perform the full range of NATO missions and bolster its capability to integrate former communist countries into a community of democracies;

Whereas the organization of NATO national parliamentarians, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NPA), serves as a unique trans-Atlantic forum for generating and maintaining legislative and public support for the Alliance, and has played a key role in initiating constructive dialogue between NATO parliamentarians and parliamentarians in associate and observer states;

Whereas NPA activities, such as the Rose-Roth program, have played a pioneering role in promoting democratic institutions and encouraging adherence with the principles of the rule of law; and

Whereas the 60th anniversary NATO summit meeting, to be held on April 4, 2009, in Strasbourg, France, and Kehl, Germany, offers the historic opportunity to chart a course for NATO for the next decade: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
4 (NATO) is to be commended for its pivotal role in
5 preserving trans-Atlantic peace and stability;

6 (2) NATO continues to be the premier institu-
7 tion that promotes a uniquely trans-Atlantic per-

1 spective and approach to issues concerning the inter-
2 ests and security of North America and Europe;

3 (3) the NATO allies, at the Summit meeting to
4 be held in Strasbourg, France, and Kehl, Germany,
5 in April 2009, should articulate a concrete vision for
6 the Alliance in the 21st century, clearly setting out
7 the continued importance of NATO for the citizens
8 of the Allied nations;

9 (4) the Alliance should begin considering a new
10 strategic concept that takes into account the chang-
11 ing international security environment, reaffirms the
12 Alliance's functional and symbolic purposes, and
13 outlines how to develop its military capabilities ac-
14 cordingly;

15 (5) the Alliance, while maintaining collective de-
16 fense as its core function, should, as a fundamental
17 Alliance task, continue to identify and address new
18 areas where it can provide added value in tackling
19 future threats outside the NATO treaty area, based
20 on case-by-case consensual Alliance decision;

21 (6) the Alliance should make clear commit-
22 ments to remedy shortfalls in areas such as logistics,
23 command, control, communications, intelligence,
24 ground surveillance, readiness, deployability, mobil-

1 ity, sustainability, survivability, armaments cooper-
2 tion, and effective engagement;

3 (7) the Alliance must ensure equitable sharing
4 of contributions to the NATO operations, common
5 budgets, and overall defense expenditure and capa-
6 bility building;

7 (8) the Alliance must recognize and act upon
8 the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of
9 mass destruction and terrorism by intensifying con-
10 sultations among political and military leaders, and
11 consider alternative capabilities to counter these
12 threats to the international community;

13 (9) the Alliance should pace the process of
14 NATO enlargement and remain prepared to extend
15 invitations for accession negotiations to any appro-
16 priate European democracy meeting the criteria for
17 NATO membership as established in the Alliance's
18 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement;

19 (10) while maintaining its unequivocal right to
20 make its own decisions, NATO should seek to
21 strengthen its relations with Russia as an essential
22 partner in building long-term peace in the Euro-At-
23 lantic area; and

24 (11) the Alliance should fully support the
25 NPA's activities in continuing to deepen cooperation

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6

- 1 within the Alliance to forge strong links with asso-
- 2 ciate and observer nations.

○

AMENDMENT TO H.RES. 152

OFFERED BY MR. TANNER OF TENNESSEE

Page 5, line 18, add “and” after the semicolon at the end.

Page 5, strike lines 19 through 23.

Page 5, line 24, strike “(11)” and insert “(10)”.



111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 171

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Mr. BERMAN (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. POMEROY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU).

Whereas a brutal conflict marked by aggression and ethnic cleansing, including the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, was brought to an end by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (commonly referred to as the “Dayton Peace Accords”), which was agreed to at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21,

★

1995, and signed in Paris, France, on December 14, 1995;

Whereas in the 13 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked in partnership with the international community to achieve considerable progress in building a peaceful and democratic society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have agreed to significant reforms of public administration and broadcasting, the creation of state-level law enforcement and judicial institutions, the establishment of a unified armed services and Ministry of Defense, and the creation of an Indirect Taxation Authority;

Whereas the United States has continued to support the sovereignty, legal continuity, and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders as well as the equality of the three constituent peoples and others within a united, multi-ethnic country in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas the full incorporation of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Euro-Atlantic community is in the national interest of the United States and important for the stabilization of southeastern Europe;

Whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina committed to the shared values of democracy, security, and stability by joining the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in December 2006;

Whereas NATO recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in achieving political and defense reforms by in-

viting the country to begin an Intensified Dialogue at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008;

Whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina took the first step on the road toward European Union (EU) membership by signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) in June 2008;

Whereas the international community has successfully preserved peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, through NATO's Stabilization Force (FOR) and by a European Union Force (EUFOR) since December 2004;

Whereas the Office of the High Representative (OHR) has similarly promoted peace and stability by facilitating implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords, including through use of the extensive powers given it by the international Peace Implementation Council (PIC), with the goal of transferring its responsibilities to a European Union Special Representative (EUSR) at the appropriate time;

Whereas, these notable accomplishments notwithstanding, the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to face significant challenges in its efforts to progress toward Euro-Atlantic integration;

Whereas the Dayton Peace Accords included many compromises imposed by the need for quick action to preserve human life that have hindered efforts to develop efficient and effective political institutions;

Whereas the Council of Europe's Venice Commission has concluded that the current constitutional arrangements of Bosnia and Herzegovina are neither efficient nor rational, and that the state-level institutions need to become

more effective and democratic if the country is to move toward EU membership;

Whereas the “April package” of reforms, agreed upon by five major political parties in 2006, failed to achieve the requisite two-thirds majority in parliament;

Whereas in February 2008, the PIC stipulated five objectives (resolution of state property, resolution of defense property, completion of Breko Final Award, fiscal sustainability, and entrenchment of rule of law) and two conditions (signing of SAA with the EU and a “positive assessment” by the PIC) that must be met before the OHR is closed; and

Whereas the March 2009 meeting of the PIC provides a critical opportunity for an honest and accurate assessment of whether Bosnia and Herzegovina have met the five conditions and two principles established to determine when the OHR should be closed and oversight power transferred to the EUSR: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) it is increasingly urgent that Bosnia and
4 Herzegovina work toward the creation of an efficient
5 and effective state able to meet its domestic and
6 international obligations with more functional insti-
7 tutions, including a state government capable of
8 making self-sustaining reforms and fulfilling Euro-
9 pean Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Orga-
10 nization (NATO) requirements;

1 (2) any agreement on constitutional reform in
2 Bosnia and Herzegovina should advance the prin-
3 ciples of democracy and tolerance, rectify provisions
4 that conflict with the European Charter of Human
5 Rights, include the general public in the process,
6 and be consistent with the goal of EU membership;

7 (3) continued efforts should be made domesti-
8 cally and at the International Criminal Tribunal for
9 Yugoslavia (ICTY) to achieve justice for victims of
10 war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide,
11 as well as to promote reconciliation among ethnic
12 groups;

13 (4) the United States should appoint a Special
14 Envoy to the Balkans who can work in partnership
15 with the EU and political leaders in Bosnia and
16 Herzegovina to facilitate reforms at all levels of gov-
17 ernment and society, while also assisting the political
18 development of other countries in the region;

19 (5) the Office of the High Representative
20 (OHR) should not be closed until the Peace Imple-
21 mentation Council (PIC) can definitively determine
22 that Bosnia and Herzegovina have met the five con-
23 ditions and two principles;

24 (6) the EU should carefully consider its plans
25 for the future deployment of the European Union

1 Force (EUFOR) given the psychological reassurance
2 of security and deterrence of violence provided by its
3 continued presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and
4 (7) the United States should work closely with
5 and support the EU in the transition to a European
6 Union Special Representative (EUSR) to ensure
7 that the EUSR has the authority and tools to man-
8 age effectively post-OHR Bosnia and Herzegovina,
9 including a clear set of EU candidacy and member-
10 ship conditions with explicit and objective yardsticks
11 and a precise list of benchmarks to increase the
12 functionality of the Bosnian state to be achieved by
13 constitutional reform.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.RES. 171
OFFERED BY MR. BERMAN OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas a brutal conflict marked by aggression and ethnic cleansing, including the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, was brought to an end by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (commonly referred to as the “Dayton Peace Accords”), which was agreed to at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris, France, on December 14, 1995;

Whereas in the 13 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked in partnership with the international community to achieve considerable progress in building a peaceful and democratic society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have agreed to significant reforms of public administration and broadcasting, the creation of state-level law enforcement and judicial institutions, the establishment of a unified armed services and Ministry of Defense, and the creation of an Indirect Taxation Authority;

Whereas the United States has continued to support the sovereignty, legal continuity, and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized

borders as well as the equality of the three constituent peoples and others within a united, multi-ethnic country in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas the full incorporation of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Euro-Atlantic community is in the national interest of the United States and important for the stabilization of southeastern Europe;

Whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina committed to the shared values of democracy, security, and stability by joining the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in December 2006;

Whereas NATO recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in achieving political and defense reforms by inviting the country to begin an Intensified Dialogue at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008;

Whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina took the first step on the road toward European Union (EU) membership by signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) in June 2008;

Whereas NATO successfully preserved peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords through its Stabilization Force (FOR), which was succeeded by a European Union Force (EUFOR) in December 2004;

Whereas the Office of the High Representative (OHR) has similarly promoted peace and stability by facilitating implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords, including through use of the extensive powers given it by the international Peace Implementation Council (PIC), with the goal of transitioning to a European

Union Special Representative (EUSR) at the appropriate time;

Whereas, these notable accomplishments notwithstanding, the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to face significant challenges in their efforts to progress toward Euro-Atlantic integration;

Whereas the Dayton Peace Accords included many compromises imposed by the need for quick action to preserve human life that have hindered efforts to develop efficient and effective political institutions;

Whereas the Council of Europe's Venice Commission has concluded that the current constitutional arrangements of Bosnia and Herzegovina are neither efficient nor rational, and that the state-level institutions need to become more effective and democratic if the country is to move toward EU membership;

Whereas the "April package" of reforms, agreed upon by five major political parties in 2006, failed to achieve the requisite two-thirds majority in parliament;

Whereas in February 2008, the PIC stipulated five objectives (resolution of state property, resolution of defense property, completion of Breko Final Award, fiscal sustainability, and entrenchment of rule of law) and two conditions (signing of SAA with the EU and a "positive assessment" by the PIC) that must be met before the OHR is closed; and

Whereas the March 2009 meeting of the PIC provides a critical opportunity for an honest and accurate assessment of whether Bosnia and Herzegovina have met the five objectives and two conditions established to determine when

the OHR should be closed and oversight power transferred to the EUSR: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

1 (1) it is increasingly urgent that Bosnia and
2 Herzegovina work toward the creation of an efficient
3 and effective state able to meet its domestic and
4 international obligations with more functional insti-
5 tutions, including a state government capable of
6 making self-sustaining reforms and fulfilling Euro-
7 pean Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Orga-
8 nization (NATO) requirements;

9 (2) any agreement on constitutional reform in
10 Bosnia and Herzegovina should take as its basis the
11 Dayton Peace Accords, advance the principles of de-
12 mocracy and tolerance, rectify provisions that con-
13 flict with the European Charter of Human Rights,
14 include the general public in the process, provide the
15 conditions to enable economic development and the
16 creation of a single economic space, and be con-
17 sistent with the goal of EU membership;

18 (3) continued efforts should be made domesti-
19 cally and at the International Criminal Tribunal for

1 Yugoslavia (ICTY) to achieve justice for victims of
2 war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide,
3 as well as to promote reconciliation among ethnic
4 groups;

5 (4) the United States should continue to pro-
6 vide assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina to build
7 effective state-level law enforcement and judicial in-
8 stitutions that can combat terrorism, organized
9 crime, and corruption including investigating activi-
10 ties of any Al-Qaeda terrorists in Bosnia and
11 Herzegovina;

12 (5) the United States should appoint a Special
13 Envoy to the Balkans who can work in partnership
14 with the EU and political leaders in Bosnia and
15 Herzegovina to facilitate reforms at all levels of gov-
16 ernment and society, while also assisting the political
17 development of other countries in the region;

18 (6) the Office of the High Representative
19 (OHR) should not be closed until the Peace Imple-
20 mentation Council (PIC) can definitively determine
21 that Bosnia and Herzegovina have met the five ob-
22 jectives and two conditions;

23 (7) the EU should carefully consider any future
24 plans for the reduction or redeployment of the Euro-
25 pean Union Force (EUFOR) given the psychological

1 reassurance of security and deterrence of violence
2 provided by its continued presence in Bosnia and
3 Herzegovina; and

4 (8) the United States should work closely with
5 and support the EU in the transition to a European
6 Union Special Representative (EUSR) to ensure
7 that the EUSR has the authority and tools to man-
8 age effectively post-OHR Bosnia and Herzegovina,
9 including a clear set of EU candidacy and member-
10 ship conditions with explicit and objective yardsticks
11 and a precise list of benchmarks to increase the
12 functionality of the Bosnian state to be achieved by
13 constitutional reform.



111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 36

Calling on the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on the Government of Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. BERKLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on the Government of Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a resident

of Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, and father of their 7 children;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas, after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, he disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas neither his family nor the United States Government has received further information on his fate or whereabouts;

Whereas March 9, 2009 marks the second anniversary of the disappearance of Robert Levinson;

Whereas the Government of Switzerland, which has served as Protecting Power for the United States in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the absence of diplomatic relations between the United States Government and the Government of Iran since 1980, has continuously pressed the Government of Iran on the case of Robert Levinson and lent vital assistance and support to the Levinson family during their December 2007 visit to Iran;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007; and

Whereas the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, stated during an interview with NBC News broadcast on July 28, 2008, that officials of the Government of Iran were willing to cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the search for Robert Levinson: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) commends the Embassy of Switzerland in
4 Tehran and the Government of Switzerland for the
5 ongoing assistance to the United States Government
6 and to the family of Robert Levinson, particularly
7 during the visit by Christine Levinson and other rel-
8 atives to Iran in December 2007;

9 (2) expresses appreciation for efforts by Iranian
10 officials to ensure the safety of the family of Robert
11 Levinson during their December 2007 visit to Iran,
12 as well as for the promise of continued assistance;

13 (3) urges the Government of Iran, as a humani-
14 tarian gesture, to intensify its cooperation on the
15 case of Robert Levinson with the Embassy of Swit-
16 zerland in Tehran and to share the results of its in-
17 vestigation into the disappearance of Robert
18 Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

19 (4) urges the President and the allies of the
20 United States to engage with officials of the Govern-
21 ment of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson
22 at every opportunity, notwithstanding other serious
23 disagreements the United States Government has
24 had with the Government of Iran on a broad array
25 of issues, including human rights, the nuclear pro-

- 1 gram of Iran, the Middle East peace process, re-
- 2 gional stability, and international terrorism; and
- 3 (5) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert
- 4 Levinson during this trying period.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.CON.RES. 36
OFFERED BY MR. WEXLER OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a resident of Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, and father of their 7 children;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas, after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, he disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas neither his family nor the United States Government has received further information on his fate or whereabouts;

Whereas March 9, 2009 marks the second anniversary of the disappearance of Robert Levinson;

Whereas the Government of Switzerland, which has served as Protecting Power for the United States in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the absence of diplomatic relations between the United States Government and the Government of Iran since 1980, has continuously pressed the Government of Iran on the case of Robert Levinson and lent vital assistance and support to the Levinson family during their December 2007 visit to Iran;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson

during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007; and

Whereas the Government of Iran, including through a statement made during an interview with NBC News broadcast on July 28, 2008, has declared that its officials are willing to cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the search for Robert Levinson: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That Congress—

1 (1) commends the Embassy of Switzerland in
2 Tehran and the Government of Switzerland for the
3 ongoing assistance to the United States Government
4 and to the family of Robert Levinson, particularly
5 during the visit by Christine Levinson and other relatives
6 to Iran in December 2007;

7 (2) notes that Iranian officials ensured the safety
8 of the family of Robert Levinson during their December
9 2007 visit to Iran, and have promised their
10 continued assistance;

11 (3) urges the Government of Iran, as a humanitarian
12 gesture, to intensify its cooperation on the
13 case of Robert Levinson with the Embassy of Switzerland
14 in Tehran and to share the results of its in-

1 investigation into the disappearance of Robert
2 Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

3 (4) urges the President and the allies of the
4 United States to raise at every opportunity in all ap-
5 propriate multilateral and bilateral fora the case of
6 Robert Levinson; and

7 (5) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert
8 Levinson during this trying period.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution calling on the President and the allies of the United States to raise in all appropriate bilateral and multilateral fora the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation”.



Chairman BERMAN. Do any members wish to be heard on these measures?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, so this is the time that we would comment on any of the measures that are in the en bloc?

Chairman BERMAN. Yes, but only on those measures.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. That is correct. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to note that I oppose one of the resolutions within this en bloc amendment, and that is H. Res. 152, dealing with the sense of the House expressing that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose House Resolution 152 because I believe NATO has outlived its usefulness, and when the Soviet Union dissolved, we should have given NATO a great retirement party, celebrating its essential role in winning the Cold War.

Instead, we decided to keep it around, and here we have kept around this international organization, whose sole purpose was to defend Europe, and by extension, the United States, from Communist domination.

In the last 18 years, since the end of the Soviet Union, instead of ending an organization which had completed its mission, we have tried to dream up new missions for NATO, and these missions quite often were not well suited for NATO.

As a result, NATO has been, as far as I am concerned, a net minus for the United States national security. We have more troops tied up with NATO in Europe than Europe contributes through NATO to our efforts.

Now, let us think carefully about this, and let us actually evaluate the purpose of the organization, rather than passing basically a feel good resolution. Mr. Chairman, I don't think that our NATO allies today can be counted to do what is necessary and provide the help that we need to meet the challenges of the future.

It thus gives the United States and the people of the United States a false sense of security to be relying on our European allies, who, yes, during the Cold War played an essential role, but will not be playing essential roles as we confront new challenges that come up in the future.

So I would oppose this resolution. Instead, we should have a resolution commending NATO for the good role it played during the Cold War, but not putting our faith in NATO in the future. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. You would like a eulogy here instead. I think to hear a different point of view, I now recognize the gentleman from Tennessee, the sponsor of the resolution, Mr. Tanner.

Mr. TANNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all due respect, I could not disagree more. NATO today is evolving into the only truly international organization with the ability to go to a place where chaos reigns, bring some order to it, and back it up with some military capability.

The United Nations can't do that. The United Nations is a good place to go and talk about it before the shooting starts, and if we didn't have the United Nations, we would have to invent something like it.

But NATO is the organization that, number one, has kept the peace pretty much in Europe since World War II, which is a long time by historical standards.

Number two, NATO has played a pivotal role in The Balkans and still does.

Number three, the support that the NATO allies are giving us in Afghanistan, although not perfect, and although some of our NATO allies still have caveats that are not only troublesome, but not constructive to the NATO effort, nonetheless, there are more allied troops in Afghanistan than American troops.

And if this country ever needed friends and allies to help us, both from the standpoint of the operations tempo of our military—Fort Campbell is in my district, the 101st Airborne. Some of those soldiers have been gone 4 out of the last 5 years. That is too much. Our military is being stretched too thin. We are losing senior NCOs and junior officers because of the operations tempo that has taken such a toll on military people and their families.

Fighting two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq has taken a tremendous toll on the military. So we need not only uniform help, but the other part about NATO that people sometimes don't realize is the interoperability when it comes to intelligence gathering, particularly the Eastern European new NATO members that were part of the old Warsaw Pact, have some intelligence capabilities that we do not possess and will not possess.

Other NATO members have intelligence capabilities in North Africa that we do not possess and cannot possess, and they share with us some of those intelligence assets. Libya comes to mind as one of them.

So for one to take the position that since the Russians pouring through the Fulda Gap in Germany to overrun Western Europe is no longer what many think a creditable threat, that this organization should cease to exist seems to me to be in error.

I know of no military general or officer—and I met with the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, in my office this week—who shares the sentiments expressed by my friend from California.

The 60th anniversary of NATO is coming up in Strasburg-Kiel in the first weekend in April. I will be going as a member of the standing committee of the NATO PA as the President Speak to that 60th anniversary.

When one thinks about the 60th anniversary of NATO being celebrated on the border of Germany and France, and what happened in the last century with respect to those two countries twice—both times dragging the United States into World War I and World War II—if for no other reason, I think the symbolism that will occur there is worthy of our support, and this resolution does nothing more than speak to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired. Anyone else on the minority side seeking recognition at this point?

[No response.]

Chairman BERMAN. Then the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Scott, is recognized.

Mr. SCOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I, with all due respect, also disagree with my good friend on the other side from

California. I think from the very points that he made, never before have we a greater need for NATO.

NATO is extraordinarily important as a counterweight at this time for European nations as they grapple with Russia. The Cold War has not exactly thawed out completely. Nowhere is that more evident in the grasp that Russia has Europe in the area of energy security.

We constantly read how Russia continues to use its near monopoly on natural gas in that region as a political weapon. The only balance to that is the consideration of the NATO allies.

The other point is that certainly today and now is certainly the wrong time to give anything other than a strong vindication from the United States, in terms of the support of NATO.

Here we are, just now committing another 17,000 or 18,000 troops to Afghanistan. We are working feverishly to get other nations in NATO to commit to join us with other troops in NATO, and certainly the wrong message to send is our disappointment, or disapproval, or rejection of NATO.

On the other hand, let us stand and speak boldly, as we should speak, about the need for NATO, the purpose of NATO, the value of NATO, and the future of NATO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired. The gentleman—Mr. Burton, do you seek recognition?

Mr. BURTON. Yes, sir, just very briefly.

Chairman BERMAN. You are recognized.

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Chairman, I support the resolution and I yield the rest of my time to my radical friend, Dana Rohrabacher of California. [Laughter.]

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, let me just note that I, in spirit, certainly appreciate the sentiments that are being expressed here today about NATO, and that is in spirit, because we are talking about people who are committed to America's national security, and see NATO as an important part of America's national security.

I would just sincerely disagree with what is being expressed, and let me just say again what NATO offers us today is an illusion. What we have heard today is an illusion. NATO is not causing or making it more possible that we will solve conflicts and protect far off friends.

The fact is that NATO's involvement, or the fact that the concept of NATO expansion has led many of our friends not to make the compromises, and to deal with the difficulties and problems with their own neighbors in far off countries, because now they have NATO on their side, and they don't need to compromise about that particular issue that is so pressing for their country, which puts them at odds perhaps with a neighbor.

We saw that in Georgia. The fact that the Georgians thought they had NATO backing created that conflict. It wasn't Russian aggression. The Georgians actually began military operations and conducted an offensive, breaking a truce probably because they thought that NATO would be behind them.

NATO actually exacerbates certain problems. Should we have gotten involved in The Balkans? Well, we certainly should have helped people fight for their freedom by giving them the supplies needed to fight for their freedom.

But should American troops have been sent to The Balkans when that was purely a European theater of operations? If the Europeans can't take on Serbia, what do we need them as our allies for?

So what we have got here, Mr. Chairman, is we are expending limited resources for the benefit of other people's security in areas that are not necessarily essential to our own security.

And this is different than during the Cold War. During the Cold War, there was a Communist threat to the world, to the Western democracies, which required us to stand together. Today, NATO does not stand together with us in the meaningful ways that we think it does.

In Afghanistan, which we just heard lauded, yes, our NATO troops are there, and most of them demand to be totally out of any area that has any military conflict. Is that helping us, that we have troops from our so-called allies, who will go to a combat area as long as they are never expected to be in combat?

Now, yes, there have been a few allies that have gone across landmines and such, but by and large in Afghanistan our NATO allies are not the ones on the front lines, but the American troops are.

So I would say that the challenges that we face, like in Afghanistan, we can do, and if the NATO countries would like to come along and help, that is fine. That is good. But we should not be encumbering ourselves with a very expensive organization.

As I say, NATO troops—we have actually committed more troops to NATO, the United States, with our limited troops, than NATO has committed to helping us in these various conflict areas.

So why are we there? Why are we expending this? Because there is an illusion that as part of NATO, we are safer. I think that was true during the Cold War. It is no longer true. NATO is a drag. It is an organization that we can no longer rely upon, if you consider relying upon an organization that insists that they will only send troops to where their troops will never come under fire.

So with that said, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the sentiments of my friends and colleagues here. I believe it is all very patriotic. I just happen to disagree. NATO is no longer in the national security interests of the United States.

It gets us involved in areas of the world that we don't need to be involved in, and have nothing to do with our national security, and prevents local people from making compromises to maintain the peace.

Chairman BERMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired. The chair would put this issue on ice and turn to the arctic hearing, but before he does so, he recognizes the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Wexler.

Mr. WEXLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will speak to House Concurrent Resolution 36. Just one quick, I think, point which is necessary with respect to our allies in NATO, in terms of the character of their fighting.

Several countries have suffered significant casualties: Denmark, the Netherlands, the British, the Canadians, the French, all have fought side-by-side with American troops in Afghanistan within the context of NATO in very brave fashion, and those are just some of the countries to be named.

But, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for marking up House Concurrent Resolution 36, and urge all of my colleagues to support its passage. I introduced this resolution in February to shed light on the case of Robert Levinson, a constituent of mine from Coral Springs, Florida, who disappeared from Iran's Kish Island on March 9, 2007.

More than 2 years later there are disturbingly few known details about his whereabouts. What we do know, however, is that Mr. Levinson is a former FBI agent. He was last heard from on March 8, 2007, by his wife, Christine, while he was working in Dubai as a private investigator.

According to his family, he checked into a hotel on Kish Island and checked out the following morning to fly back to the United States. Unfortunately, Mr. Levinson never arrived at the airport for his flight, and there is no accounting for what happened to him since he left the hotel.

In December 2007, the Levinson family, with assistance from Swiss officials in Teheran, traveled to the hotel where Mr. Levinson was last seen and passed out flyers in Farsi with his photo. They also met with local Iranian authorities to seek their assistance in gaining information about Mr. Levinson's disappearance. And these authorities pledged to assist the Levinson family with their efforts to investigate the circumstances of his disappearance. However, despite its pledge, the Government of Iran has not followed through on its promise to the Levinson family.

In fact, the Iranian Government has stonewalled any effort to gain pertinent information, claiming they have zero knowledge about Mr. Levinson's whereabouts. They have also on numerous occasions rejected efforts by the Levinson family to meet.

In this vein, House Concurrent Resolution 36 calls on President Obama and allies of the United States around the world to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity with officials of the government of Iran. It also urges officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the Levinson family and calls on the Government of Iran to share the results of its investigation with the FBI.

My colleague from Florida, Senator Bill Nelson, introduced a bipartisan companion resolution in the Senate with Senator Mel Martinez, which passed on the 9th of this month.

And additionally it is critical that Secretary Clinton and the Obama administration continue to employ every diplomatic tool at their disposal to locate Mr. Levinson and return him to his family.

I respectfully urge my colleagues to stand with the Levinson family and support passage of this resolution. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired. I do want to remind the committee that we do have witnesses for a hearing waiting to start, and I now recognize the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. Jackson Lee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the chairman very much. I wish to quickly associate myself in support with H. Res. 76, and H. Con. Res. 36. H. Res. 76 is important to continue to express our kinship with South and Central America, particularly as the President leaves for that region in the next couple of weeks.

I also want to support Mr. Wexler on a case that has been enormously troubling and will probably seed, unfortunately, incidents like this around the world unless of course we continue to press the attention on that issue, and particularly this case, Mr. Levinson.

I also want to say having gone to The Balkans during the Bosnian war, I want to reinforce the importance of strengthening that region. But I would like to focus on H. Res. 152, which I support, and also certainly acknowledge the concerns that have been expressed.

But this initiative or resolution is important for a number of reasons. One, as we approach the 60th anniversary of NATO, I think we cannot miss the opportunity of saying that it has had a valuable purpose for both the United States and Europe.

I think it is also important to note that the way that you bring about change is to express again a respect. This resolution expresses our respect for what NATO has been. It also calls upon NATO to act upon the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, by intensifying consultations among political and military leaders, and deploying comprehensive counter threat capability.

Even though we know that NATO forces have been reduced and were reduced in Iraq that was—and I say NATO forces, countries that are members of NATO. We also know that the strength of NATO could be strong in Afghanistan, but they were there.

And on many occasions that I visited Afghanistan, I spoke to NATO forces or representatives of such, and I do believe that in order to change, you have to engage. This resolution is a statement of engagement. It allows this Congress and also the new President, to reaffirm our commitment to the principles of NATO.

But at the same time, we talk about pacing the process of NATO enlargement. This has a provision that says that it should maintain its unequivocal right to make its own decision, but we asked NATO to straighten its relations with Russia because I believe that is a smart way to go. They can be an effective partner in helping us create some long term relationships with Russia.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would indicate that sometimes it is as we say in Texas, that more bees go to honey and more flies to sugar. Hopefully that is not the diplomatic terminology.

But in any event, I do believe it is important to move this resolution forward and compliment NATO so that we can develop more ways of expressing our concerns for an improved NATO, and a NATO that is responsive to some of the conflicts that are of concern to us and the world. With that, I yield back.

Chairman BERMAN. The gentleman from New York, Mr. McMahon.

Mr. MCMAHON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that you want to proceed with the hearing, and so I will just very briefly say that I want to thank you for avoiding and placing the United States—this is regarding House Resolution 171, which we are considering today.

And thank you for avoiding placing the United States in the middle of a war of nationalist rhetoric by including Resolve Clause Number 2, which resolves to base any agreement on constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the multilateral brokered

Dayton Peace Accord, and that the carefully crafted Dayton Peace Accord is highly regarded in this resolution.

And I hope that our European friends follow suit by ensuring that Bosnia's and Herzegovina's membership into the EU be conditioned upon its full implementation of its agreement, and I will submit the remainder of my statement for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield the remainder of my time.

Chairman BERMAN. Thank you. Our final speaker is the ranking member of the committee, the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say a thank you to you, and to your very able staff, for working with us on certain language and little technical changes that we wanted to make on some of the resolutions.

It is always a delight to work with you and your wonderful staff members. So, on behalf of our side, thank you very much.

Chairman BERMAN. Thank you.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. And I support the en bloc of bills.

Chairman BERMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Chairman, are we finishing up with all the bills at this point?

Chairman BERMAN. I sure hope so.

Mr. BURTON. Well, I wanted to make one brief comment if I might, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BERMAN. Maybe Mr. Rohrabacher—

Mr. BURTON. No, no, no, no. Once is enough.

Chairman BERMAN. All right.

Mr. BURTON. No, the resolution that I am talking about is H. Res. 76. It is a resolution mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by the landslide in Guatemala and the earthquake in Costa Rica.

In Guatemala, I think, 36 people were killed and a number were missing, and in Costa Rica, I think over 100 were injured and many died, and I just thought we ought to publicly express our sympathy for the problems that they have, and I appreciate you putting this in the en bloc group.

Chairman BERMAN. Very good. Without objection the chair is authorized to seek consideration of these resolutions under suspension of the rules, and the amendments to those measures which the members have before them shall be deemed adopted. The business meeting of the committee is now adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:08 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE

*Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0128*

Howard L. Berman (D-CA), Chairman

March 18, 2009

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN markup of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held in **Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, for the purpose of mark up of the following legislation:

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2009

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

MARKUP OF: H. Res. 76, Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities;

H. Res. 152, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

H. Res. 171, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU); and

H. Con. Res. 36, Calling on the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on the Government of Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

**Attendance - HCFA Full Committee
MARKUP
March 25, 2009 @ 9:30 a.m. , 2172 RHOB**

Howard L. Berman (CA)	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, (FL)
Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (AS)	Christopher H. Smith (NJ)
Donald Payne (NJ)	Dan Burton (IN)
Brad Sherman (CA)	Elton Gallegly (CA)
Robert Wexler (FL)	Dana Rohrabacher (CA)
Diane E. Watson (CA)	Joe Wilson (SC)
Russ Carnahan (MO)	John Boozman (AR)
Albio Sires (NJ)	J. Gresham Barrett (SC)
Gerald E. Connolly (VA)	Jeff Fortenberry (NE)
Michael E. McMahon (NY)	Michael T. McCaul (TX)
John S. Tanner (TN)	Ted Poe (TX)
Gene Green (TX)	Bob Inglis (SC)
Lynn C. Woolsey (CA)	Gus Bilirakis (FL)
Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX)	
Barbara Lee (CA)	
Shelley Berkley (NV)	
Joseph Crowley (NY)	
Brad Miller (NC)	
David Scott (GA)	
Jim Costa (CA)	
Keith Ellison (MN)	
Ron Klein (FL)	

Committee on Foreign Affairs
Markup
Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Statement of Rep. Michael E. McMahon

Statement on H. Res. 171, March 25, 2009:

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman
- I would like to take a moment to discuss House Resolution 171 and its implications for the Balkans.
- The current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is incredibly fragile to say the least.
- The Dayton Accords ended a brutal war and provided a framework for stability and security through the creation of two generally ethnically homogeneous states.
- Although, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been popping in and out of the news media since the war ended in 1995, Bosnia has been relatively silent as it moved on the road to reconstruction
- Given this perception of tranquility, the international community felt more comfortable with readjusting its focus on more immediate security concerns and conflicts.
- But, just as the international community slowly eased its grip on Bosnia, tensions grew and stability deteriorated.
- It has long been said that a bad peace is far better than a good war, but Bosnia and Herzegovina's bad peace is currently heightening tensions to a level that could easily erupt into a very bad war.
- Mr. Chairman, House Resolution 171 is a bold effort to redirect the international community's attention back to Bosnia, which still very much needs the coordinated assistance of both the United States and the European Union.
- With this in mind, we should also be cautious.
- Any action taken by the international community can be and has historically been manipulated to play into the nationalist rhetoric and politics of the region.
- Extremists tend to feed off of one another in the Balkan states and engaging all sides is necessary when attempting to avoid igniting ethnic tensions.
- Chairman Berman, I would like to thank you for avoiding placing the United States in the middle of a war of nationalist rhetoric by including Resolved Clause #2, which resolves to base any agreement on constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the multi-laterally brokered Dayton Peace Accords.
- I am glad that the carefully crafted Dayton Peace Accords is highly regarded in this resolution, and I hope that our European friends follow suit by ensuring that Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership into the EU be conditioned upon its full implementation of the Dayton Agreement.
- I thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman and I yield my time.

