

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IRANIANS WHO EMBRACE DEMOCRACY

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 560) expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 560

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law;

(2) condemns the ongoing violence against demonstrators by the Government of Iran and pro-government militias, as well as the ongoing government suppression of independent electronic communication through interference with the Internet and cellphones; and

(3) affirms the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic and fair elections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Every day since Iran's election, the streets of Tehran have been filled with demonstrators, and each day this past week the number seems to be growing. Even state-run media in Iran has put the number of demonstrators in Tehran at "hundreds of thousands." One British newspaper reports that there were a million demonstrators in Tehran yesterday.

What do these demonstrators want? Are they simply in favor of the candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi? Or are they making a more profound statement about the Iranian regime?

Nobody knows exactly. We do know one thing, though: The demonstrators feel their intelligence was insulted and their dignity assaulted by the high-handed manner in which the results of the June 12 election were handled. They want justice. This morning the Supreme Leader offered none.

It is not for us to decide who should run Iran, much less determine the real winner of the June 12 election, but we must reaffirm our strong belief that the Iranian people have a fundamental right to express their views about the future of their country freely and without intimidation.

The Iranian regime is clearly embarrassed by the demonstrations and has not shrunk from using violence to stop them. At least eight demonstrators, and quite likely a number more, have been killed, and hundreds have been injured. The regime has also tried to ban media coverage of the demonstrations. Foreign journalists are consigned to

their homes and offices. Several have been expelled from the country. Cell phone coverage has been frequently blocked in order to limit communication among the protesters, and the regime has interfered with the Internet and taken down many opposition Web sites.

We cannot stand silent in the face of this assault on human freedom and dignity. I repeat that we have no interest in interfering in Iran's internal affairs. That era has ended. This resolution affirms the "universality of individual rights" as well as "the importance of democratic and fair elections." Beyond that, it simply expresses its solidarity with "Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law." I don't know how many of the demonstrators fall into that category, but I do know that many of them do.

This resolution also condemns the bloody suppression of freedom. It is not a judgment on who won the Iranian elections; it is an acknowledgment that we cannot remain silent when cherished universal principles are under attack.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just offer my appreciation to our ranking member and to the gentleman from Indiana for working together on a resolution which puts the House of Representatives on the side of the people of Iran, and with that, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start out thanking our esteemed and distinguished chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. BERMAN, for working with us in a bipartisan manner, reaching out to our side to bring this timely resolution to the floor. I especially want to thank our Republican Conference Chair and a great member of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. PENCE, who authored this legislation.

I rise in strong support of the fundamental, universal human rights and civil liberties to which the Iranian people are entitled. For 30 years, these rights and freedoms have been denied again and again by an oppressive Iranian regime which uses a sham process with candidates handpicked by the ruling apparatus to create the illusion of political participation.

There was no election in Iran this year. There has been no election, no democracy in Iran for decades. The candidates and the winners were again picked in advance by the regime. Real reform, real democracy were never an option. This repressive regime relies on so-called elections to provide a veneer of legitimacy, but that facade has been shattered by the protests taking place in Iran this week. The brutal nature of the Iranian regime is well-documented.

On Tuesday, I had the honor of attending, with Secretary of State Hil-

lary Clinton, the release of the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which again cited Iran as a Tier 3 country, among the worst, as the regime that does little, if anything, to prevent men, women, and children from being trafficked for sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude, slavery. Likewise, as the State Department's human rights report for 2008 noted: "Iran's poor human rights record worsened and it continued to commit numerous serious abuses. The government severely limited citizens' right to change their government peacefully through free and fair elections. Authorities held political prisoners and intensified a crackdown against women's rights reformers, ethnic minority rights activists, student activists, and religious minorities."

It is a pattern for decades. So we must look beyond the past week, which was only the most recent demonstration of the regime's brutality and authoritarianism.

But the Iranian regime is not just a threat to its own people. We cannot afford to lose sight of the threat that it presents to our own national security interests and, indeed, to global peace and security. Iran draws even closer to crossing that nuclear point of no return. Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chairman of our Joint Chiefs of Staff, has stated that Iran has likely enriched enough uranium to make an atomic bomb. International inspectors also report that Iran has enough low-enriched uranium to achieve nuclear weapons breakout capabilities and that issues about possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program remain unresolved. Yet Iran is allowed to continue its nuclear pursuit virtually unchallenged.

Additionally, Iran continues to develop chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles while arming and bankrolling violent Islamic extremists worldwide. We must bear this in mind when we determine what is the appropriate response to the Iranian regime's policies and actions.

But today, Mr. Speaker, we must focus on the hopes of the individual Iranians who have been robbed of a better future for almost 30 years by a regime which only promises nothing but misery and malaise. Now is the time for all responsible nations to stand foreshore with the people of Iran as they seek freedom, as they seek true self-governance at home, as well as to live at peace with the world.

□ 1030

We must send a clear signal today to the Iranian regime and all of its proxies and affiliates that free nations will not tolerate further efforts to silence the voice of the Iranian people through violence and coercion.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

My friend, the ranking member, correctly cited a whole series of very important issues that we and the United

States has with the Government of Iran; and she is correct. Just this quick note about what the gentlelady from Florida pointed out at the end of her comments. The reason I worked to bring this resolution up—this resolution is not about a recitation of all those issues. It's about an affirmation of something that this House of Representatives has done in places all over the world, whether it is in Tibet or in Cuba or in Eastern Europe or in the Middle East or any other region, to reaffirm our commitment to stand for certain fundamental universal principles involving human rights, participatory democracy and the affirmation of the rights of the people of any country. Today it's about the people of Iran.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we have an impressive lineup of speakers on our side. I would like to start by yielding 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), the author of the bill, Republican Conference Chair and an esteemed member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I rise with a great sense of humility and a great sense of moment before this body but also a great sense of gratitude to the ranking member for her extraordinary leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor, a resolution which, as the chairman of the committee just stated quite eloquently, will give the American people, through their elected representatives, a clear opportunity on this day, after a week of violence and tumult in the nation of Iran, to express the American people's support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties and the rule of law.

I am especially grateful for the leadership and the spirit brought to this legislation by Chairman HOWARD BERMAN, with whom I don't agree on very much; but I am grateful that he demonstrates today a public mindedness that I think is in keeping with the best traditions of this institution.

Ronald Reagan would say in 1964, "You and I are told increasingly that we have to choose between a left or right, but I would like to suggest that there is no such thing as a left or right. There is only an up or down: up to a man's age-old dream, the ultimate in individual freedom consistent with law and order or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism."

Today the leadership of Chairman HOWARD BERMAN demonstrates that on the issue of speaking a word of encouragement to those who would stand with extraordinary valor for their own liberty, there is no left or right in this body. It has been, as has been stated before, an extraordinary week in the

life of the nation of Iran. On 12 June, just one week ago, from the very moment that the presidential election results were announced, the international community and the international press called the results into question. Chief among the reasons for that was that even before the extraordinary demonstrations had begun, millions of paper ballots had apparently been tallied and counted within a matter of hours. The official government results of the election were met with public consternation among the people of Iran; and while the defeated candidate launched a legal appeal, as the western media has reported, what has ensued on the streets of Iran has been the biggest demonstration in the Islamic Republic's 30-year history. And most sad, following that election day, the actions by the government and militias that support the government have turned to violence. Pro-government forces have attacked demonstrators over the past week, causing fatalities, resulting in the arrest of dissidents. We have heard of foreign reporters prevented from making their way into the public. We've heard of the jamming of electronic communications. For all the world, we may well be witnessing a Tiananmen in Teheran.

It seems to me that in this moment, the people of the United States of America long to be heard; and by dint of House Resolution 560 today through their elected representatives, the American people will have had that opportunity. This resolution simply states that it is resolved that the House of Representatives expresses its support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties and rule of law. It also condemns the ongoing violence against demonstrators by the Government of Iran and pro-government militias, as well as the ongoing suppression of independent electronic communication through interference with the Internet and cell phones. And lastly, it affirms the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic and fair elections.

I have said many times this week, and it has been echoed by my colleagues, like the Republican Whip ERIC CANTOR, that the cause of America is freedom; and in this cause, the American people will not be silent. There is no intention here to pick sides in the Iranian election. There is an intention here, in a true spirit of bipartisanship, to allow the American people to be on the side of liberty and to be on the side of freedom. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation because the voice of the American people has before and, I believe in my heart of hearts, will again make a difference in the advancement of human liberty in the world. I urge its support.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my dear friend, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentlelady from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding and for his steady leadership on this and so many other issues, the ranking member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for his leadership on this and so many other Middle East-related issues as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and in support of the people of Iran whose voices deserve to be heard in a free, open and democratic way. We are not here today to discuss the outcome of this election or involve the United States in the internal politics of Iran. The American people, through their elected representatives, are here today to stand with the people of Iran and people all over the world who yearn to express their opinions and to exercise their right to free speech and fair elections.

It takes an enormous amount of courage to stand up to your government in a repressive society, and the American people applaud those heroes who face intimidation and oppression for expressing their views. I am personally in awe of the Iranian people and hope others will learn by their example. I also support President Obama, who I believe has steered an excellent course for dealing with this situation. While some have called upon him to condemn the Iranian government more forcefully, I believe it is essential that the United States not interfere in this remarkable debate and public demonstration. What the world is watching unfold in Iran is condemnation enough of what is happening in that country. We should, however, encourage free speech, free elections and nonviolence for all the parties involved. It's a wise course, and I believe it is one we would have benefited from in years past.

I thank the gentleman from California once again. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation. I support it totally.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), our esteemed Republican Whip, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and a leader on issues related to Iran.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Speaker, the Iranian regime's brutalities are on full display for the whole world to behold. I rise today in sympathy with the victims of Iranian political oppression who have been injured or killed, protesting the outcome of their election. I salute the leadership of the gentlelady from Florida and the gentleman from California for bringing this resolution forward, as well as the gentleman from Indiana for his leadership on this and so many issues, and the way that the gentlelady from Nevada spoke.

It is America's moral responsibility to speak out on behalf of the protection of human rights wherever they are violated. And regardless of the outcome of the Iranian election, make no

mistake where the power in Iran lies. It lies with a clerical regime who conducts its most egregious activities in the dark, hidden from the world's eyes and, thus, escaping media attention. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps quietly funnels weapons and funding into terrorist groups from Iraq to Afghanistan, from Lebanon to Gaza. Iranian centrifuges enrich uranium at nuclear plants often hidden from weapons inspectors. And terrorist groups make voyages to Iran to receive training at unspecified locations. This is the regime we are talking about, and this week the true colors of that regime are on broad display. We must rally the world around the cause of the Iranian people. I urge the administration, I urge President Obama to follow the lead of this House, to speak out on behalf of the Iranian people and their quest for freedom and human rights.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman for whom I have great respect, the minority whip, spoke about America's moral commitment to speak out on behalf of people yearning for freedom. We have an even higher moral commitment, and that is to do the things that help expand the extent of human freedom around the world. And it is in that context that I know that this House and this administration are pursuing this mission, that higher authority to do the things that produce the greatest likelihood of the expansion of human freedom.

I now yield 2 minutes to a member of the committee, a great Member from the State of Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

□ 1045

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much, Chairman BERMAN, and to Mr. PENCE, for this very timely resolution.

This is a time of great thought and deliberation and concern of what the United States must do and say. Our words have got to be carefully calculated to make sure that they are seen as not meddling, as not trying to tell the Iranian people what to do, because, quite honestly, Mr. Speaker, the Iranian people have already spoken. They have decided, and I believe that is our responsibility, if we hold true to the principles of our Founding Fathers.

As I was coming over on the floor, I was thinking what I could say, and the words of one of our great founders and patriots beams very deep in my heart as I think and I watch the news reports of what is happening in the streets of Tehran, when that great patriot said, Give me liberty or give me death. That is why the United States of America cannot be silent. It is our foundation.

I was reminded of the words of Thomas Jefferson when he wrote that, All men are created equal, and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, and among those life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

That is what we stand for. So it is important that we put this resolution

forward, and it is important that the world understand that America is indeed that shining light of liberty and of freedom that Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson spoke so eloquently about.

We are proud to support the Iranian people, and we condemn the violence.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to yield 2 minutes to my good friend from California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, the ranking member on the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight on our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Today, I rise in strong support of this resolution which ratchets up, to a degree, America's willingness to express its heartfelt support for the Iranian people and their struggle against the mullah dictatorship that oppresses them.

Now, it has been said that you cannot champion the oppressed unless you are willing to take on the oppressor. America should not intervene in every struggle taking place, but we should be unapologetically on the side of those who are in desperate battle for their own freedom.

Tempered rhetoric can be interpreted by tyrants as weakness. We need to send a strong message to those tyrants and a strong message to the people who are willing to risk their lives on the streets of Tehran that we are on the side of the people and the side of democracy and freedom. Any other message would be a betrayal of our fundamental principles, the principles of liberty and democracy that so many Americans have sacrificed to give us and to pass on to other generations.

Yes, we should not intervene, but it is up to us to make sure those people struggling throughout the world know we are on their side. We must be bold in our words of support.

I was honored to be one of five speech writers serving Ronald Reagan. He too was told to tone down his rhetoric. He too was told that strong words would be interpreted as belligerence. But with his strong words, he ended the Cold War, without the conflagration that hung over our heads for decades. He made it a better, a more peaceful and a freer world with a strong message and no apologies.

We should follow the lead of Ronald Reagan. It will make this a better world if we side with the people in Tehran who oppose their mullah dictatorship.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to yield 2 minutes to my legislative brother, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), a member of the powerful Committee on Rules.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. The Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the so-called "supreme leader," is the ruthless dictator of Iran. Ahmadinejad is his puppet. In this farcical election, Khamenei overstepped blatantly. The others in the dictatorship who aspired to the puppet presidency are upset.

The Iranian people are utilizing this moment of division in the dictatorship

to heroically express their opposition to the dictatorship. The issue is not one of who is entitled to be the puppet president in the Iranian dictatorship. The issue is the Iranian people are entitled to an end of the dictatorship and to live in self-determination and freedom and democracy.

The President of the United States has been silent and confused. The Congress of the United States clearly stands with the Iranian people, and they will prevail.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to my friend from Florida, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. KLEIN.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 560 and would like to thank our chairman Mr. BERMAN and my colleague Mr. PENCE for bringing this bipartisan statement forward which supports our American view of the events in Iran.

The Iranian people deserve a democracy that counts every vote and treats its citizens with the utmost dignity. They deserve to trust their own government. However, these are not free and fair elections by any stretch of the imagination, and it is our imperative to speak out whenever and wherever freedom is suppressed, whether by our allies or by our foes.

Frankly, we have honest differences with the Iranian government, no matter who is elected. Any Iranian government that seeks a nuclear weapon and spreads state-sponsored terrorism is a threat to the United States and our allies. That is why the United States has not taken either side in this conflict. It is for the Iranians to choose who leads them. Indeed, this struggle belongs to them.

However, the message we send today is the world is watching. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL), a member of the Budget and the Financial Services Committees.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

This country has always stood with those around the world yearning for freedom, a voice and a better future. Whether those people were in Nazi Germany, Communist Eastern Europe, apartheid South Africa, or any other number of places around the world, we have stood with the freedom fighters. It is now time for us to stand with those in Iran who seek freedom from one of the world's most oppressive, most dangerous and most dictatorial regimes.

I hope this resolution is not the end, but is just the beginning of the support that this government, both in Congress and the White House, gives to those people.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, could I get an assessment or calculation of the remaining time on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. I can give you that with precision. The gentleman has 9½ minutes remaining; the

gentlewoman has 4¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. BERMAN. I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I stand with my colleagues in this Congress, I stand with President Obama and Vice President BIDEN, in support of the Iranian people, their right to express themselves, their right to have peaceful demonstrations, and I stand in support of this resolution.

I hope that the ayatollahs understand that these demonstrations are about the future of Iran and the right of their people to have a voice in their government. Young and old, liberal or conservative, all ages, all economic groups are part of these demonstrations.

As President Obama has said, the entire world is watching, and the world is inspired. We applaud your efforts to move your country toward a more democratic, peaceful country.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the non-violent movement for social change in Iran. I have always maintained that the Middle East is in need of a non-violent movement for social change, not only in Iran but also in the Gaza Strip, a nonviolent movement in Syria, a nonviolent movement for social change.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation."

Today we are not only supporting democracy in Iran, we are also supporting the nonviolent thrust for democracy in Iran, so the conflicts may be settled, Mr. Speaker, without resulting to weapons, to violence and conflict, not only within that country, but among nations.

So, today, Mr. Speaker, we rise today to support the proponents of the non-violent movement.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we just have one additional speaker, and I would like to call on the author of the resolution, a great member of our House Foreign Affairs Committee and our conference chair on the Republican side, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for the remainder of the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 4¼ minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and again reiterate my gratitude for her expeditious work in bringing this important resolution to the floor on a timely basis, and commend again Chairman HOWARD

BERMAN for the spirit and thoughtfulness with which he brought this resolution to the floor.

Today, in the wake of a week of extraordinary public demonstrations, violence, and tumult across the nation of Iran, the American people through this Congress will condemn that violence and the suppression of the free and independent press in Iran, and, as the American people have done throughout our history, we will proclaim liberty by supporting all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law in this measure.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure and join us, and, if reports are correct, our colleagues in the Senate who may well come together and give voice on the world stage of the character and compassion and commitment to freedom that is at the heart of every American.

Now, some observers say that America should remain silent in the wake of this violence and the suppression of free speech and the intimidation and suppression of a free and independent press in Iran. But let me say from my heart, the American cause is freedom, and in that cause we must never be silent.

The Iranian regime would do well to note the words of President Ronald Reagan from his first inaugural address 20 January, 1981, where he said, No arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.

Today this Congress, in a true spirit of bipartisanship, will come together on behalf of the moral courage of the men and women of Iran who have tasted freedom and have been willing to risk their liberty and their lives to advance it.

□ 1100

It is my hope and it is my prayer that this word of encouragement from the American people to the Iranian people will be to good effect for that nation and for freedom in the world.

I urge support of this resolution.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to an excellent member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the drafters of the resolution. I think it is carefully drafted, and I think it is clear that the universal values of freedom that are expressed in the resolution are done with a great amount of prudence, and I think that's right.

I think it is also important to understand that when the Congress of the United States speaks a lot of people listen, and so it's important to not allow the Congress to be used as a tool in what was essentially an internal fight in Iran. And so I would urge caution and urge the United States Congress to stand up and speak about the universal

values that we care about: Democracy, freedom, due process of law, lack of violence in terms of solving political disputes, and not allow ourselves to be used as a weapon against the people who we are, in fact, trying to help, which is the people of Iran.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I'm proud to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. ISSA. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear today that some would have us be silent as to the aspiration of the people risking life and limb on the streets of Iran today. We cannot and should not be that way. Yes, it's an internal matter, but it's an internal matter in a country which has been ruled by theocrats for so very long who have denied real free elections, and even when the will of the people was obvious, in fact, want to overturn the will of the people for a President who could be a reformer and give opportunity, particularly to women in this country.

So I urge support for this resolution because it sends the message that we are, in fact, with the people who want freedom.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, should I by yielding 1 minute of my time to the gentleman from South Carolina at this point?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Yes.

Mr. BERMAN. And then if you yield time, he'll have all his time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS), and anytime you would like to.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. INGLIS. I thank the gentlelady and the gentleman for yielding that time, and I saw this morning that the Supreme Leader of Iran said that street challenge is not acceptable. This is challenging democracy after the elections.

Well, we beg to differ and the people of Iran are begging to differ. When you can count paper ballots, millions of them, within a couple of hours, something's funny. And when you declare the results of the election is fine but say there is going to be some investigation, what's the value of the investigation if you've already certified the election?

And so what we're begging to differ with the Supreme Leader of Iran is that it is not challenging democracy after elections. It's saying that the elections were rigged, and rigged elections don't produce outcomes that people can believe in.

Furthermore, what's happening here is we're seeing the real disastrous consequence of having a theocracy, where somebody at the top gets to say—I don't know where he derives his authority—but he gets to say what's what about elections.

We're very thankful, Madam Speaker, to live in a country where that's not the case, where we have elected officials who choose Supreme Court members, who are then confirmed by the Senate and who serve with good behavior. And that is a system that produces confidence among the people, and a free people get to govern themselves.

That's our hope, that's our aspiration for the Iranian people; and we, the people of the United States, should stand boldly with the people in Tehran and elsewhere in Iran who are saying we yearn to breathe free, we want to govern ourselves. This is their moment. We stand in support of them.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I would just yield myself such time as I may consume to once again thank the minority for working with us, my ranking member, as well as Mr. PENCE, particularly to say that my fondest hope is that on these critical kinds of issues we can establish a bipartisan basis for working together.

And then simply to say that there are many American interests in U.S.-Iranian relationships. This resolution is not about American interests. It's about American values, which I believe are universal values: the values of the rule of law, of participatory democracy, about individual liberty, and about justice. And it is on behalf of those universal values, not American interests, that I urge this body to support this resolution.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the Chairman and to Mr. PENCE for the resolution before us. I think it is critical for the House to address the remarkable events that are taking place in Iran.

We are seeing a nation—an entire nation—rise up. What is happening in Iran is an inspiration to all of us who believe that there is such a thing as universal human rights.

We do not want—and we are not attempting—to choose Iran's rulers. Who rules Iran is a question for the people of Iran. And as we expect all nations to respect our sovereignty, so too must we respect the sovereignty of other nations.

But we are not blind. And we must not be mute.

We have seen gunfire and truncheons deployed against peaceful protesters and marches. We have followed the wave of repression against activists, reporters, and all forms of communication. We know about the crackdown and arrests of Iranians who call for freedom and reform. We have watched mobs of thuggish enforcers terrorizing students and citizens in their dorms and homes.

But we have also watched the unbelievable, quiet courage of millions of Iranians marching, and we have watched their numbers growing every day. We have seen them insist on non-violence in the face of provocation and assault. And we have heard their impatient but persistent call for justice.

And this nation knows what that call for justice sounds like. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote from the Birmingham jail that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Bound up in the revolutionary documents of our founding, and in our Nation's unique role in the struggle for human freedom, is a special responsibility. We have an obligation that the resolution before us answers. We are all witnesses. And we are bound to support the courageous and decent people in Iran who are struggling for their rights and their freedom.

This resolution is measured and careful, but meaningful. And it deserves the strong support of every Member.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to H. Res 560, which condemns the Iranian government for its recent actions during the unrest in that country. While I never condone violence, much less the violence that governments are only too willing to mete out to their own citizens, I am always very cautious about "condemning" the actions of governments overseas. As an elected member of the United States House of Representatives, I have always questioned our constitutional authority to sit in judgment of the actions of foreign governments of which we are not representatives. I have always hesitated when my colleagues rush to pronounce final judgment on events thousands of miles away about which we know very little. And we know very little beyond limited press reports about what is happening in Iran.

Of course I do not support attempts by foreign governments to suppress the democratic aspirations of their people, but when is the last time we condemned Saudi Arabia or Egypt or the many other countries where unlike in Iran there is no opportunity to exercise any substantial vote on political leadership? It seems our criticism is selective and applied when there are political points to be made. I have admired President Obama's cautious approach to the situation in Iran and I would have preferred that we in the House had acted similarly.

I adhere to the foreign policy of our Founders, who advised that we not interfere in the internal affairs of countries overseas. I believe that is the best policy for the United States, for our national security and for our prosperity. I urge my colleagues to reject this and all similar meddling resolutions.

Madam Speaker, I urge you to support H.R. 560, expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law and for other purposes. The only effective way to achieve lasting peace and prosperity in the region, along with bringing about reforms in Iran's polity, is to assist the Iranian people in their quest to achieve political, social, and religious liberty. Every government can be judged with the way in which it treats its ethnic and religious minorities, and the current Iranian government gets a failing grade for its treat-

ment of its many and diverse minorities. It is not our position as the United States to determine the outcome of the recent Iranian elections, but as a leader in the international community, we have a responsibility to ensure that the people of Iran have the opportunity to have fair and free elections.

Yet with the results of the recent election, there was no chance for Iranian citizens to participate in democracy. On June 12, 2009 Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was ostensibly re-elected to his second term as President, as a result of the tenth Presidential elections in Iran, held and calculated on June 13, 2009. Subject to official results released by Iran's election headquarters, out of a total of 39,165,191 ballots cast in the presidential election, Ahmadinejad allegedly won 24,527,516 votes, which accounts for approximately 62.6 percent of the votes, while his opponent and former Prime Minister of Iran Mir-Hossein Mousavi purportedly secured only 13,216,411 (37.4 percent) of the votes. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei announced that he envisions Ahmadinejad as president in the next five years, a comment interpreted as indicating support for Ahmadinejad's reelection.

Just 48 hours after Iranian officials announced incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's landslide 62.6% victory, the situation in Tehran and in regions throughout the country broke out in a wave of violent protests in response to what the people of Iran knew to be a rigged poll.

Yet despite the large-scale civil unrest in response to the rigged elections, the outstretched arm of the Ayatollah extends beyond Tehran. Whereas the size of the crowds protesting reached to more than 1 million people united in outrage at the absence of a fair and free electoral process. Despite the government ban that has been placed on all public gatherings with the purpose of voicing opposition to the outcome of the Iranian presidential elections, the people of Iran have publicly expressed their dissent. Iranians throughout the country have defied Interior Ministry warnings broadcast. Violence has spilled on to the streets of Tehran. To date, 7 Iranians have been killed in violent political unrest. Beyond Tehran, Iranians living in the rural regions are feeling the Ayatollah's pressures to cease all public expression of their discontent with the outcome of the elections. The Iranian people living in the region of Mashad are currently confined to their homes in order to prevent them protesting in the streets. All foreign journalists have now been quarantined and/or made to leave the country.

Following the results of the June 12th Iranian election, President Obama released a statement in reaction to then elections in Iran, stating "I am deeply troubled by the violence that I've been seeing on television," Obama said in Washington. "I can't state definitively one way or another what happened with respect to the election. But what I can say is that there appears to be a sense on the part of people who were so hopeful and so engaged and so committed to democracy who now feel betrayed."

Given the absence of fair and free elections, coupled with the government's poor record for transparency and accountability, we have deep cause for concern about the opportunity for free choices and democratic participation for the people of Iran. Despite intensified inspections since 2002, the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) inability, to verify that

Iran's nuclear program is not designed to develop a nuclear weapon is cause for great concern. While Iran states that the intention of its nuclear program is for electricity generation which it feels is vital to its energy security, U.S. officials challenge this justification by stating that "Iran's vast gas resources make a nuclear energy program unnecessary."

Establishing a diplomatic dialogue with the Government of Iran and deepening relationships with the Iranian people will only help foster greater understanding between the people of Iran and the people of the United States and would enhance the stability the security of the Persian Gulf region. Furthering President Obama's approach toward continued engagement will reduce the increased threat of the proliferation or use of nuclear weapons in the region, while advancing other U.S. foreign policy objectives in the region. The significance of establishing and sustaining diplomatic relations with Iran cannot be over-emphasized. Avoidance and military intervention cannot be the means through which we resolve this looming crisis.

In conclusion, we must condemn Iran for the absence of fair and free Presidential elections and urge Iran to provide its people with the opportunity to engage in a Democratic election process, by demanding new elections, and ensure that all votes are fairly counted. I look forward to further meaningful discussion and a new foreign policy strategy with regard to Iran when the people of Iran are able to participate in a fair and democratic electoral process.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, this week the world heard the cry of millions of Iranians who seek the right to a free and fair election. In response, Americans from all walks of life have taken up the cause of liberty for Iranians who crave real freedom and not sham elections.

"I am proud to join the United States Congress to stand with freedom-loving people everywhere in support of the people of Iran and to call for an end to the brutal and violent suppression of peaceful protesters. We will not stand by in silence and watch the forces of radicalism attempt to squelch the public outcry in Iran against last week's election irregularities.

"The Middle East is ready for another real democracy, a nation where the voices of every citizen are heard and where the government works for the people and not against the people. Over the past few years the bellicose regime in Tehran has spewed an endless line of anti-Western vitriol and insists on threatening the existence of the state of Israel—one of the few beacons of real freedom in the Middle East. It is now obvious that the average Iranian has grown weary with their authoritarian leadership.

"The ongoing crackdown on free expression and the rights of journalists along with the censoring of communication with the outside world has simply shown the true colors of the dark Iranian regime desperately trying to hold its grip on power. The people of Iran deserve better. They deserve freedom. And today the House of Representatives has given voice to their historic plea in the hallowed halls of Congress."

Mr. BERMAN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the

rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 560.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 559, by the yeas and nays;

Adopting H. Res. 559, if ordered;

Suspending the rules and adopting H. Res. 560, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2918, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 559, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 177, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 409]

YEAS—230

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Abercrombie | Castor (FL) | Edwards (MD) |
| Ackerman | Chandler | Edwards (TX) |
| Altmire | Childers | Ellison |
| Andrews | Clarke | Ellsworth |
| Arcuri | Clay | Engel |
| Baca | Clyburn | Eshoo |
| Baird | Cohen | Etheridge |
| Baldwin | Connolly (VA) | Farr |
| Barrow | Cooper | Filner |
| Bean | Costa | Foster |
| Becerra | Costello | Frank (MA) |
| Berkley | Courtney | Fudge |
| Berman | Crowley | Giffords |
| Berry | Cuellar | Gonzalez |
| Bocieri | Cummings | Gordon (TN) |
| Boren | Dahlkemper | Grayson |
| Boswell | Davis (AL) | Green, Al |
| Boucher | Davis (CA) | Green, Gene |
| Boyd | Davis (IL) | Griffith |
| Brady (PA) | Davis (TN) | Grijalva |
| Braley (IA) | DeGette | Gutierrez |
| Bright | Delahunt | Hall (NY) |
| Brown, Corrine | DeLauro | Halvorson |
| Butterfield | Dicks | Hare |
| Capps | Dingell | Hastings (FL) |
| Cardoza | Doggett | Heinrich |
| Carnahan | Donnelly (IN) | Herseeth Sandlin |
| Carney | Doyle | Higgins |
| Carson (IN) | Driehaus | Himes |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Hinchey | McIntyre | Sanchez, Loretta |
| Hinojosa | McMahon | Sarbanes |
| Hirono | McNerney | Schakowsky |
| Hodes | Meek (FL) | Schauer |
| Holden | Meeks (NY) | Schiff |
| Holt | Melancon | Schrader |
| Honda | Michaud | Schwartz |
| Hoyer | Miller (NC) | Scott (GA) |
| Inslee | Miller, George | Scott (VA) |
| Israel | Mollohan | Serrano |
| Jackson (IL) | Moore (KS) | Shea-Porter |
| Jackson-Lee | Moore (WI) | Sherman |
| (TX) | Moran (VA) | Sires |
| Johnson (GA) | Murphy (CT) | Slaughter |
| Johnson, E. B. | Murphy (NY) | Smith (WA) |
| Kagen | Murphy, Patrick | Snyder |
| Kanjorski | Murtha | Space |
| Kildee | Nadler (NY) | Speier |
| Kilpatrick (MI) | Napolitano | Stupak |
| Kilroy | Neal (MA) | Sutton |
| Kind | Nye | Tanner |
| Kirkpatrick (AZ) | Oberstar | Tauscher |
| Kissell | Obey | Taylor |
| Klein (FL) | Olver | Teague |
| Kosmas | Ortiz | Thompson (CA) |
| Kucinich | Pallone | Thompson (MS) |
| Langevin | Pascrell | Tierney |
| Larsen (WA) | Pastor (AZ) | Titus |
| Larson (CT) | Payne | Tonko |
| Lee (CA) | Perlmutter | Towns |
| Levin | Perriello | Tsongas |
| Lipinski | Peters | Van Hollen |
| Loeback | Peterson | Visclosky |
| Lofgren, Zoe | Pingree (ME) | Walz |
| Lowe | Polis (CO) | Wasserman |
| Lujan | Pomeroy | Schultz |
| Lynch | Price (NC) | Waters |
| Maffei | Quigley | Watson |
| Maloney | Rahall | Watt |
| Markey (CO) | Rangel | Waxman |
| Markey (MA) | Reyes | Weiner |
| Marshall | Richardson | Welch |
| Massa | Rodriguez | Wexler |
| Matheson | Ross | Wilson (OH) |
| Matsui | Rothman (NJ) | Woolsey |
| McCarthy (NY) | Roybal-Allard | Wu |
| McCollum | Rush | Yarmuth |
| McDermott | Ryan (OH) | |
| McGovern | Salazar | |

NAYS—177

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Aderholt | Dreier | Lewis (CA) |
| Akin | Duncan | Linder |
| Alexander | Ehlers | LoBiondo |
| Austria | Emerson | Lucas |
| Bachus | Fallin | Luetkemeyer |
| Bartlett | Flake | Lummis |
| Barton (TX) | Fleming | Lungren, Daniel |
| Biggart | Forbes | E. |
| Bilbray | Fortenberry | Mack |
| Bilirakis | Fox | Manzullo |
| Bishop (UT) | Franks (AZ) | Marchant |
| Blackburn | Frelinghuysen | McCarthy (CA) |
| Blunt | Galleghy | McCauley |
| Boehner | Garrett (NJ) | McClintock |
| Bonner | Gerlach | McCotter |
| Bono Mack | Gingrey (GA) | McHenry |
| Boozman | Gohmert | McHugh |
| Boustany | Goodlatte | McKeon |
| Brady (TX) | Granger | McMorris |
| Broun (GA) | Graves | Rodgers |
| Brown (SC) | Guthrie | Mica |
| Brown-Waite, | Hall (TX) | Miller (FL) |
| Ginny | Harper | Miller (MI) |
| Buchanan | Hastings (WA) | Miller, Gary |
| Burgess | Hensarling | Minnick |
| Burton (IN) | Herger | Mitchell |
| Buyer | Hill | Moran (KS) |
| Calvert | Hoekstra | Murphy, Tim |
| Camp | Hunter | Myrick |
| Campbell | Inglis | Neugebauer |
| Cantor | Issa | Nunes |
| Cao | Jenkins | Olson |
| Capito | Johnson (IL) | Paul |
| Carter | Johnson, Sam | Paulsen |
| Cassidy | Jones | Pence |
| Castle | Jordan (OH) | Petri |
| Chaffetz | King (IA) | Pitts |
| Cleaver | King (NY) | Platts |
| Coble | Kingston | Poe (TX) |
| Coffman (CO) | Kirk | Posey |
| Cole | Kline (MN) | Price (GA) |
| Conaway | Kratovil | Putnam |
| Crenshaw | Lamborn | Radanovich |
| Culberson | Lance | Rehberg |
| Davis (KY) | Latham | Reichert |
| Dent | LaTourette | Roe (TN) |
| Diaz-Balart, L. | Latta | Rogers (AL) |
| Diaz-Balart, M. | Lee (NY) | Rogers (KY) |