

H. Res. 453

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

November 21, 2003.

Whereas in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 15, 2003, two explosions, set off minutes apart during Sabbath morning services, devastated Neve Shalom, the city's largest synagogue, and the Beth Israel synagogue, about three miles away;

Whereas more than 20 people, both Muslims and Jews, were killed, and more than 300 people, both Muslims and Jews, were wounded, in the bombing attacks on the synagogues;

Whereas on November 20, 2003, two bombs exploded at the Consulate of the United Kingdom in Istanbul and at the HSBC Bank;

Whereas among the more than 25 killed and 450 wounded in the November 20 bombing attacks on the consulate general and commercial buildings were Muslims and Christians—Turks, British diplomats, and visitors to the Turkish Republic;

Whereas the United Kingdom is an ally of the United States and Turkey in the global war on terrorism;

Whereas the acts of murder committed on November 15 and 20, 2003, in Istanbul, Turkey, were cowardly and brutal manifestations of international terrorism;

Whereas the Government of Turkey immediately condemned the terrorist attacks in the strongest possible terms and has vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice at all costs;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, and Turkey equally abhor and denounce these hateful, repugnant, and loathsome acts of terrorism;

Whereas with anti-Semitic activities escalating the safety and security of Jewish people throughout the world is a matter of serious concern;

Whereas since Turkey cherishes its traditions of hospitality and religious tolerance and in particular its history of more than five hundred years of good Jewish-Muslim relations, the attacks on synagogues and consular premises came as a special shock to the Turkish people and to their friends throughout the world;

Whereas the United States and Turkey are allied by shared values and a common interest in building a stable, peaceful, and prosperous world;

Whereas Turkey, a predominantly Muslim nation with a secular government, has close relations with Israel and is also the only predominantly Muslim member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

Whereas the acts of murder committed on November 15 and 20, 2003 show again that terrorism respects neither boundaries nor borders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 15 and 20, 2003;

(2) expresses its condolences to the families of the individuals murdered in the terrorist attacks, expresses its sympathies to the individuals injured in the attacks, and conveys its hope for the rapid and complete recovery of all such injured individuals;

(3) expresses its condolences to the people and government of the Turkish Republic and of the United Kingdom over the losses they have suffered; and

(4) expresses its solidarity with the United Kingdom, the Turkish Republic, and all other countries which stand united against terrorism and which work together to bring to justice the perpetrators of these and other terrorist attacks.

Attest:

Clerk.