

for medicines and food to be dispersed, and thousands of Kurds were spared because of the humanitarian efforts of the United States military as part of "Operation Provide Comfort". After several months, the situation was stabilized, and the baton was passed to the nongovernmental organizations that then carried on the good work of providing this important relief.

Mr. Speaker, as my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], pointed out, the Kurds do suffer much in Turkey as well. We have had hearings, on the subject including one just this morning. The gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] was there, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] and other members of our committee and subcommittee, and we focused on one of these areas, the proposed sale of Cobras to Turkey. As the chair of the Subcommittee on International Operations & Human Rights I believe that it would be outrageous to send Cobras to Turkey after the military might of the Turkish regime has been used in an ethnic cleansing effort against the Kurds, again another sad chapter in the kind of cruelty that these people have had to endure.

What is pointed out in this resolution, the massacre of the 5,000, is but one rather large and very terrible event in a series of tragedies that have been visited upon the suffering Kurdish minorities. So this is an important resolution, and I urge its passage.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of the time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me just say I am encouraged by what the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] shared with us in terms of the new leadership in Turkey. That is major progress, to consider opening up the supply lines, economic and humanitarian supply lines, to Armenia if we can make progress in terms of the conflict with Azerbaijan. Certainly, starting to hear the relationship with Greece is a step in the right direction. Some of us would like to see a recognition of the Armenian genocide, which has been a problem in terms of improved relations with Turkey. But perhaps with new leadership we will continue to move forward.

This resolution, however, is entirely in order, and we strongly support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 379.

The question was taken.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on that demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EMANCIPATION OF IRANIAN BAHA'I COMMUNITY

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 102), concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 102

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, and 1994 the Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith, Iran's largest religious minority;

Whereas the Congress has deplored the Government of Iran's religious persecution of the Baha'i community in such resolutions and in numerous other appeals, and has condemned Iran's execution of more than 200 Baha'is and the imprisonment of thousands of others solely on account of their religious beliefs;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to deny individual Baha'is access to higher education and government employment and denies recognition and religious rights to the Baha'i community, according to the policy set forth in a confidential Iranian Government document which has revealed by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1993;

Whereas all Baha'i community properties in Iran have been confiscated by the government and Iranian Baha'is are not permitted to elect their leaders, organize as a community, operate religious schools or conduct other religious community activities guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

Whereas on February 22, 1993, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights published a formerly confidential Iranian Government document that constitutes a blueprint for the destruction of the Baha'i community and reveals that these repressive actions are the result of a deliberate policy designed and approved by the highest officials of the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i community, in a manner consistent with Iran's obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements guaranteeing the civil and political rights of its citizens;

(2) condemns the repressive anti-Baha'i policies and actions of the Government of Iran, including the denial of legal recognition to the Baha'i community and the basic rights to organize, elect its leaders, educate its youth, and conduct the normal activities of a law-abiding religious community;

(3) expresses concern that individual Baha'is continue to suffer from severely repressive and discriminatory government actions, solely on account of their religion;

(4) urges the Government of Iran to extend to the Baha'i community the rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants of human rights, including the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and equal protection of the law; and

(5) calls upon the President to continue—

(A) to assert the United States Government's concern regarding Iran's violations of the rights of its citizens, including members of the Baha'i community, along with expressions of its concern regarding the Iranian Government's support for international ter-

rorism and its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction;

(B) to emphasize that the United States regards the human rights practices of the Government of Iran, particularly its treatment of the Baha'i community and other religious minorities, as a significant factor in the development of the United States Government's relations with the Government of Iran;

(C) to urge the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha'i community by granting those rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights; and

(D) to encourage other governments to continue to appeal to the Government of Iran, and to cooperate with other governments and international organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies, in efforts to protect the religious rights of the Baha'is and other minorities through joint appeals to the Government of Iran and through other appropriate actions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

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

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 102, concerning the emancipation of the Iranian Baha'i community and would like to urge all house Members to support this timely, important measure. I congratulate the Gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for again championing this important cause by introducing this measure. This resolution is the latest in a series of resolutions concerning the continuing repression of the Baha'i community, and other religious minorities in Iran that have been adopted by the Congress since 1982.

It is truly a sad irony that since its founding the Baha'i religion, which itself poses no threat to secular authority anywhere, has been singled out for such harsh repression in Iran and other parts of the Middle East. I salute those who have courageously maintained their faith in the face of repression and who have too often paid the supreme price for their belief.

The closing years of this century have been marred by a resurgence of the brutality and horrors that have shaped much of its history. What we witness today in such places as Iran serves as a stark reminder that the struggle for human rights is constant. While we can learn from our unfortunate history and our past mistakes, we can never desist from our defense of international human rights standards. Men and governments always seem to have the tragic capability of repeating the barbarisms of the past in new and unforeseen ways despite all of the institutions created in the course of this bloody century to prevent mankind from tearing itself apart.

This resolution allows us to once again express our outrage and revulsion with regard to the brutal and systematic denial of one of the most basic of human freedoms—freedom of conscience—which has been denied by the Mullahs of Iran.

Each time we consider these resolutions it seems that there has been a new twist added to the outrages Iranian authorities have perpetrated against their own citizens. Last month, we received distressing reports from Iran about the conviction and sentencing to death of an Iranian Baha'i for apostasy. Not only does this have sinister implications for the long-suffering Baha'i community of Iran, but for other religious minorities in that country as well.

Iran's brutal treatment of the Baha'i and other religious minorities has also been the subject of concern within the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Commission's Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance has singled out the case of the Baha'i in Iran as an egregious example of interference with the right to freedom of conscience and of worship. The UN's Special Rapporteur calls upon the Iranian authorities to ease restrictions upon adherents to the Baha'i faith.

The United States has spoken out consistently and repeatedly on Iran's continued brutal repression of the Baha'i. In its latest Human Rights Report, the State Department includes Iran among the few countries that are the very worst abusers of the rights of their own citizens in the world. The treatment of the Iranian Baha'i community epitomizes the character of the Iranian regime—its intolerance and its brutality.

We owe it to the victims of this repressive regime to continue to raise this issue in international human rights forums, and to press those governments that conduct commerce and diplomatic relations with the Government of Iran to use their influence and speak out against these outrages. Resolutions of the Congress, such as the one we now consider, representing the clear voice of the American people, are invaluable tools for our diplomats in bodies such as the U.N. Human Rights Commission, which is now meeting in Geneva. I hope my colleagues will join with me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 102.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution makes an important statement, that the Congress continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all of its nationals, including members of the Baha'i community.

Concern about Iran continues to rise to the surface of our foreign policy horizon. Much of the focus has been on trade, on Iran's role in terrorism, its efforts to subvert governments in the Middle East, in North Africa, and its nuclear dealings with Russia and China.

This resolution helps in keeping our focus on Iran's dismal record on human rights. Among the many other issues we have with that Government, Iran's denial of religious rights, the abuse of its citizens and violations of internationally recognized human rights are of deepest concern to this Congress. We make that message clear by passing this resolution.

Our last resolution, which was adopted unanimously 2 years ago, was reiterated by the United Nations and the German Bundestag and the European Parliament condemning Iran's persecution of Baha'is. In some limited instances, Iran has responded to this pressure. There is some evidence that the persecution of individual Baha'is in Iran is less severe today than it was several years ago. But let there be no doubt. The Baha'i community is still an oppressed minority and is denied rights to organize, elect leaders, conduct religious schools and other religious activities.

Their religion is really all about achieving a peaceful world brotherhood. It is not something we would consider to be threatening in this country, but it is a reflection of Iran's intent that it is threatening to them.

We must continue to work to end this discrimination against the Baha'is and all who are denied basic civil rights, and so we would urge adoption of this resolution as one more appropriate step toward that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER].

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the chairman for yielding this time to me and would again commend him for his strong support of Baha'is. Throughout his service in the Congress he has made the protection of the minorities one of his highest priorities, and he has continuously strongly supported the Baha'i minority in Iran, not only with votes, but by speaking out repeatedly on the floor of the House and wherever he has gone about the plight of the Baha'is at the hands of the revolutionary government of Iran, and I commend him for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 102, the Baha'i Community Emancipation Resolution, condemns the Government of Iran for denying the 300,000 people of the Baha'i Iranian community their basic human rights. Since the fundamentalist Islamic regime took power in 1979, hundreds of Baha'is the largest religious minority in Iran, have been executed, and thousands have been imprisoned solely because of their religion. Because the regime does not recognize the Baha'i faith, calling it a conspiracy and a heresy, tens of thousands of Baha'is are today deprived of jobs, housing, schools, and other social services. Furthermore, it is common practice for Baha'is to be denied pensions and food ration cards purely because of their religious affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, the Baha'i religion is founded upon the nine dominant religions of the world, including, of course, Islam, and draws on the teachings of all of them as the basis of its faith. There are organized Baha'i assemblies in more than 100,000 localities in over 342 countries and territories.

□ 1515

Intolerance, Mr. Speaker, is the trail of the backward, the ignorant, and the insecure. In Iran, intolerance of Baha'is, people who threaten no one and who accede to legitimate, civil authority wherever they reside, defines not the Baha'is, but the Iranian fundamentalists.

In 1993, an official Government document obtained in Iran confirmed for the first time that the ongoing persecution of the Baha'i community has been a calculated policy written and approved by Iran's highest ranking officials. This document reveals that the Iranian policy is to repress Baha'is at every opportunity while maintaining official deniability for such actions. While the document states that Baha'is will not be expelled or arrested without reason, it makes evident that the Iranian Government's intent is to isolate, persecute, and ultimately destroy the Baha'is.

In the mid 1980's, diplomatic pressure and negative publicity forced the Iranian leadership to lessen the severity of their grievous official campaign against Baha'is. There is strong evidence that congressional resolutions, together with appeals by other nations and the United Nations, helped to persuade Iranian officials to moderate their actions against the Baha'i community.

There are disturbing signals, however, that the repression of Baha'is has increased during this past year. We cannot be sure how many Baha'is are jailed at any moment. Apparently, there is a new trend by the Iranian authorities to carry out an increasing number of short-term arrests in various parts of the country. Baha'is are rotated through the prison system for varying lengths of confinement making it impossible to know who will be incarcerated when and for how long. Tragically, the situation has very recently taken a turn for the worse. Mr. Speaker, just last month a Baha'i was found guilty of apostasy by the Revolutionary Court of Yazd and was sentenced to death. His crime? He was accused of changing his religion from Islam to the Baha'i faith. The Iranian Supreme Court, in an unusual move, set aside the verdict and sent the case back to a lower court for review. If this man is executed, he will be the first Baha'i executed since 1992.

Mr. Speaker, Iran must continue to be ostracized from the community of nations until its conduct can begin to approach a respect for the basic rights of each human being to live, worship, and speak according to the dictates of his or her own conscience. Since 1982,

the Congress has adopted six resolutions expressing its concern for persecuted Baha'is in Iran, and condemning the repressive anti-Baha'i policies and actions of the Iranian Government. In 1994, the resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 414 to 0. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of this resolution today, Congress will once again go on record in support of the basic rights of Baha'is and other religious minorities in Iran. I strongly urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his supportive remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 102. I think it is a very good resolution and I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for his leadership on behalf of the Baha'is and on behalf of human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of persecution of the Baha'is is unfortunately not a new one in the House. Congress has passed a half-dozen resolutions condemning the vicious persecution of the Baha'is at the hands of the regime in Tehran, but the persecution continues.

Mr. Speaker, there is little I can add to the resolution and to the excellent comments that have been made so far. The Baha'is clearly are a peace-loving community, members of a religion that had its origin in Iran but that has adherents all over the world, including here in the United States. The extremist regime in Iran considers the Baha'i religion to be a heresy, a group apostasy, so it persecutes them with even more severity than it does Christians, Jews, or other Muslims.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly want to call to the Congress' attention the fact that there are at least four members of the Baha'i faith that now are at risk of death in Iran. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] mentioned one whose sentence has been remanded back to a lower court for review, and we hope this resolution sends a clear, unmistakable message that religious intolerance will not be tolerated by civilized countries, and that it will bring more scrutiny and more condemnation on the regime run by Rafsanjani.

I think it is very important that we speak, as we have, as Democrats, Republicans, as conservatives, moderates, and liberals, that we believe that the Baha'is have a right not just to exist, but to express themselves, to practice their religion as they see fit.

We support the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the religious intolerance acts that have been passed by the United Nations. Every year the Human Rights Convention in Geneva looks at religious persecution and speaks out on it. My hope is that they will say to Tehran, "No more," that cooler heads will prevail, and those who are being persecuted simply because they want to practice their faith as they see fit will no longer find themselves being tortured, incarcerated, and, even worse, put to death. I commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for his excellent resolution.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY].

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make a couple of statements on this resolution. First, I commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] for bringing this forth to the floor of this House, and also commend the House for continuing to keep the pressure on this issue. I think the previous speakers have pointed out why we need to do that.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to state that I myself lived in Iran, in a southern city called Shiraz. I was there during the revolution in 1978 of the Shaw of Iran. People would talk over the years about prejudice. Prejudice can exist in any country toward a people or toward a religion. There may have been some internal prejudice in 1978 and prior toward the Baha'i religion, but I want to tell the Members, Baha'is were not pulled out into the street and executed.

This regime, let us make no bones about it, goes beyond the thoughts of prejudice toward the Baha'i, and they have executed people, they have forced families to purchase the bullets that their loved ones were executed with.

This is a brutal regime in Iran that has carried out assassinations toward members of the resistance in Europe recently. This is a regime that promotes terrorism around the world. As we know, even in Bosnia, as we speak this year they were active there and around the world to persecute people. I believe that the world needs to be constantly made aware and to promote and push the point of what is being done to the peaceful Baha'i people.

I just want to again stress that if we do not keep up this type of pressure, it will be forgotten. This has helped in the past, and I want to commend the Members for what they are doing today, on behalf of the Baha'i people.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his supportive remarks.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 102.

The question was taken.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the four measures just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

WAIVING CERTAIN ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS OF TWO BILLS OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 168) waiving certain enrollment requirements with respect to two bills of the 104th Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 168

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the provisions of sections 106 and 107 of title 1, United States Code, are waived with respect to the printing (on parchment or otherwise) of the enrollment of H.R. 3019 and the enrollment of H.R. 3136, each of the One Hundred Fourth Congress. The enrollment of either such bill shall be in such form as the Committee on House Oversight of the House of Representatives certifies to be a true enrollment.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House,