

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member, my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), for his kind comments and for his leadership on this bill, and in particular for his leadership on ensuring the fact that we did not rob from Peter to pay Paul as it related to employee pay and benefits.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, for his leadership in facilitating this bill to the floor. He is motioning that Mr. Nesterczuk made him do it, but for whatever reasons, he did it. We are pleased; I want him to know that.

I also want to take the opportunity to congratulate my colleague, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. CONNIE MORELLA), who, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) said, is always in the forefront of advocating on behalf of our Federal employee work force.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply add this. The bill has been explained by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) herself, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), and many Members on this floor talking about the necessity to recruit and retain good people. This will be a major recruitment tool, in my opinion, for the Federal Government because it will give the ability to Federal employers to say that first of all its employees can transfer whatever savings they now have in a 401(k) or similarly situated program from a tax standpoint and switch that into the Thrift Savings Plan.

The Thrift Savings Plan, which, by the way, was the creation of Senator TED STEVENS from Alaska and Congressman Bill Ford from Michigan, has been an extraordinarily good program for Federal employees. It was created in 1984 and took effect in 1987 as the integrated retirement system that we now have dealing with retirement and Social Security and the Thrift Savings Plan. Those three components now make up a Federal employees retirement benefit package.

So not only will we allow them to put their money in from previous programs, but in addition to that, we will let them do so from the very beginning of their employment. I think that is a critical aspect of this legislation. I think it will be an incentive for employees to come on board; and I congratulate the committee for bringing this legislation to the floor and will certainly support it enthusiastically.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON).

We are very pleased, Mr. Speaker, at this point to recognize my distinguished colleague from the District of

Columbia, and a member of our subcommittee who, too, has been at the forefront of protecting the rights of Federal employees, and one who has put forth her own legislation from time to time to make sure that those rights are protected. I am just so glad that she is on our subcommittee because she makes sure that we keep an institutional memory of the things that we should have been doing for Federal employees and the things that we must do.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his very kind remarks and for yielding me this time, and I congratulate him for his consistent hard work and vigilance on behalf of Federal employees, especially for his particular contribution to this bill and seeing how it was paid for.

I congratulate the gentlewoman from Maryland for writing this bill, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) for his hard work in making sure that the bill was shaped in a bipartisan manner and reached the floor here today.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is, first and foremost, a richly deserved benefit for Federal employees who have fallen way behind the private sector in state-of-the-art benefits, but it has a more important implication for the Federal Government itself.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government seems not to have heard that there is a labor shortage out there, and it is a shortage that goes from the top to the bottom of the work force.

There is a fierce competition for labor at all levels. The Federal Government has literally not joined this competition. It is as if this were 1960, when college graduates and skilled workers automatically gravitated to Federal employment. That has not been the case now for a long time, and it is going to show in our Federal work force. Therefore, the implications of this bill are larger than the modest benefit it provides to our employees in eliminating the waiting period for when an employee can make a contribution to the Thrift Savings Plan and in allowing transfers from a 401(k) savings account.

A way to understand the importance of this bill, if we mean to attract good people to work for the Federal Government, is to imagine an employee looking around among her options and seeing that she could not transfer her 401(k), and seeing that she would have a 6-to-12-month break in engaging in tax-exempt savings herself. It seems to me she might well move on to almost any large employer today where we will find such benefits to be state-of-the-art. There are plenty of alternatives. No large, smart employer would fail to have comparable benefits to those which this bill modestly affords.

Social Security is the most important issue facing the 106th Congress.

The President and the Republican majority together are encouraging private savings and investment. If we are serious about encouraging Americans to engage in private saving and our savings are at a low point, then it is time we took care of home first, and the Thrift Savings Account is the place to begin.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. We have no additional speakers.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, I am very, very pleased that this legislation is before us. I think it sends a very strong statement to our Federal employees and those who are considering possibly coming into the Federal Government, and that is that the Congress of the United States of America cares about them and cares about their security in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I just urge all of my colleagues to vote for this very, very important legislation.

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

H.R. 208 is a sound bill, and it is fully paid for. Once again, I want to commend the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for her hard work on this bill, as well as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the ranking member, and I urge all Members to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 208, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING MURDER OF ROSEMARY NELSON AND CALLING FOR PROTECTION OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 128) condemning the murder of human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson and calling for the protection of defense attorneys in Northern Ireland, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 128

Whereas on September 29, 1998, Rosemary Nelson, a prominent defense attorney in Northern Ireland, who testified before the

Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, stated that she had been harassed and intimidated by the Northern Ireland police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) in her capacity as a defense attorney, and that she had been "physically assaulted by a number of RUC officers" and that the difficulties with the RUC included "at their most serious, making threats against my personal safety including death threats";

Whereas Param Cumarswamy, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, also testified before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights citing the grave dangers faced by defense attorneys in Northern Ireland and stated that "there have been harassment and intimidation of defense lawyers by RUC officers" and that "these harassments and intimidation were consistent and systematic";

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur recommended that authorities other than the RUC conduct "an independent and impartial investigation of all threats to legal counsel in Northern Ireland" and "where there is a threat to physical integrity of a solicitor" the "Government should provide necessary protection";

Whereas Northern Ireland's Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC) reported "serious concerns" about the RUC's handling of the inquiry into the death threats Rosemary Nelson received and described the RUC officers investigating the death threats as "hostile, evasive and disinterested" and also noted an "ill-disguised hostility to Mrs. Nelson on the part of some police officers";

Whereas the government, which provided protection for Northern Ireland judges after paramilitary violence resulted in the death of four judges and some family members, should also provide appropriate protection for defense attorneys;

Whereas despite the threats and the intimidation, Rosemary Nelson courageously continued to represent the rights of Catholic clients in high profile cases, including the residents of Garvaghy road in their bid to stop controversial marches in their neighborhood and the family of Robert Hamill who was beaten to death by a sectarian mob in 1997;

Whereas, because of her human rights work, Northern Ireland solicitor Rosemary Nelson, the mother of three young children, suffered the ultimate harassment and intimidation and was brutally murdered on March 15th, 1999, by a bomb placed on her car;

Whereas all those involved in the targeting and killing of defense attorney Rosemary Nelson, including the Red Hand Defenders, a militant loyalist paramilitary group that is opposed to the peace process and that has claimed responsibility for the murder, must be brought to justice;

Whereas the success of the peace process is predicated on the ability of the people of Northern Ireland to believe that injustices such as the murder of Rosemary Nelson will be investigated thoroughly, fairly, and transparently;

Whereas the murder of Rosemary Nelson is reminiscent of the 1989 murder of human rights attorney Patrick Finucane, who, according to the United Nations report, had also received numerous death threats from RUC officers;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur reported that since the Patrick Finucane murder, further information that seriously calls into question whether there was official collusion has come to light; and

Whereas Rosemary Nelson's stated fear of the RUC, the recent release of Northern Ireland's Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC) report, and the United Nations report, all necessitate the establishment of an independent inquiry into Rosemary Nelson's murder in order to foster confidence and credibility in this investigation as well as the peace process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 1998 Good Friday Peace Accords and commends the people of Northern Ireland for their commitment to work together in peace;

(2) condemns all violence committed in violation of the Northern Ireland cease-fire agreement, an agreement that has been largely successful; and

(3) calls on the Government of the United Kingdom—

(A) to launch an independent public inquiry for the investigation of the murder of defense attorney Rosemary Nelson so that evidence gathering, witness interviews, and the issuance of a detailed, public report can be based on the work of law enforcement experts not connected to or reliant upon the efforts of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC);

(B) to institute an independent judicial inquiry into allegations that defense attorneys are systematically harassed and intimidated by security forces; and

(C) to implement the United Nations Special Rapporteur's recommendation for an independent inquiry into the possibility of collusion in the killing of defense attorney Patrick Finucane.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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 H. Res. 128.

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

There was no objection.

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 want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), and all those on both sides of the aisle for working together on this bipartisan resolution on the murder of Rosemary Nelson in Northern Ireland that is now before us. It passed without objection last week in our committee because we all know what is at stake here, the very integrity of the Northern Ireland peace process.

On March 15, in Lurgan, Northern Ireland, Rosemary Nelson, prominent

Northern Ireland solicitor who had long defended nationalists, Catholics, as well as having represented the nearby Drumcree nationalist community in the controversy over forced Orange Order triumphant marches through their neighborhoods, was murdered. In a brutal, cowardly, and professionally done car bomb near her home, this mother of three lost both her legs from the bomb and died shortly thereafter in the hospital.

A loyalist group, the Protestant Red Hand Defenders, claimed credit for this cowardly terrorist act. Mrs. Nelson was killed solely because she was engaged in advocacy and providing vital legal counsel to many of those who have little faith in a unionist dominated society, and especially the police service, RUC, many fear and want disbanded.

Just late last September, Mrs. Nelson, who had faced numerous threats on her life because of her advocacy and feared the local police as much as the loyalist killers, testified before our House Committee on International Relations.

Mrs. Nelson told our committee of her hope in our committee room that, as a solicitor engaged in representing her clients, many of whom were nationalists, and I quote, "The test of a new society in Northern Ireland will be to the extent to which it can recognize and can respect our role and enable me to discharge it without proper interference. I look forward to that day," said Mrs. Nelson.

The day, sadly, is not yet here. And the resolution before us is intended to help hasten that day. The British Government must establish a completely independent inquiry into Mrs. Nelson's tragic murder and publicly report its findings. The trust and support of all of the people of Northern Ireland in any inquiry into Mrs. Nelson's death is essential.

It is now more important than ever that change must come, and the old "business as usual" is not what the nationalist community needs to see in the new north of Ireland. Covering up possible police abuse and negligence is not the way to build lasting peace and justice in Northern Ireland.

What we need to see is an overall independent inquiry into the intimidation of defense lawyers in Northern Ireland, as the U.N. Special Rapporteur called for last year, and told our committee was needed the very same day Mrs. Nelson was before us. We have heard all sorts of stories so far on what is being done in the Nelson inquiry, but none of them are satisfactory.

First, we heard the FBI would be helping the inquiry, and then the Chief Constable of Kent in England would be running the show. Now we have another deputy constable brought in from England to run the investigation.

All the time the local RUC in the Portadown region has been involved from where some of the threats on Mrs. Nelson's life in fact originated. One RUC officer reportedly told another

client of Mrs. Nelson when he was arrested that, "Nelson won't help you this time. She won't be here that long. She will be dead."

Now no objective and fair person would want that police service investigating this courageous solicitor's murder. This is one of the factors why the original investigation of these RUC threats against Mrs. Nelson were referred to the London Metropolitan Police for investigation, not the RUC, by the Northern Ireland Independent Commission on Police Complaints.

Yes, a lot rides in how this inquiry is fairly and independently handled by the British Government, as well as the future for the north of Ireland. There is a point in time when the peace process is stalled.

Accordingly, I urge the adoption of this important and timely bipartisan resolution before us and urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the resolution.

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support, strong support, of House Resolution 128 and the work of the gentlemen from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and (Mr. PAYNE) and the work that they have done to honor the memory of Rosemary Nelson.

It is amazingly fitting that we celebrated in the previous resolution with the Congressional Gold Medal being given to Rosa Parks, and deservedly so. The fact is that Rosemary Nelson was a Rosa Parks in Northern Ireland. But she, unlike Rosa Parks, will never see the day where she will be so honored in her homeland.

Mr. Speaker, Rosemary Nelson's death should not have happened. Mrs. Nelson dedicated her life to improving human rights in Northern Ireland as a defense attorney for the Catholic minority community. Her work earned her much respect, as well as enemies.

In 1998, Congress heard Mrs. Nelson's fear when she testified before the subcommittee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the Subcommittee on Human Rights, about her defense work in the north of Ireland. She feared for her life because of the lack of police protection she and other Catholic defense attorneys received or did not receive from the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

In addition to her own fears, the Independent Commission for Police Complaints has reported that the RUC disregarded previous death threats against Mrs. Nelson and that RUC officers repeatedly threatened her during her course of work.

Frankly, I believe the RUC itself is partly responsible for the death of Rosemary Nelson because of their lack of protection of her and its prior history of collusion with loyalist militias.

This resolution brings justice to Rosemary Nelson and her legacy. This

resolution calls upon the United Kingdom to carry out an investigation, not connected with the RUC, into the death of Rosemary Nelson.

In the past, quasi-independent investigations have not borne any fruit and typically have been disregarded, unpublished, and swept under the carpet. Reputations have been destroyed and justice has never been served.

In addition, this resolution calls upon investigators to issue a detailed report on police harassment of defense attorneys by RUC forces and forces it to implement the United Nations Special Rapporteur's recommendation for an independent inquiry into the death of defense attorney Patrick Finucane.

This Thursday, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), two great friends of human rights and the peace process in the north of Ireland, are holding hearings in the Committee on International Relations, which I have the pleasure of sitting on, about the reconstitution of the RUC and police reform in Northern Ireland.

The RUC is made up of a force which is over 92 percent Protestant and 100 percent loyalist to the British Government. They have systematically denied basic judicial and human rights to the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland, and have no respect in the Catholic community or in the world community at large. In fact, due to their abysmal human rights record, there is a ban on weapons sales to the Royal Ulster Constabulary by the Government of the United States.

I look forward to working with all my colleagues on both the Committee on International Relations and in the House to work with the international community in creating a police force which more accurately reflects the religious makeup of Northern Ireland, a force which all Irish can be proud of.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues in Congress to stand up for human rights in the north of Ireland and to honor the legacy of Rosemary Nelson.

Again, I want to thank my co-chairs of the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), along with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for their work in bringing attention to and making a difference on Irish issues and human rights in the north of Ireland.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I 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.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN)

for his fine work on this resolution and for helping us when we got to the full committee, and also the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), as was mentioned, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), one of the cosponsors. We have worked as a team, and I think this is a very important resolution for House consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us today condemns the brutal murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Rosemary Nelson and calls for the British Government to launch an independent inquiry into Rosemary's killing.

The resolution also calls for judicial inquiry into the allegations of official collusion in the 1989 murder of defense attorney Patrick Finucane and an independent investigation into broader allegations of harassment of defense attorneys by Northern Ireland's police force, known as the Royal Ulster Constabulary or the RUC.

Rosemary Nelson was a champion of due process rights and a conscientious and courageous attorney in Northern Ireland. She was the wife of Paul Nelson and the mother of three young children: Sara, Gavin, and Christopher.

Her murder, Mr. Speaker, on March 15, 1999, was a cowardly act by those who are the enemies of peace and enemies of justice in Northern Ireland. Her death is a loss felt not just by her family and friends but by all who advocate fundamental human rights.

Consideration of this resolution today is particularly timely, as officials in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and the U.K. continue to question the ability of the RUC to properly conduct this murder investigation.

In fact, last week the European Parliament passed its own resolution, offered by Dublin's representative Bernie Malone, which calls for "a fully independent team of investigators to conduct the inquiry as a means of securing confidence and objectivity."

Anyone who knows anything about human rights in Northern Ireland would have little confidence that the RUC could produce a credible or a transparent or thorough investigation of the murder of a Catholic defense attorney. The history of intimidation of defense attorneys by the RUC has been documented by my subcommittee as well as by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

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Thus, Mr. Speaker, there is little reason to believe that Rosemary Nelson, who was mistreated by members of the RUC throughout her professional life as an attorney, would now be treated respectfully and justly in death.

I first met Rosemary Nelson in Belfast a few years ago when she shared with me her genuine concern for the administration of justice in the Northern Ireland. She explained how, as an

attorney, she had been physically and verbally assaulted by RUC members and how they sent death threats to her through her clients. Many of her clients were harassed as well.

Notwithstanding these threats, Rosemary still carried an exhaustive docket which included several high-profile political cases, such as representing the family of Robert Hamill, who was beaten to death by a sectarian mob and representing the residents of Garvaghy Road in their bid to stop controversial marches through the neighborhood. Through her work, she became an international advocate for the rule of law and the right of the accused to a comprehensive defense and an impartial hearing of their case.

For this, however, Rosemary was often the subject of harassment and intimidation. For her service to her clients, Rosemary Nelson paid the ultimate price with her life, the victim of a car bomb.

Mr. Speaker, in September of last year, just 7 months ago, Rosemary testified before my subcommittee. She told us how she feared, she feared the RUC. She reported that she had been, quote, and I quote from her testimony, "physically assaulted by a number of RUC officers" and that the harassment included "threats against my personal safety, including death threats." She said she had no confidence in receiving help from her government, because in the end her complaints about the RUC would be investigated by the RUC.

Testifying along with Rosemary Nelson was a man by the name of Mr. Cumaraswamy, a U.N. Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, who led an extensive human rights investigative team to the UK and published a report in 1998. Mr. Cumaraswamy stated that he found evidence, and I quote him, of "consistent and systematic," close quote, RUC harassment and intimidation of defense lawyers in Northern Ireland. His report was quite critical of the excessive authority granted to the RUC by the so-called "emergency laws," and he expressed dismay that the government had not moved decisively to protect lawyers that were under threat.

Mr. Cumaraswamy recommended a judicial inquiry into the threats and the intimidation of Rosemary Nelson and other defense attorneys. Last week at the UN Commission on Human Rights at their annual summit in Geneva, Mr. Cumaraswamy reported that in the years since the release of his report about the great dangers facing Northern Ireland's defense attorneys that the RUC had shown, and these are his words, "complete indifference." He accused the RUC chief, Constable Ronnie Flanagan, and I quote him again, of "allowing the situation to deteriorate," and like the rest of us, the Special Rapporteur says he has, and these are his words again, "a nagging feeling that the RUC involvement in what is now a murder investigation could af-

fect and taint the impartiality and the credibility of that investigation."

And yet, our friends in the Blair government seem unmoved.

Despite Rosemary Nelson's testimony, her concerns and the concerns now raised by human rights experts around the world, the British Government has forfeited the investigation of Rosemary Nelson's murder to the very agency she feared and mistrusted the most. It does not seem to phase them that a report just released by Northern Ireland's police watchdog, the government's Independent Commission for Police Complaints, the ICPC, said that RUC investigators investigating the death threats against Rosemary Nelson were themselves evasive and disinterested. It also found an ill-disguised hostility to Mrs. Nelson on the part of some police officers.

Astonishingly, even the police from the bereaved family, even the pleas from the father himself, the husband and father of the three children, Paul Nelson; he went to Geneva just the other day, and his quote:

"If the ICPC had no confidence in the ability of the RUC to investigate the death threats against Rosemary, how can my family," he says, "be expected to have confidence in their ability, indeed their willingness, to effectively investigate her murder?"

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us, the resolution before us today, truly captures Mr. Nelson's sense of despair and reflects the growing international consensus that the British Government needs to act decisively and remove any and all doubts about the investigation into Rosemary Nelson's murder. RUC Ronnie Flanagan has rejected the call for an RUC-free investigation and has instead been spinning his wheels trying to create the image of impartiality and external influence on his investigation.

It does not cut, nobody is buying it, and we need now an RUC-free investigation.

Let me just conclude, Mr. Speaker, by noting that the major international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, British/Irish Human Rights Watch, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, Human Rights Watch and the Geneva-based Commission of Jurists all support the call for an independent inquiry. That is what we tried to do in this resolution. The time is long past for this to happen, and I hope we get the full support of this body in support of this resolution.

The resolution before us today condemns the brutal murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Rosemary Nelson and calls on the British Government to launch an independent inquiry into Rosemary's killing.

The resolution also calls for a judicial inquiry into allegations of official collusion in the 1989 murder of defense attorney Patrick Finucane and an independent investigation into broader allegations of harassment of defense attorneys by Northern Ireland's police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

Rosemary Nelson was a champion of due process rights and a conscientious and courageous attorney in Northern Ireland. She was the wife of Paul Nelson and the mother of three young children: Sarah (8), Gavin (11), and Christopher (13). Her murder on March 15, 1999, was a cowardly act by those who are the enemies of peace and justice in Northern Ireland. Her death is a loss felt not just by her family and friends, but by all who advocate fundamental human rights.

Consideration of this resolution today is particularly timely as officials in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and the United Kingdom continue to question the ability of the RUC to properly conduct this murder investigation. In fact, last week, the European Parliament passed its own resolution—offered by Dublin's representative, Bernie Malone (MEP)—which calls for "a fully independent team of investigators" to conduct the inquiry as a means of securing confidence and objectivity.

Anyone who knows anything about human rights in Northern Ireland would have little confidence that the RUC could produce a credible, transparent, thorough investigation of the murder of a Catholic defense attorney. The history of intimidation of defense attorneys by RUC members has been documented by my subcommittee, as well as by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Thus, there is little reason to believe that Rosemary Nelson, who was mistreated by members of the RUC throughout her professional life as an attorney, would now be treated respectfully and justly in death.

I first met Rosemary Nelson in Belfast a few years ago, when she shared with me her genuine concern for the administration of justice in Northern Ireland. She explained how, as an attorney, she had been physically and verbally assaulted by RUC members and how they sent death threats to her through her clients. Many of her clients were harassed as well.

Notwithstanding these threats, Rosemary Nelson still carried an exhaustive docket which included several high profile political cases, such as representing the family of Robert Hamill, who was beaten to death by a sectarian mob, and representing the residents of Garvaghy Road in their bid to stop controversial marches in their neighborhood. Through her work, she became an international advocate for the rule of law and the right of the accused to a comprehensive defense and an impartial hearing.

For this, however, Rosemary Nelson was often the subject of harassment and intimidation. For her service to her clients, Rosemary Nelson paid the ultimate price with her life—the victim of a car bomb.

In September 1998—just 7 months ago—Rosemary testified before our subcommittee. She told us she feared the RUC. She reported that she had been "physically assaulted by a number of RUC officers" and that the harassment included, "threats against my personal safety including death threats." She said she had no confidence in receiving help from her government because, she said, in the end her complaints about the RUC were investigated by the RUC.

Testifying along with Rosemary Nelson was Mr. Param Cumaraswamy, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, who led an extensive human rights investigative mission to the United Kingdom and published a report in 1998. Mr.

Cumaraswamy stated that he found evidence of "consistent and systematic" RUC harassment and intimidation of defense lawyers in Northern Ireland. His report was quite critical of the excessive authority granted to the RUC through the so-called "emergency laws" and he expressed dismay that the government had not moved decisively to protect lawyers under threat.

Mr. Cumaraswamy recommended a judicial inquiry into the threats and intimidation Rosemary Nelson and other defense attorneys had received. He endorsed the establishment of a police ombudsman and he called on the British government to provide protection for defense attorneys who had been harassed. Today, it is hard not to wonder: if only the British Government had taken the Special Rapporteur's recommendations more seriously, Rosemary Nelson might have been better protected and still with us today.

But last week, at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights annual summit in Geneva, Mr. Cumaraswamy reported that in the year since the release of the UN report about the grave dangers facing Northern Ireland's defense attorneys, the RUC has shown "complete indifference." He accused RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan of "allowing the situation to deteriorate." And like the rest of us, The Special Rapporteur says he has a "nagging feeling" that RUC involvement in what is now a murder investigation "could affect and taint the impartiality and credibility of the investigation."

And yet, the our friends in the Blair government seem unmoved.

Despite Rosemary Nelson's testimony, her concerns, and the concerns now raised by human rights experts the world over, the British government has forfeited the investigation of Rosemary Nelson's murder to the very agency she feared and mistrusted most, the RUC. It doesn't seem to faze them that a report just released by Northern Ireland's police watchdog, the government's Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC), said that RUC officers investigating the death threats against Rosemary Nelson were themselves "evasive and disinterested." It also found an "ill-disguised hostility to Mrs. Nelson on the part of some police officers."

Astonishingly, even the pleas of the bereaved family have fallen on deaf ears at Stormont Castle. As a result, Rosemary Nelson's husband, Paul, went to Geneva last week to gain outside help in his push for an independent investigation into the murder of his wife. He has said very simply, "if the ICPC had no confidence in the ability of the RUC to investigate the death threats against Rosemary, how can my family be expected to have confidence in their ability—indeed their willingness to effectively investigate her murder?"

The bill before us today captures Mr. Nelson's sense of despair and reflects the growing international consensus that the British Government needs to act decisively to remove any and all doubts about the investigation into Rosemary Nelson's murder. RUC Chief Ronnie Flanagan has rejected the call for an RUC-free investigation and has instead been spinning his wheels trying to create an image of impartiality and external influence in his investigation.

But, it's all an illusion.

While the Chief Constable's diversionary tactics have flattered some—even one or two in our own FBI—the people in the affected

community have not been fooled. This week, both the Irish News and the Irish Times reported that despite Mr. Flanagan's posturing about external influences on the investigation, community witnesses "have been reluctant to talk to the police."

And who can blame them?

Local residents remain skeptical of the RUC's window dressing and have no confidence in an investigation that has already swapped one non-RUC lead investigator for another.

They don't buy an investigation that advertises itself as a 50-member "outside" investigative force even though 40 members of the team are RUC and only 10 are not.

They have low expectations and little trust in an "investigative team" that tells people its working hard on the crime but can't get the date of the murder right and issues a telephone hotline number that's already been disconnected or never put in service.

The camouflage on Mr. Flanagan's so-called independent, outside inquiry has already worn thin. Because of the documented, open hostility that RUC officers displayed towards Rosemary Nelson, the RUC simply does not have the credibility to answer the burdensome questions: Who killed Rosemary Nelson? Who ordered her murder? And did the RUC officers who threatened her life in the past either instigate, condone, or cover-up her killing?

In order for this investigation to be beyond reproach, and to have the confidence and cooperation of the Catholic community that Rosemary Nelson adeptly represented, it must be organized, managed, directed and run by someone other than the RUC. Anything short of that may have surface appeal, but it still leaves too much of the grueling investigation under the charge of an organization of which the murder victim herself was extremely suspect, and to whom the local people are afraid to talk.

The major international human rights groups, including Amnesty International, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, British/Irish Human Rights Watch, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, Human Rights Watch and the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurist support the call for an independent inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, one of the major tenets of the 1998 "Good Friday Agreement" is its promise of an acceptable police force that will secure due process rights—rather than thwart them—for members of both communities in Northern Ireland. The success of the peace process is predicated on the government's ability to deliver on a police force that will protect fundamental human rights and to demonstrate to the people of Northern Ireland that injustices such as harassment of defense attorneys and the murders of Patrick Finucane and Rosemary Nelson will be investigated by top-notch, dedicated and impartial personnel.

For these reasons, I urge final passage of this bill.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO).

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support and join my colleagues in lamenting the assassination of Rosemary Nelson. With the prospect of the Good

Friday Accords in Northern Ireland and the fact that they are still being pursued, and we are hopeful that they will be brought to resolution, clearly this action against such a high-profile defense lawyer and defense representative in Northern Ireland was calculated to, in fact, stop those peace accords from going through, as other actions that have taken place have also been aimed at that; and I think all of us are hopeful that the Northern Ireland Government, the Government in the UK will recognize that the objectivity of the Royal Ulster Constabulary to in fact do this investigation has been forfeited because of the events that have occurred in the recent past and certainly with regards to Rosemary Nelson obviously, the testimony here, the fact that she feared them and so forth, I think is a statement that demonstrates that they have, in fact, compromised their neutrality in terms of being able to go forward with such investigation.

I think that the government structure clearly want to and hope that they would like to get to the bottom of this, and so I think we must find an objective investigation that is independent to get to the bottom of it; and I think we should get to the bottom of it and prosecute those that are guilty of this assassination and proceed with the business at hand.

I think that events in Northern Ireland are pretty clear. Recently I had the privilege to travel and participate in Northern Ireland with Habitat for Humanity, the Belfast celebration providing homes to both Catholics and Protestants. The economy of all of Ireland is on the upswing, employment and opportunities are growing, and hopefully the discrimination that has persisted in the past can now finally be laid to rest. It has taken hundreds of years to get to where we are, but these are, this type of behavior is learned behavior, and I think that the human spirit certainly can rise above it, and we have seen some pretty good examples of that in the past year.

The electoral process has been successful, and while outstanding issues exist, I am optimistic that the Clinton administration, the former Senator, George Mitchell-led Good Friday Peace Accord Agreement of 1998 will be implemented, and that the IRA decommissioning and reform at the RUC will be achieved.

I commend the leadership of the republic's Prime Minister Ahern, Mr. Trimble and Jerry Adams, who are attempting to bring to conclusion and completion the goals of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

This horrific murder of the attorney, Rosemary Nelson, represents a sad day in the long peace process in Northern Ireland, but hopefully it will not be the last chapter. Hopefully, the last chapter will be one with this type of symbolic action of this outstanding personality and person, that this will be one in which this loss of life will help to

push us and push these governments to a point of reconciliation and building the type of community and the type of understanding that will settle this matter for decades into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in lamenting the plight of Rosemary Nelson. Sadly, Rosemary, a leading Catholic human rights attorney and campaigner, was murdered by a car bomb in Lurgan, Northern Ireland on March 15, 1999. This cowardly act is believed to have been orchestrated by an outlaw band of extreme Protestant Red Hand Defenders who claimed responsibility for the killing.

Rosemary's commitment to social justice and defense of nationalist activities in high-profile cases throughout Northern Ireland led to intimidation tactics by the Protestant-dominated police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and several death threats by unionist para-militaries. Nelson, who was married and the mother of three children aged 8 to 13, represented the Catholic residents of Carvaghy Road, who refused to allow a Protestant fraternal organization to parade past their homes in annual sectarian commemorations that prompted province-wide violence. She also defended the family of Robert Hamill, who was the victim of the "Portadown kicking" incident, while RUC police officers did not address this atrocity. Unfortunately, due to Rosemary's death, this case is still pending.

Rosemary made a very impressive and powerful impact when she testified before the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, on September 29, 1998. Her testimony exposed the harassment and intimidation of defense lawyers representing nationalists in political cases in Northern Ireland. She accused the RUC of making death threats against her and her family through clients as well as sending threatening telephone calls and letters directly to her. In addition, it is also alleged that the RUC made similar threats against the safety of other defense attorneys in Northern Ireland. I would point out that 10 years ago, prominent Catholic defense attorney Patrick Finucane was murdered by an alleged loyalist death squad. To this day, no one has every been charged with that crime. Further allegations suggests that the RUC has conducted searches without warrants, arrested and detained suspects without providing access to legal council. These allegations clearly violate international civil rights laws and compromise the neutrality of the RUC to enforce the law.

The murder of Rosemary Nelson has the potential to uproot and undermine last year's historic Good Friday peace agreement. Further retaliation from nationalist paramilitary forces could take the British province back toward a state of sectarian warfare that has regrettably prevailed for 30 years.

In response to Rosemary's murder and the past and current intimidation tactics, I rise in strong support of H. Res 128, which condemns all violence committed in violation of the largely successful Northern Ireland cease-fire agreement. Specifically, this measure condemns the murder of Rosemary and calls on the British government to overturn its decision to allow the RUC to investigate Rosemary's death. While the objectivity of the RUC is under question, the investigation will not be

accepted. H. Res 128 rightly urges the British government to conduct an independent inquiry and issue a detailed public report on the car bombing which killed Rosemary Nelson. Furthermore, this important measure requests the British government to conduct a judicial investigation of the treatment of defense attorneys by the RUC and continue to investigate the death of Patrick Finucane.

Recently, I had the privilege to travel and participate with Habitat for Humanity in a Belfast celebration of providing homes for both Catholics and Protestants. The economy of all Ireland is on the upswing, employment opportunities are growing and hopefully the discrimination that has persisted in the past can now finally be laid to rest. The electoral process has been successful and while outstanding issues exist, I am optimistic that the Clinton administration and the former Senator George Mitchell-led Good Friday peace agreement of 1998 will fully be implemented and IRA decommissioning and reform of the RUC achieved. I commend the leadership of the Republic's Prime Minister Ahern, Mr. Trimble and Jerry Adams, who are attempting to bring to conclusion and completion the goals of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

The horrific murder of attorney Rosemary Nelson represents a sad day in the long peace process in Northern Ireland. The role of defense attorneys in any democracy and in Northern Ireland is vital. The test of a new society in Northern Ireland will be to recognize and respect such roles without any intimidation or improper interference. We must all look forward to that day by building a truly democratic society, brick by brick, and building a community which respects one another.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation before us in honor of Rosemary Nelson who gave her life on Monday, March 15. It is so ironic that today we also honor Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks and Rosemary Nelson have a lot in common. They both stood up for injustices in the world. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat at the front of a bus in Selma, Alabama, and did not give in to intimidation of police.

Like Mrs. Rosa Parks, continents away, Rosemary Nelson continued to receive death threats from those who continue to see Catholics as second-class citizens.

In the shadow of peace talks, I know that Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Premier Bertie Ahern met yesterday for 5 hours at Downing Street. Although the parties showed little outward signs of progress, I do believe that they must continue.

But let me say this. The peace process is in serious trouble if perpetrators of Mrs. Nelson's death do not come forward. To date, the RUC has yet to bring anyone accused of any crime associated with the killings of the minority Catholic community. How do they have no indictments or imprisonments over several years of sustained and continued intimidation and abuse?

There is something wrong with this picture. The investigation into the assassination of not only Rosemary Nelson is disturbing, but the death of Pat Finucane as well. I have asked for an independent investigation, one that is totally independent of RUC involvement. Since there is well-founded evidence that there was collusion by the RUC in both these murders, it is imperative that the investigation be totally delinked.

Last year, the United Nations Rapporteur called for an independent investigation and pointed specially to look at the harassment of civil rights attorneys in the north of Ireland. Many lawyers on behalf of residents in Ireland are routinely excluded from interviews with their clients and are detained in holding centers.

The troubles in the north of Ireland did not begin with this one courageous woman's death. We must also investigate Bloody Sunday which began on Easter Sunday in 1972. Two years ago I went to the Pat Finucane Center in West Belfast and met with Miss Ruth Taillon of the West Belfast Economic Forum. While there, I also met with the wife of imprisoned lawyer, Colin Duffy, and Oliver Kearney, Chairman of the Fair Employment Group of Equity and relatives of the Justice Committee. The Justice Committee sent me a letter, and I quote: "It would be untenable for RUC to have the inquiry."

Moved by what I saw, I came back to the States committed to seeing that justice is done. I introduced legislation that will call for full disclosure of the inquiry reports of both Pat Finucane and the Nelson case, and it also calls on the United Nations to form an independent inquiry into the long-term harassment of these individuals. I have worked with the sponsors of this bill, and I believe my concerns have been incorporated in the bill.

It is public knowledge that Mrs. Nelson's life was threatened on several occasions by the RUC Special Branch. Mrs. Nelson testified before the Committee on International Relations' Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights on September 29 of last year that she had been threatened by the RUC officials. Rosemary Nelson lost both of her legs and suffered extensive abdominal injuries in the blast and died despite intensive medical efforts to save her life. Ms. Nelson was a prominent Armagh County human rights attorney and was a defender of the basic principles that this country has fought for during the height of the civil rights movement and continues to fight for today, the equality of mankind.

She died to enable our world to live more amply with greater vision and finer spirit of hope and achievement. We impoverish her memory if we forget the task at hand.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House and ask for passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for all his work for all concerned not only in Northern Ireland and around the world, but particularly for his work and his effort in the north of Ireland. We thank him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1615

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by commending the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and certainly the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and people who have been so faithful to this cause for so long.

For the better part of two decades I have been immersed in the details of what life is like in Northern Ireland, particularly for the nationalist community, and we are reminded today that this conflict represents the longest standing political dispute in the history of the Western world.

Once again, on occasions like this we are also reminded that it is the United States that lights the way for hope in terms of man and womankind. It is the United States, and its ability to shed light on inequities and injustices in other parts of the globe, that calls attention to events like the murder of Rosemary Nelson.

I had the opportunity to meet Rosemary Nelson, and I can say that in an unbridled manner she was the champion of the rights of the nationalist community to stand in front of a court system that they do not always trust, but nonetheless to be treated in a manner that was fair and equitable.

The killing of Rosemary Nelson reinforces my belief and the belief of millions of Americans that the criminal justice system in the north of Ireland, including policing, is in need of dramatic change and indeed reform and perhaps even abolition.

Just last week, the United Nations' special investigator released a report that raises serious questions about the professional integrity and independence of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The report documents cases of collusion between the RUC and the paramilitary groups.

Let me picture this for the American people: The policing organization tips off members of the paramilitary loyalist groups who then, once the individual is fingered as a suspect, is not only subject to verbal intimidation and harassment, but as is the case of Rosemary Nelson, one may well be murdered for their beliefs.

It draws attention to the fact that solicitors who choose to represent individuals in the nationalist community, like Rosemary Nelson and another

friend of mine through his family, Pat Finucane, were always the targets of harassment and intimidation by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Following the recommendations of organizations such as the British-Irish Watch, Amnesty International, and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the U.N. Special Investigator demanded independent judicial inquiries into the deaths of Rosemary Nelson and Patrick Finucane.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not say something in this Chamber, if we do not say something in the halls of this Congress, then typically these events are brushed under the carpet. It is only the United States, in its ability to call attention to these inequities, that in the end causes us to travel down the path of what might be a satisfactory system of justice.

Ireland is closer today than it has been at any time in this century to the settlement of peace; as John Hume and Jerry Adams frequently say, an agreed upon Ireland. That should be the goal of all of us. We cannot have one part of the community, the policing organization, being seen as being part of the occupying force, and expect the minority or the nationalist community to accept that judgment.

It is people like John Hume and Jerry Adams who for the better part of 30 years have stood for the rights of people in the nationalist community, to ensure that when someone stands in front of a judge, that they are not found guilty because of their religious beliefs or because of their ethnicity. That is what Jefferson and Madison gave us in America and that is what we ought to attempt, wherever we can, to export to the rest of the world.

I must say that it will be the United States in the end that calls attention to these injustices, that could lead to a conclusion of swift justice to bring the perpetrators of the murderer of Rosemary Nelson and Patrick Finucane to the bar of justice.

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

Mr. Speaker, without question, we must all condemn the murder of Rosemary Nelson in the strongest terms. She was a remarkable woman who fought for justice, human rights and respect for the law in the north of Ireland.

I once again commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), and all the sponsors of this resolution. The facts surrounding the Nelson murder and investigation demonstrate the need for overall police reform in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland must have a police force that all of its citizens, all of its citizens, can have confidence in.

The reason the RUC had to call in an independent investigator was because they lacked credibility to conduct this investigation. The degree to which lower level RUC officers were involved in the murder of Ms. Nelson must be

explored. We must have an independent entity direct this investigation, which produces a public and transparent report, finding out all the facts, all of the facts, behind the Rosemary Nelson murder. It must be a prelude to radical and thorough police reform in Northern Ireland and cannot have any substitute. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) will control the time allocated to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his good, strong statement and for his work on this resolution.

Let me close very briefly. British justifications for not having an independent inquiry were further undercut by the Northern Ireland Independent Commission on Police Complaints, which expressed doubts that the RUC could objectively address Mrs. Nelson's earlier allegations of police harassment and threats.

The commission, after initially watching the RUC's investigation of itself, concluded that the RUC did not inspire confidence. The commission noted the need for independence and referred the matter to the metropolitan police in London for investigation even before Mrs. Nelson's tragic murder.

That referral report has leaked out since Mrs. Nelson's murder, and it is a scathing indictment of the RUC and its indifference to her safety. For example, the report says that of the RUC officers involved in the investigation, that there was, "observable hostility, evasiveness and disinterest. One officer attended the interview 45 minutes late without explanation and smelled of alcohol."

It is time now to act independently, to encourage real independence in this investigation and Pat Finucane and for protection of all the defense attorneys in Northern Ireland. That is why this resolution sends that clear message to the British.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON).

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), and others who have been working on this for some time.

For those in this country that have come to expect a judicial system that is fair, that is honest, police investigations that we can put our faith in, sometimes it is hard to understand when a country's entire respect for law is adversely affected by concerns about

the honesty of investigations and police activities.

This Congress time and time again has led the fight for fair justice for all citizens of every country. That is what we are doing here today. Again, I commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), and in particular my good friend, the gentleman from Springfield, Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), for the efforts they have made fighting for justice here again.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, during consideration of the State Department reauthorization bill in the House International Relations Committee, I rose with Congressman MENENDEZ to present an amendment to that bill. Its purpose was to ban the further training of members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary by the FBI at their National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. There were many reasons why we introduced that amendment, but one of the most compelling was the suspicion of RUC complicity in the assassination of Rosemary Nelson.

Accusations of RUC support for the murder of Catholic leaders abounds. Rosemary Nelson appeared before the International Relations Committee and testified that she had received death threats from members of the RUC.

The U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers has found that the RUC is engaged "in activities which constitute intimidation, harassment, [and] hindrance" of defense lawyers [in Northern Ireland] in the course of their professional duties. He also labeled the RUC's intimidation of defense lawyers in Northern Ireland as, and I quote, "consistent and systematic."

This is not acceptable. There must be an independent investigation into the murder of Rosemary Nelson to determine who is responsible. Those who are responsible must be brought to justice. If members of the RUC are confirmed to have been involved, the RUC should be disbanded and a new police force created.

Mr. Speakers, Northern Ireland needs a police force for all the people. Defense attorneys in Northern Ireland must be protected so that they can do their jobs. I support H. Res. 128 and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Ms. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 128, a resolution which condemns the brutal murder of Northern Ireland human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson and calls for an independent inquiry into her death.

Ms. Nelson's murder was truly a tragedy—a cowardly act by those who are enemies of peace and justice in Northern Ireland.

Rosemary Nelson spent her life trying to help others. She was a champion of human rights worked tirelessly to protect ensure these basic rights for her fellow countrymen. Ultimately, she was killed because of her work.

We must not allow her death to be in vain—we must not allow the enemies of peace to win. We have all worked too long and hard to achieve peace and the people of Ireland deserve no less.

Today, I join with my colleagues and call for an independent investigation into the death of Rosemary and all human rights attorneys in Northern Ireland who have lost their lives in the pursuit of helping others.

We owe it to the memory of these courageous individuals—and we owe it to the cause of peace and justice, both in Ireland and throughout the world.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge a "yes" vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 128, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. 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.

RECOGNIZING HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF GOOD FRIDAY PEACE AGREEMENT

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 54) recognizing the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 54

Whereas Ireland has a long and tragic history of civil conflict that has left a deep and profound legacy of suffering;

Whereas since 1969 more than 3,200 people have died and thousands more have been injured as a result of political violence in Northern Ireland;

Whereas a series of efforts by the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom to facilitate peace and an announced cessation of hostilities created an historic opportunity for a negotiated peace;

Whereas in June 1996, for the first time since the partition of Ireland in 1922, representatives elected from political parties in Northern Ireland pledged to adhere to the principles of nonviolence and commenced talks regarding the future of Northern Ireland;

Whereas the talks greatly intensified in the spring of 1998 under the chairmanship of former United States Senator George Mitchell;

Whereas the active participation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was critical to the success of the talks;

Whereas on Good Friday, April 10, 1998, the parties to the negotiations each made honorable compromises to conclude a peace agreement for Northern Ireland, which has become known as the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

Whereas on Friday, May 22, 1998, an overwhelming majority of voters in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland approved by referendum the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

Whereas the United States must remain involved politically and economically to ensure the long-term success of the peace agreement; and

Whereas on Good Friday, April 2, 1999, a one-year deadline passed without agreement

among all major parties, putting the entire peace process in jeopardy: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement;

(2) salutes British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and the elected representatives of the political parties in Northern Ireland for creating the opportunity for a negotiated peace;

(3) commends Senator George Mitchell for his leadership on behalf of the United States in guiding the parties toward peace;

(4) congratulates the people of the Republic of Ireland and of Northern Ireland for their courageous commitment to work together in peace;

(5) encourages the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland with the active involvement of the United States to continue to work together to ensure the forward movement of the peace process; and

(6) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between the United States and the Governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom, which ensure that the United States and those Governments will continue as partners in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the measure now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, next week the British and Irish governments will resume talks with the major political parties of Northern Ireland in an attempt to move the promises held in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, to try to move them from good rhetoric to actual implementation.

This resolution that is being offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is really a message of encouragement and hope. It urges all those who have worked so hard to achieve the Good Friday Agreement on paper to now rededicate themselves to the actual implementation of its provisions so that peace and justice will take root in the north of Ireland.

Last year, by overwhelming majorities, the people of Ireland, both north and south, embraced the ideals put forth by this peace agreement. Only