

at this point since they are not here, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 160, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CALLING UPON HEZBOLLAH TO ALLOW RED CROSS TO VISIT FOUR ABDUCTED ISRAELIS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 99) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Lebanon, Syria, and Iran should call upon Hezbollah to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit four abducted Israelis, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and Elchanan Tannenbaum, presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 99

Whereas on October 7, 2000, Hezbollah units, in clear violation of international law, crossed the Lebanese border into Israel and kidnapped three Israeli soldiers, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad;

Whereas on October 15, 2000, Hezbollah announced that it had abducted a fourth Israeli, Elchanan Tannenbaum;

Whereas these captives are being held by Hezbollah in Lebanon;

Whereas the 1999 Department of State report on foreign terrorist organizations stated that Hezbollah receives substantial amounts of financial assistance, training, weapons, explosives, and political, diplomatic, and organizational assistance from Iran and Syria;

Whereas Syria voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas Lebanon voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas Iran voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross has made numerous attempts to gain access to assess the condition of these prisoners; and

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross has been denied access to these prisoners: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that Lebanon, Syria, and Iran should call upon Hezbollah to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit four abducted Israelis, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and Elchanan Tannenbaum,

presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

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. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, even in the midst of war or violent conflict, the need for some limits must be underlined. Those limits are of crucial importance in that they remind us of our essential humanity. When humanitarian standards are ignored, we need to call them to the attention of those who seem to be violating them. In the case of the individuals mentioned in the resolution now before us, who are Israeli soldiers and civilians, the rules are, in fact, being ignored. This resolution relates to several Israeli soldiers and one civilian who have been kidnapped from Israel itself or in Europe. Their captors have admitted holding them and they have said that they are alive, but that is all that is known about them.

In defiance of international norms, their captors are not permitting the International Committee of the Red Cross to have access to them. Of course, the captives should be treated humanely. Of course, they should be released, but they should certainly, at the very least, be provided with protections of international humanitarian law. The International Committee of the Red Cross should be provided with access to them so that their welfare can be ascertained and other appropriate protections be afforded to them. It is cynical and cruel for Hezbollah to deny the ICRC access to them. The real harm is being done to their families who wait for word of their welfare.

Madam Speaker, let me just say that the governments of Lebanon, Syria, and Iran either fund Hezbollah or allow it to operate on their territory. This resolution asks those governments to use their influence to ask Hezbollah to do the right thing. It is not too much to ask. I request that my colleagues join me in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE); the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS); and the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN); and the ranking Democrat of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) for moving this bill through their committees.

I also want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for sponsoring it. It is a good resolution and it deserves the support of this body.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for his words in support of this resolution; and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I want to begin by thanking the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE); our distinguished ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS); my Republican colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for their work; and my other colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), for helping to get this resolution to the floor for quick consideration today.

In October 2000, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad were abducted while on a routine patrol of Israel's northern border. A fourth man, Elchanan Tannenbaum, a reservist, was taken while on a business trip in Europe.

At the present time, these men are believed to be held by the Hezbollah on Lebanese soil. The United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the International Committee of the Red Cross have made numerous overtures to Hezbollah in an effort to gain access to assess the physical condition and well-being of these prisoners. The Hezbollah has rejected these requests each and every time.

The continued detention of these men by Hezbollah troops is unacceptable and must be addressed immediately.

The conditions of their capture and the subject of detention run completely counter to the international standards and laws. Given that the State Department Report on Terrorism has named Iran and Syria as the patron states of Hezbollah, we must hold the governments in Tehran and Damascus responsible for the well-being of these men.

As signatories to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Iran and Syria have a responsibility to the international community to take concrete steps to encourage Hezbollah to permit this visit to take place. President Khatami and President Assad have made statements regarding the desire to join the community of nations. If these statements truly represent the desires of Iran and Syria, I ask them to take the first step toward achieving that objective by exerting their considerable influence over Hezbollah to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to do their job without further delay.

I first met the families of these men on a visit to Israel earlier this year in January with Members from New York, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER). It was my hope

that by the time we met again that their sons and fathers would be home.

Last month, I stood beside them once again here in Washington, but the void left by their sons and fathers still remains. I know that the families are grateful that they need not fight for their sons and fathers alone. They are joined by well over 70 Members of the House and the Senate who have cosponsored this resolution before us. We send a strong signal to the patron states of Hezbollah; but most of all, we must send hope to Adi, to Binyamin, to Omar, and Elchanan and their families. We can do just that by passing this resolution today.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 99, a resolution to urge Lebanon, Syria, and Iran to allow the International Red Cross to visit the four abducted Israelis. Many of my constituents have contacted me to voice their concerns for the Israeli citizen and the three Israeli soldiers that were taken hostage. I recently received a group of letters from the fifth grade class at the Jacobson Sinai Academy of North Dade, asking me to "imagine how their families are crying from sorrow because their child has been kidnapped." I believe Congress has a responsibility to push for International Red Cross intervention to check on the status of the captured Israelis.

We should continue diplomatic efforts to seek the help of Syria and Iran in opening a dialogue with the Hezbollah. H. Res. 99 sends an important message to the international community that these hostages have not been forgotten, even while the security situation in the Middle East has deteriorated since last fall. I urge the House to unanimously pass this resolution and continue to work towards a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Mr. GILMAN. Madam Speaker. I yield myself such time as I may consume and ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

It is with regret that we have to bring this resolution before the House today, but it is necessary to do so, because of an ongoing human tragedy—the capture of several individuals by a terrorist band operating with the support, or perhaps the acquiescence, of three Middle Eastern states, and which is holding them without providing any access by international humanitarian organizations.

I want to express my appreciation for the efforts of the gentleman from New York, Mr. CROWLEY, and the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. KIRK, who have worked so diligently on this resolution. Also, I want to thank the Chairman of the Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and my colleagues, the gentleman from New York, (Mr. ACKERMAN), our subcommittee Ranking Member, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the full Committee ranking member.

Last October, Hezbollah terrorists crossed the Israeli border near the so-called Shebaa Farms area and captured 3 soldiers. Later that month, they kidnapped an Israeli businessman in Europe.

This resolution is not just about the legality of the captivity of these individuals, although

of course they should be released. The narrow question we are focusing is on whether they should be allowed visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross—and who should be making that appeal to their captors.

There is no question about who is responsible for this act—Hezbollah. Those countries which allow Hezbollah to operate, or which fund it—namely Iran, Syria, and Lebanon—are in a position to influence this request.

We are asking that they would use their influence. It's just that simple. That is what this resolution is seeking.

Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to fully support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on the immediate release of three Israeli soldiers and one Israeli citizen who have been held hostage by Hezbollah in Lebanon for the last eight months. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for sponsoring this resolution and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for bringing it to the floor today.

On October 7, 2000, Hezbollah terrorists crossed the Lebanese border into Israel, ambushed an IDF patrol unit, and abducted Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, and Omar Souad. Only a week later, Elchanan Tannenbaum, an Israeli civilian, was abducted while on a business trip to Switzerland. Despite constant international pressure, Hezbollah has not yet shown any signs of releasing these four hostages. Hezbollah continues to deny any requests to meet with these four men.

The kidnaping of these three soldiers and one citizen is yet another intolerable element of the ongoing struggle in the Middle East. Iran and Hezbollah's blatant violation of established international norms must be confronted. Syria, Lebanon, and Iran all voted in favor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly, yet Hezbollah has continued to deny the International Committee of the Red Cross access to these prisoners.

Having worked against Hezbollah in Bosnia, I am aware of the danger they pose to Israelis and America abroad. We must take all necessary steps to ensure that, at the very least, Syria, Lebanon, and Iran call upon Hezbollah to allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit these Israeli hostages. For 261 days, these four men have been held captive. The families of these young men cannot continue to be tormented by the uncertainty of their loved ones' existence. Hezbollah has remained tight lipped on the condition of these men, and several Arabic language newspapers have reported that at least one of the soldiers had died in captivity.

The United States must take a strong position against Hezbollah and call for these terrorists to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and Elchanan Tannenbaum. This resolution is a re-affirmation of our commitment to Israel and the values of democracy, justice, and human decency.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 99.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HONORING 19 U.S. SERVICEMEN WHO DIED IN TERRORIST BOMBING OF KHOBAR TOWERS IN SAUDI ARABIA ON JUNE 25, 1996

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 161) honoring the 19 United States servicemen who died in the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 161

Whereas June 25, 2001, marks the fifth anniversary of the tragic terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers military housing compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia;

Whereas 19 members of the United States Air Force were killed in the bombing and 250 other United States military personnel were wounded;

Whereas the 19 airmen killed while serving their country were Captain Christopher Adams, Sergeant Daniel Cafourek, Sergeant Millard Campbell, Senior Airman Earl Cartrette, Jr., Sergeant Patrick Fennig, Captain Leland Haun, Sergeant Michael Heiser, Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Sergeant Ronald King, Sergeant Kendall Kitson, Jr., Airman First Class Christopher Lester, Airman First Class Brent Marthaler, Airman First Class Brian McVeigh, Airman First Class Peter Morgera, Sergeant Thanh Nguyen, Airman First Class Joseph Rimkus, Senior Airman Jeremy Taylor, Airman First Class Justin Wood, and Airman First Class Joshua Woody;

Whereas the families of these brave airmen still mourn their loss;

Whereas on September 24, 1996, the House of Representatives agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 200 of the 104th Congress honoring the victims of that terrorist bombing;

Whereas those guilty of the attack have yet to be brought to justice; and

Whereas terrorism remains a constant and ever-present threat around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers military housing compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the Congress—

(1) recognizes the sacrifice of the 19 members of the United States Air Force who died in that attack; and

(2) calls upon every American to pause and pay tribute to those brave airmen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from