

unfortunately, by having one set of rules for Israel and one set of rules for everyone else; and here is but another example of that kind of hypocrisy that unfortunately has permeated the United Nations. We will soon be talking about a ruling by an international court; and when I spoke about that ruling several days ago on the House floor, I said that one set of rules for Israel at the U.N. and one set of rules for everyone else does not help anybody, but just helps to discredit the United Nations.

Now, there are 191 members of the United Nations, as my friend from California has pointed out, and only one of them is given third-class status. Israel has been a member of the United Nations since the founding of the Jewish state in 1948, and yet it has never been allowed to serve on the Security Council of the United Nations, where you have one undemocratic despotic nation after another serving on the Security Council, sitting on the Human Rights Commission, but not democratic Israel.

So what this resolution does is it simply expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in support of full membership of Israel in the Western European and Others Group at the United Nations. As was pointed out, this will enable Israel to serve in all bodies of the United Nations, to have a vote in all bodies of the United Nations, and to serve on the Security Council if it is elected. If the United Nations is to be an effective group, then all nations must be treated equally; and democratic nations such as the state of Israel cannot be allowed to continue as third-status nations in the U.N.

So I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 615.

This resolution expresses this House's support for full membership for Israel in Western European and Other Groups at the United Nations.

Full membership for Israel is long overdue.

Without full membership in a regional group, Israel cannot sit on the Security Council or other key U.N. bodies, and the Arab states have barred its membership in the group it geographically belongs in, the Asian Group.

On May 30, 2000, Israel accepted an invitation to become a temporary member of Western European and Others, WEOG, regional group.

This historic step helped end at least some of the United Nations' discriminatory actions against Israel; however, without full membership, Israel is excluded from much of the U.N.'s general business that occurs outside of the General Assembly and Israel is not eligible to sit on the Security Council.

As a sovereign, democratic state—the only democratic state in the Middle East—Israel's full participation in the United Nations is an essential right.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House's full support of this bill.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution and I thank the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on the Middle

East and Central Asia for her leadership in bringing H. Res. 615 to the floor. As an original cosponsor of this resolution I am very pleased that the House will, I hope, pass the resolution by an overwhelming, if not unanimous vote.

Israel's isolation at the United Nations puts the lie to claims that Israel is not held to a double standard and demonstrates clearly that many of those urbane diplomats who like to talk about peace and reconciliation cannot even stomach the thought of Israel taking its rightful place at the U.N. While space is reserved and rights are held for such pariah states as junta-led Myanmar, dictator-ruled North Korea, the tyranny of the mullahs in Iran and the Palestinians' own thugocracy, democratic Israel is uniquely isolated at what is supposed to be the forum for all nations to deal with each other on equal terms.

Ironically, every day, because of the hostility and prejudice that precludes Israeli participation in the Asia regional group, the credibility and mission of the United Nations is undermined by exactly those states that call most vigorously for the Arab-Israeli conflict to be resolved in accordance with the will of the United Nations. The stench of this hypocrisy easily reaches Washington all the way from U.N. headquarters in New York City.

The resolution before the House calls for renewed efforts by this Nation to secure for Israel full membership in the Western European and Others Group at the U.N. the membership bloc our own country belongs to. Such a step is entirely appropriate given the close ties between Israel and the other nations in the bloc, as well as shared values and belief in democracy that characterizes this group's membership at the UN.

Thanks in large measure to the United States, Israel has, for a short time, been able to enjoy at least partial membership in the WEOG regional group. It is time for this half-measure to be replaced with a lasting and definite full membership. Israel is a country of far greater economic, political and scientific achievement than many of those nations that have obstructed full Israeli participation in the UN. It is more than past time that this grotesque form of discrimination be ended.

I urge Members to show their strong support for Israel and the true ideals of the UN by voting in favor of the resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 615, 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. LANTOS. 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.

COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL AND THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE IN THE EFFORT TO COMBAT TERRORISM

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 688) commending the Government of Portugal and the Portuguese people for their long-standing friendship, stalwart leadership, and unwavering support of the United States in the effort to combat international terrorism, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 688

Whereas the United States and Portugal have a long history of consistent friendship and support;

Whereas the Government of Portugal and the Portuguese people have shown tremendous support for the United States in this time of armed conflict;

Whereas Portugal has been a devout, resolute, and steadfast ally of the United States;

Whereas the support of the Government of Portugal and the Portuguese people is of paramount importance to the United States;

Whereas the Government of Portugal and the Portuguese people have committed a full array of their country's resources to fight the terrorist threat all over the world;

Whereas at the request of the United States and within the framework of United Nations Security Council resolutions, Portugal has sent brave soldiers, medical teams, police, flight crews, and other military personnel to Iraq and has continued to authorize the use of Lajes Air Base, in Azores, Portugal, for strategic staging in the War on Terrorism, including the current engagement in Iraq; and

Whereas the democratic principles and ideals that Portugal and the United States share have formed the basis of an enduring friendship which has stood the test of time: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) is grateful for the support of the people and Government of Portugal;

(2) commends the Government of Portugal and the Portuguese people for their steadfast friendship, resolute leadership, and unwavering support;

(3) commends the bravery and courage of all members of the Portuguese armed forces who have participated in the effort to bring an end to international terrorism; and

(4) expects the unique friendship between the United States and Portugal to continue.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 688. This resolution was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES). House Resolution 688 commends the government of Portugal and the Portuguese people for their longstanding friendship with the United States and their unwavering support in the effort to combat international terrorism. Portugal has been a resolute and steadfast ally of the United States for many years.

As an important friend and ally, Portugal has recently exercised leadership within Europe in confronting terrorism and the threats of a post-September 11 world. Portugal has sent soldiers, medical teams, police and other personnel to Iraq and has continued to authorize the use of Lajes Air Base in the Azores for strategic staging and other requirements in the global war on terrorism.

Indeed, the government of Portugal and the Portuguese people have committed a significant array of their country's resources to fight the terrorist threat all over the world.

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The support of the government of Portugal and the Portuguese people is of paramount importance to the United States, and we would like to recognize that tonight.

Portugal and the people of Portugal deserve to be commended, and I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) for his efforts in bringing this resolution to the House floor tonight. I urge the adoption of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 688. Mr. Speaker, this important resolution commends the government of Portugal and the people of Portugal for the long-time friendship and support in the war on international terrorism.

I would like to thank my California colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) for introducing this important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and Portugal have shared a long history of friendship and mutual support. I owe a special personal debt of gratitude to Portugal because of my wife, Annette. Portuguese consuls in several European capitals during the second World War extended protections to Jews, including in my own native city of Budapest, Hungary. Portuguese Consul General Branquinho together with the Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg were responsible for saving the life of my wife, Annette, during that period.

Portugal admitted thousands of Jewish refugees during 1940 and 1941 and allowed rescue organization to operate in Lisbon. One of the heroes of the Holo-

caust was the Portuguese Consul General in Bordeaux, France, Aristides de Sousa Mendes, who issued as many as 10,000 Portuguese transit visas to refugees stranded in France in order that they might cross the Spanish frontier. In spite of the fact that he did not have his country's support for that action at that time, he courageously did the right thing and made a difference in saving the lives of so many potential Holocaust victims.

I am particularly grateful to the current government of Portugal for their steadfast support of the United States in our fight against terrorism. Portugal has not only committed military personnel to fight against terrorism but also medical teams, police and others to assist in this effort.

Portugal, our NATO ally, has authorized our forces to use their air base in the Azores for strategic staging, which is particularly critical in the War on Terrorism.

Portugal is truly a friend who has stepped up to the plate to help the United States and the rest of the civilized community of nations many times and in many ways. We are grateful to have such a strong and steadfast ally, and we have every expectation and desire that the friendship between Portugal and the United States will continue to grow and to flourish for many years to come. I strongly support passage of this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 688, which I drafted myself along with my good friends and colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

The purpose of this House resolution is to thank the Portuguese people for their steadfast support in the War on Terrorism. This is particularly important to me because, being an American of Portuguese decent, I am proud to see our two countries stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight for freedom and democracy. Portugal was there to support the United States from the first hour of terrorism and continues to stand with us in our effort to bring peace and democracy to Iraq.

Thanks to their courageous and valiant leadership, Portugal has continued to help our coalition forces not only in the Middle East but in Africa and Southeast Asia. From working with our intelligence agencies and also to allowing us to use the important Lajes Air Force base in the Azores, Portugal has never wavered when asked to support military missions abroad. In this day and age, the need for such a steadfast partner is key to our Nation's, and the entire free world's, fight against global terrorism.

I would also like to thank the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and others for taking an interest in this important piece of legislation.

I think it is also appropriate at this time to thank and congratulate now the former Prime Minister Barroso, who has been a steadfast ally of the United States, for his new appointment as head of the EU.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I thank the committee members again for their help on this.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 688; and I want to just commend my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), for his offering up this amendment.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa of the Committee on International Relations, I can attest to the importance of Portugal engagement not only in Africa on the War on Terror but also, as a member of the Committee on International Relations, we have seen their engagement in Europe and in Southeast Asia. They have been at the vanguard of confronting terrorism and confronting the threats that we in the entire world community have faced post-September 11. They have continued to allow the United States access and use of the Lajes Air Base, and we are deeply appreciative of that but also certainly very appreciative of the friendship that Portugal has shown the United States.

We want to commend the people of Portugal and, at the same time, we also want to recognize in this resolution the many contributions made to our Nation by the Portuguese-American population here in the United States.

As we focus on Iraq, we again also appreciate the Portuguese forces that serve there, the military forces, the medical personnel, the police that have been such an asset to us.

So, with that said, in conclusion, I would like to again thank the government of Portugal and the Portuguese people for their friendship, their support as an ally and also for their leadership in Europe and worldwide. I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Air Base in the Azores, the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) led the Congressional delegation to that event. He did a masterful job.

At that time, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) was also involved in that delegation; and I was

privileged to join these two gentlemen in that trip. I was able to see firsthand the incredible cooperation that exists between the United States and Portugal. Also, the respect, the friendship, the close ties that the people of Portugal have with us here in the United States.

I am incredibly grateful and all of us have to be incredibly grateful for the way that Portugal has been such a steadfast ally of the United States throughout many, many years. But particularly now in these very difficult times in this war against international terrorism, they have been strong allies. They have been courageous allies.

I am extremely grateful to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and also in particular to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA), and the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) for this opportunity to thank the people of Portugal for their leadership, for their courage, for their friendship in these very difficult times.

When we need them the most, the people of Portugal said, we are here. We cannot forget. I want to thank these wonderful Members of Congress and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for giving us the opportunity to also say "thank you."

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 688, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTHERN UGANDA CRISIS RESPONSE ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2264) to require a report on the conflict in Uganda, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2264

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States and the Republic of Uganda enjoy a strong bilateral relationship and continue to work closely together in fighting the human immunodeficiency virus

and acquired immune deficiency syndrome ("HIV/AIDS") pandemic and combating international terrorism.

(2) For more than 17 years, the Government of Uganda has been engaged in a conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army that has inflicted hardship and suffering on the people of northern and eastern Uganda.

(3) The members of the Lord's Resistance Army have used brutal tactics during this conflict, including abducting and forcing individuals into sexual servitude, and forcing a large number of children, estimated to be between 16,000 and 26,000 children, in Uganda to serve in such Army's military forces.

(4) The Secretary of State has designated the Lord's Resistance Army as a terrorist organization and placed the Lord's Resistance Army on the Terrorist Exclusion list pursuant to section 212(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)).

(5) According to Human Rights Watch, since the mid-1990s the only known sponsor of the Lord's Resistance Army has been the Government of Sudan, though such Government denies providing assistance to the Lord's Resistance Army.

(6) More than 1,000,000 people have been displaced from their homes in Uganda as a result of the conflict.

(7) The conflict has resulted in a lack of security for the people of Uganda, and as a result of such lack, each night more than 18,000 children leave their homes and flee to the relative safety of town centers, creating a massive "night commuter" phenomenon that leaves already vulnerable children subject to exploitation and abuse.

(8) Individuals who have been displaced by the conflict in Uganda often suffer from acute malnutrition and the mortality rate for children in northern Uganda who have been displaced is very high.

(9) In the latter part of 2003, humanitarian and human rights organizations operating in northern Uganda reported an increase in violence directed at their efforts and at civilians, including a sharp increase in child abductions.

(10) The Government of Uganda's military efforts to resolve this conflict, including the arming and training of local militia forces, have not ensured the security of civilian populations in the region to date.

(11) The continued instability and lack of security in Uganda has severely hindered the ability of any organization or governmental entity to deliver regular humanitarian assistance and services to individuals who have been displaced or otherwise negatively affected by the conflict.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should—

(1) work vigorously to support ongoing efforts to explore the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda;

(2) work with the Government of Uganda and the international community to make available sufficient resources to meet the immediate relief and development needs of the towns and cities in Uganda that are supporting large numbers of people who have been displaced by the conflict;

(3) urge the Government of Uganda and the international community to assume greater responsibility for the protection of civilians and economic development in regions in Uganda affected by the conflict, and to place a high priority on providing security, economic development, and humanitarian assistance to the people of Uganda;

(4) work with the international community, the Government of Uganda, and civil society in northern and eastern Uganda to develop a plan whereby those now displaced

may return to their homes or to other locations where they may become economically productive;

(5) urge the leaders and members of the Lord's Resistance Army to stop the abduction of children, and urge all armed forces in Uganda to stop the use of child soldiers, and seek the release of all individuals who have been abducted;

(6) make available increased resources for assistance to individuals who were abducted during the conflict, child soldiers, and other children affected by the conflict;

(7) work with the Government of Uganda, other countries, and international organizations to ensure that sufficient resources and technical support are devoted to the demobilization and reintegration of rebel combatants and abductees forced by their captors to serve in non-combatant support roles;

(8) cooperate with the international community to support civil society organizations and leaders in Uganda, including Acholi religious leaders, who are working toward a just and lasting resolution to the conflict;

(9) urge the Government of Uganda to improve the professionalism of Ugandan military personnel currently stationed in northern and eastern Uganda, with an emphasis on respect for human rights, accountability for abuses, and effective civilian protection;

(10) work with the international community to assist institutions of civil society in Uganda to increase the capacity of such institutions to monitor the human rights situation in northern Uganda and to raise awareness of abuses of human rights that occur in that area;

(11) urge the Government of Uganda to permit international human rights monitors to establish a presence in northern and eastern Uganda;

(12) monitor the creation of civilian militia forces in northern and eastern Uganda and publicize any concerns regarding the recruitment of children into such forces or the potential that the establishment of such forces will invite increased targeting of civilians in the conflict or exacerbate ethnic tension and violence; and

(13) make clear that the relationship between the Government of Sudan and the Government of the United States cannot improve unless no credible evidence indicates that authorities of the Government of Sudan are complicit in efforts to provide weapons or other support to the Lord's Resistance Army.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the conflict in Uganda.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a description of the following:

(1) The individuals or entities that are providing financial and material support for the Lord's Resistance Army, including a description of any such support provided by the Government of Sudan or by senior officials of such Government.

(2) The activities of the Lord's Resistance Army that create obstacles that prohibit the provision of humanitarian assistance or the protection of the civilian population in Uganda.

(3) The practices employed by the Ugandan People's Defense Forces in northern and eastern Uganda to ensure that children and civilians are protected, that civilian complaints are addressed, and that any member of the armed forces that abuses a civilian is held accountable for such abuse.

(4) The actions carried out by the Government of the United States, the Government