

Pyongyang has conspired with the Japanese Red Army, a designated terrorist organization, is a clear indication of its own connection to terrorist activities.

The United States and other allies who fought together in the Korean War under the banner of the United Nations have a direct interest in the forced detention of certain individuals by the North Korean regime. Those detained include, according to a South Korean Ministry of National Defense estimate, over 500 South Korean prisoners of war held over half a century, against their will and in violation of the 1953 Korean War Armistice agreement. The fact that they had been held for more than 50 years in horrific conditions that include forced labor is of deep concern to both Congress and the people of the United States.

Those kidnapped also include a South Korean citizen who was then a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as a South Korean missionary who is a spouse of a resident of the State of Illinois. Those cases are of direct concern to Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula is of critical importance. We welcome Pyongyang's decision announced over the weekend to return to the Six-Party Talks later this month as a first step back from the brink. Let us hope this leads to concrete progress.

North Korea has asked for signs of respect from the United States in connection with its decision to return to the negotiating table in Beijing. However, the North Korean regime must recognize that in order to win the respect that it craves from the United States and the international community, it must begin to behave in acceptable ways. Continued gross human rights violations, including the abductions of persons from South Korea, Japan and other countries, are absolutely deplorable and will only bring additional dishonor to the North Korean regime, and certainly they are not means for winning the respect and acceptance by the international community.

Pyongyang should immediately cease and desist from carrying out abductions, release all victims of kidnappings and prisoners of war still alive in North Korea, and provide a full and verifiable accounting of all other cases. Only then can a reformed North Korea take its place as a full member in the community of nations.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for overseeing this important resolution that was offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE).

Mr. Speaker, over the past 50 years, the North Korea Government has systematically kidnapped hundreds of in-

nocent citizens of foreign countries. Young men and women from Japan and South Korea have been kidnapped by North Korean agents from beaches in Japan, fishing boats off the South Korean coast, and the border region of China near North Korea. Left behind have been hundreds of families desperately seeking the return of their loved ones.

While a few Japanese citizens were finally allowed to return to their families in Japan in 2002, many more remain behind, along with hundreds of kidnapped citizens from South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has many issues which must be negotiated with the North Koreans, from their nuclear program to human rights. We are therefore encouraged by the announcement over the weekend that the Six-Party Talks will resume at the end of July in Beijing. This resolution makes it clear that the issue of North Korean abductees must be part of any dialogue with the North Korean leadership and that our countries will never have fully normal relations until all questions surrounding the abductees have been answered.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, as we meet today, there are hundreds of Japanese and South Korean families desperately seeking knowledge about long lost relatives kidnapped by North Korea. It is our duty to make every effort to reunite these families with their loved ones and to get them the information they have been seeking for decades.

I strongly support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 168, 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. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 H. Con. Res. 168.

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

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL WEEK-END OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 333) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 333

Whereas, on July 22, 2004, Congress declared that genocide was taking place in Darfur, Sudan;

Whereas, on September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell testified to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that "genocide has been committed in Darfur";

Whereas, on September 21, 2004, President George W. Bush stated to the United Nations General Assembly that "the world is witnessing terrible suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes my government has concluded are genocide";

Whereas Article 1 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, done at Paris December 9, 1948, and entered into force January 12, 1951, states that "[t]he Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish";

Whereas fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, are protected in numerous international agreements and declarations;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, in Security Council Resolution 1591, condemned the "continued violations of the N'djamena Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 and the Abuja Protocols of 9 November 2004 by all sides in Darfur and the deterioration of the security situation and negative impact this has had on humanitarian assistance efforts";

Whereas scholars estimate that as many as 400,000 have died from violence, hunger, and disease since the outbreak of conflict in Darfur began in 2003, and that as many as 10,000 may be dying each month;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced from their homes and remain in camps in Darfur and Chad;

Whereas religious leaders, genocide survivors, and world leaders have expressed grave concern over the continuing atrocities taking place in Darfur; and

Whereas it is appropriate that the people of the United States, leaders and citizens alike, unite in prayer for the people of Darfur and reflect upon the situation in Darfur: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe that weekend by praying for an end to the genocide and crimes against humanity and for lasting peace in Darfur, Sudan; and

(3) urges all churches, synagogues, mosques, and religious institutions in the United States to consider the issue of Darfur

in their activities and to observe the National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection with appropriate activities and services.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H. Res. 333 which supports the goals and the ideals of a national weekend of prayer and reflection for Darfur, Sudan. It is fort that this resolution also come to the floor today when we mark the tenth anniversary of another genocide, that which took place in the Balkans and, in particular, 10 years ago to the day, July 11, 1995 when the killing fields were very much covered with blood and murder in Srebreniza. This body a few weeks ago passed my resolution to remember that horrific event, and sadly, today we are on the floor again bringing much needed attention and priority and hopefully an appeal for prayer and fasting on behalf of those who have suffered and are suffering in Darfur, Sudan.

It was almost a year ago, Mr. Speaker, on July 21 that the House passed H. Con. Res. 467 that finally, at long last, called what is occurring, in Darfur, a genocide. Since that time, the United States Government has provided over \$600 million in humanitarian relief to help ease the suffering of the most affected by this terrible conflict and over \$150 million to support the African Union in their mission in Darfur. President Bush, the Congress, Democrats, Republicans, House and Senate, countless numbers of churches, nongovernmental organizations, think tanks and activists around the world have devoted a huge amount of time trying to raise awareness about the genocide in Darfur and mobilizing political and material support for efforts to mitigate and hopefully end this genocide.

For its part, the U.N. Security Council has passed no less than six resolutions addressing the situation in Darfur. Still, the crisis, the genocide, continues. Out of a pre-conflict population of 6.5 million, anywhere between 300,000 and 400,000 Darfurians have perished, and an estimated 10,000 continue to die each and every month. Over 2 million have been forced from their homes. Entire villages have been looted and destroyed, and countless men, women and children have been murdered, abducted, abused or raped.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is our Nation's richest and most important tradition that we turn to God in prayer, in good times and bad, to thank Him for His blessings and to ask and to petition Him for His help. I believe we delude ourselves if we think that we possess the wisdom or the courage or the skill to solve the myriad of vexing problems that we face. We needed God's help.

Earlier today, Reverend Dan Coughlin, the House Chaplain, in his opening prayer here, eloquently pointed the way to us as Members of Congress, as people of faith, when he quoted scripture that everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and those who humble themselves shall be exalted. Prayer certainly is a humbling process of realizing who we are in relation to God.

He pointed out in his prayer again that life itself has taught us that "all exaltation leads only to illusion, and left to ourselves, we can easily slip and fall" and he calls on us as government leaders with "high aspirations" hopefully to be "grounded in the people we serve" and again this whole idea of humbling ourselves in prayer so that we can bring God's blessing and power into any situation.

Nowhere is that more true than in these vexing problems that we see all over the globe especially in places like Darfur where this genocide has been occurring. The events of the past year have shown us that it is extremely difficult to impose peace upon Darfur. In the Book of James, we are told that faith without works is dead. Yes, we need the works—humanitarian assistance, including food and medicine. We need the statecraft. We need the peace-keeping intervention that is being organized now as part of the African Union peace mission. All of that has to be done but we also must pray. We must pray for even those who perpetrate such atrocities against their own brothers and sisters, that they will lay down their weapons and turn from this gross evil and the destructive path that they have chosen. We must pray for the people of Sudan, especially its leaders, and especially those thugs who are on the ground today, who derive their fleeting power from the barrel of a gun, to end their reign of terror against innocent men, women and children.

H. Res. 333 supports a national weekend of prayer and reflection for Darfur and solemnly encourages the people of the United States to observe that weekend, and I think it should be every weekend and every day, but certainly in a very focused way for a weekend by praying for an end to genocide, for a lasting peace for these beleaguered people. It also urges all churches and synagogues and mosques and religious institutions in the United States to consider, to focus upon the issue of Darfur in their activities and to observe the national weekend of prayer and reflection with appropriate activities and services.

I want to thank my good friend and colleague Mr. PAYNE, my fellow New Jersey, for introducing this important resolution, and I am very proud to be one of the cosponsors. I urge my colleagues to support it and above all to join us in praying that a just and a merciful God will stop the slaughter, to pray that He will heal the surviving victims who have been so brutally traumatized, and pray that God em-

power the international community to mete out justice to the perpetrators of this heinous genocide.

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

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

I, again, thank my colleague and friend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his moving words in support of this resolution sponsored by our good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE). I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and commend him for his leadership on this resolution and for his never-ending efforts to end the ongoing genocide in Darfur.

Over the weekend in Khartoum, the new Unity government of Sudan was sworn in with former rebel leader John Garang serving as one of its two vice presidents. The civil war between north and southern Sudan lasted 21 years and cost millions of lives, untold suffering, and billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance. However, while the North-South agreement is a major milestone, it did not cover the conflict still raging in Darfur.

Just 4 days ago, Mr. Speaker, ten Janjaweed militia on horseback, wearing masks, opened fire on internally displaced persons on their way to a humanitarian camp in Sudan. Five innocent civilians were killed, and four were injured.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago this month, the House and Senate passed a concurrent resolution that declared atrocities in Darfur a genocide. Janjaweed militia groups, directed and supported by the old regime in Khartoum, have systematically tortured, raped and murdered innocent civilians, driven over 250,000 from their homes into neighboring Chad, and internally displaced more than 2 million people. According to the United Nations, an average of 10,000 people have died each month over the past year and a half from disease and other preventable causes. In spite of growing international pressures, the government of Sudan has denied humanitarian assistance to starving civilians, harassed aid workers and thwarted attempts to bring international monitors to the situation.

Mr. Speaker, because of our persistence, in March, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1593 referring the situation in Darfur to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, also known as the ICC. After conducting a worldwide investigation, the ICC says it has credible information about grave crimes against humanity committed in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of this committee and many others have brought peace to southern Sudan, and it remains my strong hope that our continued work will help bring peace to Darfur.

Piggybacking a little bit on my colleague from New Jersey's alluding to our very wonderful Chaplain, we all have to be mindful of that ladder and

watch our step on each rung, and no more does that reflection need to take place than in Darfur today. Prayer, inner reflection, a moment to look at ourselves, especially in places of conflict, I think, is a good thing to do, and this resolution is a good resolution calling attention to that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, and I thank the sponsor again.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in support of H. Res. 333, which encourages the National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur. The people of that troubled region have experienced almost unimaginable suffering. As many as 400,000 have already lost their lives to genocide, hunger, and disease. Two million more have been forced from their homes.

Almost one year ago, Congress recognized that the atrocities being committed in Darfur were genocide. Since then, we have begun to provide humanitarian assistance and funding for peacekeeping missions. I was pleased to vote for the recent Supplemental Appropriations Act, which included \$400 million for emergency food relief and other humanitarian assistance in Darfur and elsewhere in Africa. Also included was \$680 million for peacekeeping operations, much of which will be used in Sudan.

This is a start, but the Bush administration and Congress must do more to break the cycle of violence and hunger that grips Darfur.

Another step in the right direction is the commitment made at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles to double aid to Africa by 2010. A stronger Africa will be better prepared to respond to situations like Darfur, and hopefully to prevent them. We must now make sure that the United States leads the effort to reach this goal as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the last moment, or worse, not reaching it at all.

The National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection is an important effort to raise awareness of this terrible human tragedy. My hope is that it will also strengthen our resolve to end the atrocities being committed in Darfur.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 333.

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. 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.

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 and include extraneous material on H. Res. 333.

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

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 343) commending the State of Kuwait for granting women certain important political rights.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 343

Whereas on May 16, 2005, the Parliament of the State of Kuwait amended Article 1 of the Election Law 35 of 1962, providing female citizens of Kuwait the right to vote and run in the 2007 elections;

Whereas the rights of women are of paramount importance in international human rights, to be respected and promoted regardless of historical, cultural, or religious heritage;

Whereas the active advancement of women's rights throughout the world is and remains an important policy priority of the United States; and

Whereas the Department of State recognizes that the Kuwaiti parliamentary vote of May 16, 2005, was an important step forward for the women of Kuwait and the nation as a whole, and the United States views this step as a positive development on the road to political reform, serving as a positive example for other governments and societies in the region that are on the path to political freedom, inclusion of women, and full democratization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Government and Parliament of the State of Kuwait for providing female citizens of Kuwait the right to vote and hold public office;

(2) urges the full participation of Kuwaiti women in the political life of their country; and

(3) encourages the Government of Kuwait to continue taking positive steps to achieve full modernization of its political system and lasting democratic reform.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 343 introduced by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), and commend him for sponsoring this. At least ten other Members have joined him as co-sponsors on the resolution.

In May of 2005, the Kuwaiti Parliament amended its basic election laws to provide something which we in America take for granted, the rights of women to vote and to run for office.

This resolution puts the U.S. House of Representatives on record as commending this important step in the Middle East. The Kuwaiti Parliament has taken action to recognize the important role of women in international human rights, and the House states in its resolution how important that role is and how it must be respected and promoted regardless of historical, cultural or religious heritage. This action by the Kuwaiti Parliament underscores its recognition of these important rights and shows its support for the American policy of actively advancing women's rights all over the world.

This resolution recognizes America's view that this important step by the Kuwaiti Parliament is an important step for the women of Kuwait and for the nation as a whole. The resolution formally commends the government and the Parliament of Kuwait for this important action and urges full participation of Kuwaiti women in the political life of their country.

I urge support of this resolution, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I thank, again, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his kind words of support for this resolution as well.

Mr. Speaker, on May 16, 2005, after many years of opposition, the Kuwaiti Parliament finally granted women the right to vote and to run for public office. If you and I, Mr. Speaker, had drafted this bill in the Kuwaiti legislature, I know it would have read somewhat differently. As worded, it states that "a Kuwaiti woman, voting and running for political office, should do so while fully adhering to the dictates of Islamic Sharia."

□ 1430

That suggests the possibility of limiting the application of this law.

However, my Kuwaiti friends assure me that the law indeed will be applied universally to all of Kuwait's women citizens, and it is my hope that that will indeed be the case. In any case, the Kuwaiti parliament's action marks an important step on the path towards full democratization.

It should also be noted that, with the enfranchising of women in Kuwait, women in every nation that holds elections now have the right to vote, except in Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, there still remain nations where neither men nor women have the right to vote, a peculiar and regrettable form of gender equity.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

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

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