

the Catholic Church or the Falun Gong spiritual movement. Tens of thousands of Falun Gong adherents have been locked away in psychiatric institutions. They have been tortured and jailed and even killed for refusing to renounce their faith. What a tragedy, Madam Speaker.

The resolution before us shines the spotlight on China's horrendous record of religious freedom. The words in our resolution will cause great discomfort in Beijing. But when dealing with friends, it is far better to lay the facts on the table than to sweep the bitter truth under the rug.

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

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the appropriations subcommittee for the State Department, FRANK WOLF of Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to just, before I talk on this resolution, mention the one on Tiananmen. I want to be here and have the world know that I stood with the tank man and stood with those who are in prison in Tiananmen.

CHRIS SMITH and I were in Beijing Prison Number 1. I am sure he talked about it. But some of those young men and women are still in prison today, and some of you listening to this are wearing socks or underwear that have been made by them. So I want the world to know, Tiananmen Square demonstrators are still in prison, still in prison.

Now, on this resolution, I want to express grave disappointment with the Bush administration. I wrote every member of the Bush administration after meeting with dissidents in China and over here, who said, please have the Bush administration come to our church services, the way that they did in the Reagan administration with regard to the Soviet Union. They said, please, we will stand with them. We want someone, someone from the Bush administration to come into a house church. We are tired of seeing the Bush administration going into the churches that are recognized by the Chinese government.

So I wrote every high appointee in the Bush administration and I asked them would they call the individuals and stand with them, go to their apartments, as we used to do in the 1980s in Moscow with the Sakharovs and the Scharanksys, and in 3 months, not one Bush administration person has taken the time to pick up the telephone and to call the name and the telephone numbers of the individuals.

What do you get out of the Bush administration? Silence. Silence. We should remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, who said, and I quote, "In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends." And Dr. King's statement is so poignant. "In times of trouble,

the silence of an enemy is expected, but the silence of a friend is devastating." I ask the Bush administration to break the silence. Speak out for Riba Qadiri, speak out for the Catholic Church. Speak out for the Evangelical Church. Speak out for those in Tibet who are being persecuted. The young Buddhist nun who came to my office 2 weeks ago had been in the Drapchi prison for 15 years for doing nothing.

This is a test. I am writing the Bush administration officials again, and I am giving the telephone number to call. I say now, with this opportunity, and I am going to give them the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. Silence should be over. It is now time for the Bush administration to adopt the policies of the Reagan administration, of Ronald Reagan, to stand with the dissidents because by standing next, it is like in government or politics. If somebody says they are really for you, but they don't want to be identified with you, how much are they really for you?

How much is the Bush administration really for the Catholic Church in China? How much is the Bush administration really for the Evangelical house church who are putting their lives on the line? How much are they for those who are being persecuted in Tibet? How much are they for the Uighurs? How much for the Falun Gong? And keep in mind, this government is spying against our government much more aggressively than they did in the Soviet Union.

I close again with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King. "In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends." If the Bush administration wants to be the friends of the dissidents, the silence should be broken. And Clark Randt, our Ambassador in China, should be the first one to begin to break the silence.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 608, Condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China. I am concerned by reports that the People's Republic of China persecutes, coerces, and harasses its citizens based solely on religious beliefs. Freedom of worship is a human right enshrined in Article 18 of the Uniform Declaration of Human Rights, to which the People's Republic of China is a signatory.

The abuses of members of the Catholic clergy by the Chinese government are especially troubling. The people of Guam predominantly follow the teaching and leadership of the Roman Catholic Church. The people of Guam, however, enjoy and indeed benefit from those on the island who practice different faiths. Faith in God and religious tolerance are both celebrated characteristics of the people of Guam.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China provides for the freedom to worship as an individual chooses. I urge the People's Republic of China to act accordingly.

I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. WOLF for

his very powerful statement, as well as Mr. LANTOS, on this resolution.

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. 608, 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 question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF ISLAMIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 338) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 338

Whereas the brutal attacks of September 11, 2001, demonstrated that terrorists can strike anywhere in the world;

Whereas terrorist activity that goes unaddressed is an invitation for terrorist organizations to carry out attacks against the United States, our allies and interests;

Whereas the Department of State has concluded in its most recent Country Reports on Terrorism, which was released in April 2005, that although the threat of international terrorism in the Western Hemisphere remains relatively low as compared to other world regions, international terrorists may seek safe-haven, financing, recruiting, illegal travel documentation, or access to the United States from Latin American and Caribbean countries and thus pose serious threats;

Whereas in recent years, the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere have focused on financing their criminal and terrorist activities outside of the region rather than carrying out or directly supporting terrorist attacks in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, as the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 bombing

of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Argentina clearly showed, international terrorist organizations, such as Hezbollah, are ready, willing, and able to carry out attacks in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas since at least the AMIA bombing in 1994, Hezbollah has maintained networks in the tri-border area of Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina—primarily focusing on fundraising and recruitment;

Whereas in May 2003, a relative of Assad Ahmad Barakat, the reputed head of Hezbollah in the tri-border area, was arrested at the airport in Asuncion, Paraguay, in what Paraguayan police believe was a scheme to sell drugs in Syria, with proceeds reaching Hezbollah forces in Lebanon;

Whereas Barakat, a Lebanese-born Paraguayan, is himself in custody in Brazil awaiting extradition to Paraguay after raids on his businesses in Paraguay's tri-border area found evidence that he transferred tens of millions of United States dollars to Hezbollah in Lebanon;

Whereas there have been media reports of Hezbollah sympathizers and financiers also conducting black market activities in Iquique, Chile; Maicao, Colombia; Margarita Island, Venezuela; and Colon, Panama;

Whereas the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas has also been known to raise funds in the tri-border area;

Whereas in a 2002 court case, one of two Lebanese men were convicted of financing Hezbollah with \$2,000,000 in illegal cigarette sales in the United States;

Whereas earlier this past year, a Lebanese individual from Detroit was charged with supporting Hezbollah financially and was described by the United States Attorney in the case as a "fighter, recruiter, and fundraiser";

Whereas several members of the Egyptian Islamic Group have been arrested in Brazil, Uruguay, and Colombia since 1998;

Whereas Ashref Ahmed Abdallah, an Egyptian national who is one of the most significant human smuggling targets, was arrested by United States authorities at Miami International Airport in July 2004 for using Central America and Brazil as a staging ground for smuggling illegal aliens from countries of the Middle East, including special interest countries that are linked to international terrorism, into the United States;

Whereas the activities of sympathizers and financiers of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere represent a potential threat to the United States, our allies and interests;

Whereas section 7102 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 22 U.S.C. 2656f note) amends United States law to identify and address emerging and current terrorist sanctuaries and secure international cooperation to combat this threat;

Whereas many countries of the Western Hemisphere have cooperated with the United States and regional organizations to counter the threat of regional and international terrorism, including by participating in joint counterterrorism training and simulations, Counterterrorism Action Group (CTAG) meetings which are hosted by United States embassies, and the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS); and

Whereas despite these efforts, many factors within the Western Hemisphere contribute to creating an environment which is conducive for future activities by international terrorist organizations: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the potential threat that sympathizers and financiers of Islamist terrorist organizations that operate in the

Western Hemisphere pose to the United States, our allies and interests;

(2) acknowledges the commitment and cooperation of some governments of countries of the Western Hemisphere to deny the use of their territory to Islamist terrorist organizations and calls on all governments to intensify their efforts; and

(3) encourages the President to direct the United States Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) to—

(A) seek support from OAS member countries for the creation of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) to assist governments in the region in investigating and combatting the proliferation of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere and to coordinate regional efforts to prevent the spread of this threat; and

(B) urge OAS member countries to designate Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, al-Qaeda and its constituent entities, and other such groups as terrorist organizations if they have not already done so.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

I rise in strong support of this House concurrent resolution regarding the activities of Islamic terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere. This is a Ros-Lehtinen/Lantos/Burton/Engel resolution. It pulls together the oversight and investigative efforts of two regional subcommittees of the House International Relations Committee. This resolution also builds upon measures previously adopted by the House related to the Jewish Community Center bombing in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In addition to outlining the emerging threat of Islamic terrorist organizations in our hemisphere, H. Con. Res. 338:

One, calls on all governments to intensify their efforts against terrorists and their financiers;

Second, calls for establishment of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist governments in the hemisphere in combating the proliferation of Islamist terrorist organizations from a national and regional perspective; and,

Third, urges the OAS member countries to designate Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, al-Qaeda and its constituent elements and other such groups as terrorist organizations if they have not already done so.

In recent years, there has been increasing numbers of reports of a growing presence of Islamic terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere. Areas of concern include fundraising and remittance to terrorist cells in Arab countries, material support for terrorist organizations, recruitment of terrorist black market activity and involvement in global narcotrafficking. There has also been an increase in anti-Semitism, not unlike what we have seen in Europe and in the Middle East.

H. Con. Res. 338 recognizes the presence of Islamic terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere. It details terrorist activities that have taken place, and the presence of terrorists in many Western Hemisphere countries, including but not limited to the United States, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Panama.

Madam Speaker, there is a large Arab community of roughly 30,000, primarily Lebanese and Syrian immigrants, involved in business enterprises in the tri-border area, both illegal and legal. Hezbollah and Hamas have a history of using the tri-border area, TBA, for fundraising and other support. Although the area has been monitored for some time, in 1992 and 1994, bombings in Buenos Aires caused increased scrutiny there.

Madam Speaker, the area has been, and remains, a haven for illicit activities by organized crime and most likely by terrorist groups. These groups use the TBA for smuggling, money laundering, product privacy and drug and arms trafficking. Numerous organized crime groups, including the Lebanese and Chinese mafias, are known to use the area for illicit activities.

The level of financial transactions, Madam Speaker, is staggering. The Paraguayan city of Ciudad del Este generated \$12 to \$13 billion in cash transactions annually as of 2001, making it the third largest money handler worldwide behind Hong Kong and Miami.

Corruption and weak governance, fragile democratic institutions and weak law enforcement and adherence to the rule in parts of Latin America presents opportunities for terrorists to exploit. There is evidence that terrorists are tapping into drug, arms and human trafficking networks. We need to enhance regional engagement and cooperation, strengthen monitoring efforts, and fight criminal activities. This resolution casts much needed attention on a growing threat in our hemisphere and calls for vigilance among the community of nations which is collectively threatened. Islamic terrorist organizations are skilled at exploiting these weaknesses around the globe and here in our own hemisphere as well.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution. On July 18, we will mark the 12th anniversary of the senseless loss of 85 lives in the bombing of the Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We will commemorate with profound pain the loss of the families who forever had their loved ones brutally taken from them. And we will recall the shock felt in Jewish communities across the globe at this ferocious attack on innocent lives in a city where Jews had previously felt totally secure.

Madam Speaker, we would now know that at least seven Iranian government officials, including the former Iranian Ambassador to Argentina, planned and orchestrated this vicious attack. There is little doubt that these Iranian officials called upon their Hezbollah stooges to execute their nefarious plans.

We also know that the Hezbollah terrorist cell that carried out the attack received financial and logistical support from sympathizers in the tri-border region between Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. The suicide bomber himself probably entered South America and transited to the Argentine capital through this lawless frontier.

The varied nationalities of those who were murdered in the bombing also reflect the international character of this shameful terrorist attack. Among the 85 victims there were six Bolivians, two Poles, and a Chilean.

Although the modus operandi of the terrorists in the bombing has not been replicated since 1994, supporters and facilitators of Islamic terrorist organizations have gathered in scattered outposts throughout the Western Hemisphere. Operating from hard to reach areas in Chile, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, these individuals lend financial and logistical assistance to terrorists organizations in the Middle East.

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Although these isolated communities have yet to metastasize into operational cells of Islamic terrorists, the threat to regional security remains strong and requires our constant vigilance.

We must redouble our efforts to root out the fundraising networks in the Western Hemisphere of Islamic terrorists and to disperse the growing web of links between terrorist financiers and narcotics traffickers.

Our important resolution furthers both of these goals. It promotes the establishment of a special task force in the Organization of American States to assist regional governments in investigating and combating the proliferation of Islamic terrorists within our hemisphere.

Our resolution urges all Latin American and Caribbean countries to designate al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad as terrorist organizations.

Madam Speaker, international terrorists have demonstrated that they will not rest in pursuit of their villainy. Our resolution once again puts them on notice that they will fail, whether they are in the Middle East or here in the Americas.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, because Islamist terrorism anywhere is a threat to free people everywhere, I ask my colleagues to render their strong support of H. Con. Res. 338.

This resolution which I drafted with the distinguished Ranking Member of the House

International Relations Committee, and which enjoys the support of both Chairman BURTON and Ranking Member ENGEL of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, calls for a preventive approach to rising threats in our hemisphere. Islamist terrorist activity in our Hemisphere has been increasing and becoming more prominent for at least 15 years.

Reports document that Hezbollah is active in the tri-border area of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina, raising money to support its murderous acts and recruiting people to carry them out.

Hamas and the Egyptian Islamic Group also reportedly maintain a presence in Latin America, and al-Qaeda is active there, too. Although such activity is dominated by financing and money laundering, these Islamist extremists have not hesitated in launching direct attacks as well.

In 1992, the Israeli Embassy in Argentina was bombed, killing 29 people and wounding almost 250. In 1994, terrorists linked to Hezbollah and the Iranian regime, bombed the MIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, killing 85 and wounding over 300.

Islamist jihadists often use countries in the Western Hemisphere as staging areas for entry into the United States.

Before Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was eliminated as a threat last week, it has been reported that he instructed members of Al-Qaeda in Iraq to go to Brazil, with the goal of entering the U.S. through Mexico and carrying out acts of terror.

Just 10 days ago, on June 2nd, 14 suspects in an Islamist terror cell in Canada were arrested. The cell possessed 3 tons of ammonium nitrate, 3 times the amount used in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. They planned to blow-up buildings and take politicians hostage. Such terrorists, with such explosives, were only two hours away from the U.S. border.

This cell was captured. Others, however, remain free and growing—both to our north and to our south.

Islamist terrorists are ready, willing, and able to strike in this hemisphere. What should our nation and our allies do about this threat?

After September 11th, our Nation has vigorously combated terrorists and their state sponsors. We removed the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, and have captured and eliminated numerous members of al-Qaeda.

We have refused to wait for terrorists to again strike at our homeland by taking the battle to them and denying them sanctuaries throughout the world.

We must proactively identify and address emerging problems before they can threaten our homeland, our allies, and our interests—particularly, in the Western Hemisphere; our neighborhood.

This resolution acknowledges the threat that Islamist terrorist groups and their sympathizers, operating in this hemisphere, pose to America and her allies.

Many governments in the hemisphere have cooperated with us on counterterrorism and have committed to denying the use of their territory for such fundraising, recruitment and operations. Despite these efforts, the Islamist terrorist presence in our hemisphere is growing. We must do more.

This resolution encourages the President to direct the U.S. Representative to the OAS to

seek support from OAS member countries to create a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism. This task force would assist governments, and coordinate efforts between nations, in investigating and combating the proliferation of Islamist terrorist activities in this hemisphere.

The measure further calls for the U.S. Representative to the OAS to work with OAS member nations to designate groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and al-Qaeda as terrorist groups, if they have not already done so.

Madam Speaker, if we are to one day realize a more secure and peaceful world, we must address all threats, starting with those closest to our shores.

We see the growth of Islamist terrorist groups in the Western Hemisphere. The resolution before us provides us with a roadmap on efforts we should undertake to begin to eradicate the threat before it festers and strengthens.

I ask for a "yes" vote on this resolution.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338.

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. 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 question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 338.

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

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR ITS RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 408) commending the Government of Canada for its renewed commitment to the Global War on Terror, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 408

Whereas twenty-four Canadian citizens were killed as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States;