

families of that man-made calamity; condemns the violation of human rights, the freedom of speech and of the self-determination of the Ukrainian people by the former Soviet regime; encourages expanding the world's knowledge about this man-made disaster; and, lastly, supports continued efforts in Ukraine to strengthen the principles of democracy and of a free-market economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is now my distinct pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished Congressman from Michigan, Congressman SANDER LEVIN, who is the sponsor of this resolution and is the very distinguished cochair of the Ukraine Caucus in the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Thank you very much, Mr. SCOTT, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee for bringing this to the floor.

I rise in support of this resolution, marking the 75th anniversary of the man-made famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in 1932 and 1933.

Recognizing this tragedy and remembering its victims are important for all of humanity, including 1.5 Ukrainian-Americans. It has special meaning to the people of Ukraine, who continue to struggle toward a more free, democratic, open society, and indeed to all of us who value freedom.

During the famine-genocide of 1932–33, 7 to 10 million Ukrainians were deliberately and systematically starved to death. We are familiar in this House with the terrible suffering caused by famines that are the result of natural forces, but the famine of 1932–33 is all the more tragic because it resulted from criminal acts and deliberate decisions by Soviet officials. Despite efforts by the Soviet Government at the time and afterward to hide the planned and systematic nature of this famine-genocide, it is clear that the Soviet Union used food as a weapon.

We in this country must persist in standing with those living under oppressive and tyrannical regimes as they struggle for their freedom. During the 109th Congress, we enacted a bill authorizing the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial in Washington, D.C. honoring the victims of the Ukrainian famine-genocide. The Ukrainian Government and the Ukrainian-American community are working with the appropriate Federal agencies to identify a site for this memorial.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the rank-

ing member of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health and a true champion of human rights around the world.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership, and thank Chairman LEVIN for sponsoring this very important resolution.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1314, commemorating and honoring the memory of victims of the abominable act perpetrated against the people of Ukraine from 1932 to 1933.

Seventy-five years ago, millions, and the estimates are as high as 10 million, men, women and children were murdered by starvation so that one man, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, could consolidate control over the Ukraine. In an attempt to secure collectivization and to break the spirit of the independent-minded Ukrainian peasants, Stalin ordered the expropriation of all the foods in the rural population. It was shipped to other areas of the Soviet Union or sold abroad. Peasants who refused to turn over grain to the state were deported or executed. Without food or grain, mass starvation ensued, as was Stalin's intention.

Madam Speaker, food was used as a weapon in a crime against humanity staggering in its scope. This famine was man-made, the planned consequence of a deliberate policy which aimed to wipe out a substantial part of the Ukrainian people in order to crush the spirit of those who remain. In short, genocide was committed against the Ukrainian people.

Madam Speaker, over the years I have read many works of Stalin's genocide against the people of Ukraine, but I recall a moment back in the 1980s when I saw the unforgettable documentary, *Harvest of Sorrow*. It documented and depicted the horrors of the famine, so that no one since has denied this mind-boggling crime and tragedy. In its bare, stark truth, it was one of the most moving films I have ever seen.

I also recall the fine work of the congressionally mandated Ukraine Famine Commission, which issued its well-documented report in 1988. I am happy that Mr. LEVIN's resolution notes that there were those in the West, including the New York Times correspondent Walt Duranty, who deliberately falsified their reporting so to cover up the famine because they wanted to ensure that the Soviet Union got "a good press."

The fact is that for over 40 years the planned famine was hardly spoken or written about in our country, due to an academic skepticism and silence enforced by political correctness. When Ukrainians and others tried to break through the wall of silence, they were treated with derision. This silence, which lasted from the 1930s through the publication of *Harvest of Sorrow*, made a sorry chapter in the history of American intellectual life.

Madam Speaker, this resolution will continue to recognize one of the most

horrific events in the last century in the hopes that mass murders of this kind never happen again. I support this resolution unreservedly. I hope that the full membership of this body supports it unanimously.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1314, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Remembering the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine (Holodomor) of 1932–1933 and extending the deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives to the victims, survivors, and families of this tragedy, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN BANGLADESH

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1402) supporting a transition to democracy through free, fair, credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in Bangladesh.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1402

Whereas the independent, sovereign republic of Bangladesh was first proclaimed on March 26, 1971, and the Constitution of Bangladesh, ratified in 1972 following a war of independence, established a democracy ruled by and for the people;

Whereas Bangladesh has a population of 154,000,000 people and is the world's third most populated Muslim country, and has been known to be a stable, moderate, democratic Muslim Nation;

Whereas Bangladesh has held what the international community has viewed as three free and fair elections in 1991, 1996, and 2001;

Whereas in October 2006, as set up by the constitution, power was handed over to a caretaker government before the January 22, 2007, scheduled election;

Whereas the caretaker Government of Bangladesh imposed a national state of emergency on January 11, 2007, that suspended fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution and detained a large number of politicians and others on suspicion of involvement in corruption and other crimes;

Whereas the state of emergency has restricted media reporting and it has been reported that journalists have been harassed, detained, or threatened by the authorities;

Whereas the anti-corruption campaign is creating institutions to fight rampant corruption throughout the government, including in the police and ports, but also has resulted in the reporting of human rights abuses;

Whereas the caretaker Government of Bangladesh reportedly arrested 18,000 persons with questionable records since May 28, 2008, and subsequently released most of them;

Whereas the Chief Adviser, Fakhruddin Ahmed, announced that elections will be held by the third week of December 2008;

Whereas the current political situation has been exacerbated by food prices that have doubled within the past year, compounding economic challenges for the people;

Whereas Bangladesh has established an estimated 6 percent real growth rate in the last 4 years, and a 6.5 percent growth rate in 2007;

Whereas the Grameen Bank, through microfinancing in Bangladesh, has been able to provide lending to 7,300,000 stakeholders and has empowered women to control 97 percent of the Bank, alongside other agencies in rural Bangladesh creating a new climate of economic growth and increasing social capital;

Whereas the economic support extended by the United States has helped to create an opportunity for employment and growth in Bangladesh, with particular impact on the empowerment of women and strengthening the process of social moderation and modernization in Bangladesh; and

Whereas Bangladesh's long-term political stability and economic progress are critical to the security of the South Asian region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its strong support to the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh so it will be able to address economic and political challenges, and urges all stakeholders to play a constructive and forward looking role to strengthen such a process;

(2) appreciates the decision of the caretaker Government of Bangladesh to hold free, fair, credible, peaceful, and transparent elections by the third week of December 2008;

(3) welcomes the decision of the Government of Bangladesh to hold dialogue with all political parties and other civil society organizations to create a congenial atmosphere for holding elections and to ensure participation of all political parties in that process;

(4) urges all political parties to participate in the elections so that democratic governance can be maintained, which could continue fight against corruption and institutional and policy reforms;

(5) calls on the Government of Bangladesh to lift the state of emergency and remove other restrictions on political activity to allow free and fair elections to occur;

(6) urges the caretaker Government of Bangladesh to complete a transparent voter registration process that will facilitate the enrollment of the maximum number of eligible voters to protect the voting rights of all eligible voters regardless of religious affiliations or ethnic background, to use all practical technical means of ensuring the security of the ballot, to prevent violence before and after elections, and to permit and facilitate international and domestic nongovernmental monitoring of the entire electoral process;

(7) urges the caretaker Government of Bangladesh to invite foreign nationals to observe and monitor the December 2008 elections;

(8) urges the Government of Bangladesh to ensure the due process and equal treatment under the rule of law for all suspects, witnesses, and detainees;

(9) notes the initiatives of the caretaker Government of Bangladesh to eradicate corruption from all levels of government and society through institutional and policy reforms;

(10) expresses concern at the reported abuse of human rights and urges the Government of Bangladesh to ensure human rights, freedom of speech, assembly, and association;

(11) urges the caretaker Government of Bangladesh to protect the rights of religious and ethnic minorities, particularly Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Ahmadis, and non-Muslim tribal peoples;

(12) urges the President to work toward the return of democracy to Bangladesh as a high priority of United States foreign policy and affirm the willingness of the United States to provide assistance;

(13) urges the President to use the voice and vote of the United States in multilateral organizations to strengthen the rule of law and democracy in Bangladesh; and

(14) urges the President to consider, upon completion of an internationally-accepted free and fair election, extending generous economic support to Bangladesh as an incentive.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam 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 gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Bangladesh is going through an important time in its history as she attempts to move back to a representative government. Since October 2006, Bangladesh has been under the control of two different caretaker governments. After the January 2007 elections were postponed, a second caretaker government, backed by the military, came into power, and since then has been attempting to deal with what has become rampant corruption, violence and political instability.

Once in power, the caretaker government instituted a state of emergency that suspended fundamental rights guaranteed by the Bangladeshi constitution. They subsequently detained a large number of politicians and others on suspicion of involvement in corruption and other crimes.

While I continue to remain concerned about the arrests of so many under the emergency powers rule, I must commend the caretaker government for establishing institutions to fight corruption and bring about national reconciliation between the political parties. But these gains have been marred by serious reports of human rights vio-

lations of those held in custody. Bangladesh must respect all the rights of her people and prosecute cases before her to the letter of the law.

The next step is getting people back the power in Bangladesh. Nearly 2 years after the postponement of elections and the state of emergency was declared, the caretaker government is following through with a roadmap towards elections that they have presented.

Just this past weekend, the chief adviser of the caretaker government announced that parliamentary elections will be held on December 18, 2008. This is an important step, but an election held under a state of emergency is a questionable approach to establishing democratic governance in Bangladesh.

The bill before us calls on the caretaker government to relax or suspend the state of emergency to ensure that public gatherings during the campaign are allowed to take place. This election is about bringing true democracy back to Bangladesh, and it must be held with all the freedoms their constitution grants her people.

Bangladesh has been a strong friend and ally of the United States and is a moderate Muslim nation, and we should do what we can to foster continued growth of democracy, not only in the nation of Bangladesh, but throughout that region. We must work to ensure that the elections held in Bangladesh are free, fair, credible, peaceful and transparent.

I introduced this legislation in July to set out what we, the United States Congress, expect of Bangladesh and we the people of the United States expect of Bangladesh. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation. It has the backing of the Bangladesh Caucus, which I chair here in the House of Representatives.

I believe that with fair, free, transparent and open elections, Bangladesh will move towards a more Democratic society.

Madam Speaker, I retain the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I also rise in strong support of House Resolution 1402, a measure that underscores congressional support for democracy, development and respect for fundamental human rights in Bangladesh. I would like to congratulate my good friend from New York, Congressman CROWLEY, for his leadership on this resolution, and for his long-standing interest in Bangladesh and indeed all of South Asia.

Madam Speaker, the United States and Bangladesh have been strong allies since the founding of that country in 1971. Despite many handicaps, including a unique vulnerability to natural disasters, Bangladesh has made impressive strides in key areas of development during the 1990s. However, political polarization, endemic corruption

and the rise of violent extremists all pose serious challenges to Bangladesh society.

In January of 2007, faced with an opposition boycott of national elections and widespread political violence, Bangladesh's president declared a state of emergency. In accordance with the constitution of Bangladesh, the president appointed a caretaker government, which has in turn embarked on an ambitious agenda of reform and renewal for the people of Bangladesh and its institutions.

Since that time, the United States has consistently urged Bangladesh's caretaker government to lift the restrictions on basic rights, meet international standards for due process in pursuing corruption cases and follow through on its commitment to hold free, fair and transparent elections by December 2008.

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In recent weeks, there have been positive indications that the electoral roadmap remains on track. The government's progress on updating their voter list and on fighting corruption are encouraging signs, as is its effort to move forward on dialogue with political parties.

Despite these positive developments, however, it remains the strong view of the Congress and the executive branch that the caretaker government must immediately lift the state of emergency or otherwise remove restrictions on freedoms of assembly and freedom of the press.

The political parties of Bangladesh must be able to participate fully in a democratic process. This resolution reaffirms the importance of a U.S. national interest in helping to work with the people of Bangladesh in building a peaceful, prosperous, democracy that will continue to be a strong partner for the United States.

I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to add a couple of more points for the record.

In order to ensure the transparency of these elections, I believe it's imperative that the Government of Bangladesh, the present caretaker government, invite foreign governments and nongovernment organizations to observe and monitor the elections of December 18, 2008.

The restoration of democracy, though, in Bangladesh, is not the only challenge that Bangladesh is facing. Just last year, Cyclone Sidr caused massive devastation in Bangladesh and destroyed the annual rice harvest in parts of the country. The global rise in fuel prices has also had a major effect on the livelihoods of all the people of Bangladesh over the last year.

The Congress, therefore, strongly supports the continuation of a robust economic support and humanitarian program for the people of Bangladesh, particularly in helping the nation get

back on its feet after the cyclone. But free, fair, and transparent and open elections, together with the continuation of American assistance to Bangladesh, will serve to further strengthen the relationship between our two countries. With the restoration of democracy, the political, economic and strategic ties between the United States and Bangladesh will become even stronger.

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

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, thanks to Representative CROWLEY for his excellent work on this resolution.

I rise today in support of this important resolution and in support of free and fair elections.

Bangladesh, the world's third most populated Muslim country, must return to the fold of democracy and uphold the most basic human rights—the right to vote.

Over the past 2 years, the people of Bangladesh have lived under a state of emergency. As the resolution outlines, the rights of the press have been curtailed and corruption is running rampant.

We all know that a nation can only succeed when it heeds the will of the people. Security—both economic and political—cannot be established while citizens are being ignored and repressed.

Bangladesh must hold free, fair, credible, peaceful, and transparent elections. I urge support of House Resolution 1402.

Mr. CROWLEY. 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 York (Mr. CROWLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1402.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1938 OCCURRENCE OF KRISTALLNACHT, THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1435) recognizing the 70th anniversary of the 1938 occurrence of Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1435

Whereas November 9, 2008, through November 10, 2008, marks the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass;

Whereas during Kristallnacht, hundreds of synagogues in Germany and Austria were burned and destroyed, businesses and homes were ransacked, scores of innocent people

were killed because they were Jews, and thousands of others were arrested and sent to concentration camps;

Whereas Kristallnacht was sanctioned by the Nazi state to foment anti-Semitism and terrorize Jewish citizens;

Whereas the shattered panes of glass that littered sidewalks, most of it coming from the shop windows of Jewish stores, gave the pogrom its name, Kristallnacht or "Night of Broken Glass";

Whereas Kristallnacht marked the Nazis' first centrally organized operation of large-scale, anti-Jewish violence;

Whereas the lack of any serious diplomatic consequences from civilized nations led the Governments of Germany and Austria to believe that further atrocities would go unpunished;

Whereas Kristallnacht served as a prelude to the Second World War, to the death of millions of innocent people, and to the mass murders and carnage on a scale never before seen in human history;

Whereas the reign of the Nazi government marks one of the darkest periods in civilized history; and

Whereas Kristallnacht should remind us all that evil must be confronted forcefully and the civilized world cannot watch idly while barbarism and mass murder are committed against innocent peoples: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass;

(2) pays tribute to the over 6,000,000 Jewish people who were killed during the Holocaust; and

(3) recommits the United States to continued vigilance against these kind of atrocities and urges the international community to fight against organized aggression directed at religious, ethnic, and other minority groups wherever it may occur.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me first thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. HODES) for offering this important resolution, which marks the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass. His leadership on the Holocaust-related issues is greatly appreciated.

On the night of November 9, 1938, the streets of German and Austrian cities were littered with the shattered glass of Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues. Ninety-one people lost their lives and 30,000 were deported to concentration camps during the course of