

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

this pogrom. Buchenwald and Dachau soon filled with Jews who had been deprived of their property, their savings and their livelihoods by the Nazis.

Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, showed the world once and for all the true face of the Nazi regime and served as a prelude to the horrors that would soon befall Europe's Jewish community. As Germany's synagogues burned on this terrible night, the governments of the west, including our own, failed to take meaningful action. Ambassadors were recalled, speeches were made, but the Nazis' orchestrated pogrom resulted in the diplomatic equivalent of just a slap on the wrist.

We condemn not just the destruction wrought against Germany and Austria's Jewish community that terrifying night, but we also condemn the world's inaction, which undoubtedly led the Nazis to believe the international community would offer little resistance to their plans to murder all the Jews in Europe.

Though 70 years have passed since the Nazis began to set in motion the final solution, and 63 years since the liberation of the last of their death camps, we must continue to maintain our vigilance against all forms of ethnic, national and religious hatreds.

Adolf Hitler exploited the world's failure to protect those threatened by the Nazi's vicious ideology of hate. As we reflect upon the anniversary of this infamous night and pay tribute to the over 6 million people killed in the Holocaust, we must recommit ourselves to preventing genocide anywhere and any time.

I strongly support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The night of November 9 through November 10 of the year 1938 consisted of hours of darkness that the world cannot afford to forget. Known as Kristallnacht, that horrible night of unleashed terror and violence that we remember in this resolution before us today, was the clear signal for the start of Adolf Hitler's orchestrated campaign of genocide.

On that night, as state-sponsored violence poured out into the streets, the halls of civilized governments were mute. Joseph Goebbels had announced in his speech on the day of November 8, and I quote, "The Führer has decided that . . . demonstrations should not be prepared or organized by the Party, but insofar as they erupt spontaneously, they are not to be hampered."

Following that speech, regional leaders of Hitler's National Socialist Party issued instructions to their local offices, and violence erupted across Germany and in some neighboring countries as well, in a matter that was anything but spontaneous. For 48 terrible hours, mobs rampaged through the streets of German, Czechoslovak and Austrian cities.

The riots destroyed 267 synagogues, shattered an estimated 7,500 windows

of Jewish-owned businesses and desecrated many Jewish cemeteries. The Night of Broken Glass claimed the lives of at least 91 Jewish citizens.

Unfortunately, the rest of the world remained largely silent when confronted with the news of this organized brutality. We can only wonder how history might have changed, how the war and the genocide of the subsequent years might have been avoided if silence had been replaced by condemnation and strong action.

As we look back at the events of that terrible night, from the perspective of the passage of 70 years, we recall what our president at that time, Franklin Roosevelt, said. "I, myself, could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a 20th century civilization."

As we consider this resolution, which notes this terrible event 70 years ago and the subsequent organized murder of more than 6 million Jews across Europe during World War II, we realize how important it is that we remember the lessons of the 20th century today at the start of the 21st century.

I urge strong adoption of this important resolution, and I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers at this time.

However, let me conclude by simply stating that Adolf Hitler and the Nazis perpetrated the most heinous tragedy of man's inhumanity to man. We will never forget it, and people all across this Nation on this 70th anniversary say never, never again.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I echo the sentiments of my good friend, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. 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 Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1435.

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.

#### TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT RESOLUTION

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1451) establishing the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1451

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Establishment Resolution".

#### SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the House of Representatives the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Commission"), which shall promote and advocate in a nonpartisan manner, both within and outside of Congress, internationally recognized human rights norms as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments by carrying out the following activities:

(1) Developing congressional strategies to promote, defend, and advocate internationally recognized human rights norms reflecting the role and responsibilities of the Congress.

(2) Raising greater awareness among Members of the House of Representatives, their staffs, and the public regarding international human rights violations and developments.

(3) Providing Members and staff with expert human rights advice and information and by supporting entities of Congress in their work on human rights issues.

(4) Advocating on behalf of individuals and entities whose internationally recognized human rights have been violated or are in danger of being violated.

(5) Collaborating closely with other professional staff members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(6) Collaborating closely with the President, other officials of the executive branch, and recognized national and international human rights entities and nongovernmental organizations in promoting human rights initiatives within Congress.

(7) Encouraging and supporting Members, especially Members who have been recently elected to the House, to become active in supporting human rights issues so that the United States will continue to be recognized throughout the world as a leader in the defense of internationally recognized human rights norms.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Any Member of the House of Representatives may join the Commission by submitting a written statement to that effect to the co-chairs of the Commission.

(c) RELATIONSHIP WITH SENATE.—In carrying out its activities, the Commission is encouraged to establish a cooperative working relationship with Members and other entities of the Senate, and to invite Members and other entities of the Senate to work cooperatively with the Commission to promote human rights.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this resolution, the term "Member of the House of Representatives" includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

#### SEC. 3. CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—Two members of the Commission shall be appointed to serve as co-chairs of the Commission as follows:

(1) One member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(2) One member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

(b) TERM OF SERVICE.—A member's term as co-chair of the Commission shall continue throughout the Congress during which the member is appointed as a co-chair under this section until the member leaves the Commission, resigns from the position of co-