

rights is the key to good governance. It's also the key, if you want intellectual property rights respected. If you want contract law observed and honored in places like China where human rights are violated with impunity, respect fundamental human rights for the individual. Stop torturing. Protect women from the violence of coercive population control and forced abortion. Help the Falun Gong and the Christians and the Uighurs and the Buddhists and all the others, the Catholic bishops who are languishing in prison. Get it right on fundamental human rights and you also help on the trade side as well, because if they respect one, if they respect their own people, they'll adhere to contract law and intellectual property rights.

I do believe that we must care for and protect all, no exceptions, everywhere, every place, every time from violence; and from my point of view, that includes unborn children, newly born children, the handicapped, disabled; it includes those who are of a religious denomination that some government official thinks ought not to have their rights or liberties. It is about everyone being included. Nobody being excluded. The politics of inclusion. And again, for me that means the unborn child and everyone else who is weak and at risk.

I do believe that we have to, Madam Speaker, realize that human rights can be respected. It is a matter of political will. It is a matter of understanding and empathizing. Get in the minds and hearts of victims and get motivated. Go into the prison, empathize with someone who has been victimized by torture. And we all come out with a different, enlightened, compassionate perspective. Empowered and knowledgeable, we then must—we have a duty—to act!

We'll never know the full extent of the Caucus's success over these 25 years, the impact that it has had, but I believe it has had a tremendously positive impact, as a result of broad bipartisan action, Democrats and Republicans, staff, doing yeoman's work. Hans was mentioned a moment ago. He's a fighter. There are so many who have done so much, often without any kind of accolade whatsoever, but they stand up and they do the hard work of human rights, and they do it each and every day because they care, because they love and because they have compassion.

□ 1700

Again, this is a resolution that takes the Human Rights Caucus to the next level, and I think it's about time we did it. This Congress, I think, will be much improved; we will have more insights. Good staffing does make a difference. We've had great staffing, but I think now as we build out that staff, I think more victimized people everywhere will be represented.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as we have heard and seen

with this extraordinary outpouring of passion and support, this legislation establishing the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission naming Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. WOLF as cochairmen is extraordinary important, and we urge support across the aisle for this important piece of legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1451. This is important. It is a nonpartisan human rights commission that will have a universal code of human rights which is imperative. This human rights commission will look at charges of human rights violations according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that will certainly show countries and individuals who choose to violate what every individual has a right to: their civil liberties. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 1451 because it establishes a commission on human rights that creates a way for Congress to promote, defend, and advocate internationally recognized human rights.

This resolution is timely because there have been numerous violations of civil rights all over the world. Egregious human rights violations are occurring in countries such as Sudan, Pakistan, Colombia, and China every day.

Sudan's own president is wanted by the ICC for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. This is the first time the ICC Prosecutor has named a sitting head of state, and the first time it has accused a suspect of genocide. There are also allegations of attacks on peacekeepers by rebels in Darfur. There are also numerous abuses of women in Pakistan where Dr. Shazia was a 32-year-old Pakistani physician who worked at a hospital run by Pakistan Petroleum Limited, a state-owned natural gas supplier in Baluchistan, a remote area of Pakistan. On January 2, 2005, Dr. Shazia was attacked and raped in her home, a guarded compound, by an intruder who broke in at night while she was sleeping. She reported the crime although told to stay quiet. Doctors sedated her and flew her to a psychiatric hospital in Karachi. The government forced Dr. Shazia to sign a statement saying that she had been given government help and that she wanted to close the matter.

China is also a country that commits numerous civil rights violations. It has a 1982 constitution that guarantees freedom of speech, but the Chinese Government often uses the subversion of state power clause to imprison those who are critical of the government. The PRC is known for its intolerance of organized dissent toward the government. Dissident groups are routinely arrested and imprisoned, often for long periods of time and without trial. The Chinese Government also limits religious freedom by requiring that members of the Communist Party be atheists.

Between June 2006 and June 2007, at least 280 Colombian civilians were extra judicially killed by Colombian security forces and many of them were subsequently presented by those forces as guerrillas killed in conflict. And this year human rights groups have continued to document extrajudicial killings by some Colombian military forces.

As a civilized nation, we cannot remain silent at outrages such as these. We must give voice to those who cannot on their own, and we must scream at the offense to human rights and settle for nothing less than full and

complete justice. The United States Congress must show the violators that their actions will not be condoned or ignored. We must come together and take action on the atrocities occurring in the international community.

The human rights commission will promote human rights education, serve as a medium for dialogue on human rights issues, and promote the realization of human rights obligations. Promoting human rights education is vital for administering justice to those who have been wronged and this bill proposes to do just that. We need to know what is wrong in order to help those who have been wronged.

Establishing a human rights commission is important in establishing a united American foreign policy that consistently stands for human dignity around the world. We need to use this commission to find the best course of action to encourage countries from around the world to adopt principles for the protection of human rights.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. We have no further speakers. I yield back my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, we also have no further requests for speakers. We yield back our 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. 1451.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### RECOGNIZING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOMBINGS OF EMBASSIES IN KENYA AND TANZANIA

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1461) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and the memorializing of the citizens and families of the United States, the Republic of Kenya, and the United Republic of Tanzania whose lives were lost and injured as a result of these attacks, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1461

Whereas, on August 7, 1998, there were near simultaneous vehicular bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;

Whereas the bombs detonated at the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya,

and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, were an act of terrorism masterminded by Osama bin Laden and perpetrated by members of al Qaeda as a conspiracy to kill United States citizens;

Whereas although the bombs detonated before reaching their intended targets, the effects of the bombs were widespread and catastrophic to the people of the Republic of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States;

Whereas at least 213 people died and approximately 5,000 people were injured in the Nairobi bombing, the majority of whom were Kenya nationals;

Whereas in the Nairobi bombing, the victims included 14 United States citizens, 13 Foreign Service Nationals, and 2 United States Government contractors, including—

(1) the following United States citizens: Nathan Aliganga, Julian Bartley, Sr., Julian Bartley, Jr., Jean Dalizu, Molly Hardy, Kenneth Hobson, Prabhi Kavalier, Arlene Kirk, Dr. Mary Louise Martin, Michelle O'Connor, Sherry Olds, and Uttamlal (Tom) Shah;

(2) the following Foreign Service Nationals: Chrispin W. Bonyo, Lawrence A. Gitau, Hindu O. Idi, Tony Irungu, Geoffrey Kalio, G. Joel Kamau, Lucy N. Karigi, Francis M. Kibe, Joe Kiongo, Dominic Kithuva, Peter K. Macharia, Francis W. Maina, Cecelia Mamboleo, Lydia M. Mayaka, Francis Mbugua Ndungu, Kimeu N. Nganga, Francis Mbogo Njunge, Vincent Nyoike, Francis Olewe Ochilo, Maurice Okach, Edwin A.O. Omori, Lucy G. Onono, Evans K. Onsongo, Eric Onyango, Sellah Caroline Opati, Rachel M. Pussy, Farhat M. Sheikh, Phaedra Vrontamitis, Adams T. Wamai, Frederick M. Yafes; and

(3) the following United States Government contractors: Moses Namayi and Josiah Odero Owuor;

Whereas 85 people were injured in the Dar es Salaam, Tanzania bombing, including 2 United States citizens and 5 Foreign Service Nationals;

Whereas 1 Foreign Service National working at the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Saidi Rogarth, is still listed by the Department of State as missing;

Whereas 11 people were killed in the Dar es Salaam bombing, including—

(1) Yusuf Ndange, a Foreign Service National; and

(2) the following United States Government contractors: Abdulrahman Abdalla, Paul E. Elisha, Abdalla Mnyola, Abbas William Mwilli, Bakari Nyumbu, Mtendeje Rajabu, Ramadhani Mahundi, and Dotto Ramadhani;

Whereas security guards at both embassies acted bravely on the day of the bombings, protecting the lives and property of citizens of the United States, Kenya, and Tanzania;

Whereas the outpouring of assistance from the people and Governments of Kenya and Tanzania was widespread and greatly appreciated by the people of the United States;

Whereas Congress provided emergency supplemental appropriations of \$50,000,000 as economic aid to Kenya and Tanzania to assist the bombing victims' families and for reconstruction of damaged structures surrounding the embassies;

Whereas the structural damages in Nairobi alone reportedly exceeded \$500,000,000;

Whereas the people and economies of Kenya and Tanzania are still recovering from these dastardly attacks;

Whereas during the 110th Congress the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2828 (the Foreign Service Victims of Terrorism Act of 2007) to provide compensation to the families of those who died in the Nairobi attack;

Whereas the United States Government is partnering with the people and Governments of Kenya and Tanzania to help both countries obtain a more democratic future;

Whereas 12 of the suspects indicted for their involvement in the 1998 Embassy Bombings have either been killed, captured, or are serving life sentences without parole;

Whereas in June 1999, Osama bin Laden was placed on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted terrorist list for his connection to the bombings; and

Whereas the United States Government continues to search for the remaining suspects, including Osama bin Laden: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 10th anniversary of the al Qaeda bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;

(2) memorializes the citizens and families of the United States, the Republic of Kenya, and the United Republic of Tanzania whose lives were lost or who suffered injury as a result of these attacks;

(3) mourns the loss of those who lost their lives in these tragic and senseless attacks, especially those who were employed by the embassies;

(4) remembers the families and colleagues of the victims whose lives have been forever changed by the loss endured on August 7, 1998;

(5) expresses its deepest gratitude to the people of Kenya and Tanzania for their gracious contributions and assistance following these attacks;

(6) reaffirms its support for the people of Kenya and Tanzania in striving for future opportunity, democracy, and prosperity; and

(7) reaffirms its resolve to defeat al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations.

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 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 such time as I may consume.

August 7, 1998, is a day that will never be forgotten. With near simultaneous vehicular bombing attacks by members of al Qaeda on our embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the United States was challenged to face a new world. The violence that day claimed the lives of Americans, Kenyans, and Tanzanians with a death toll of 213 individuals in Kenya and 11 in Tanzania. The injured numbered well over 5,000. As great as the tragedy that day, without the dedication and bravery of the security individuals of those embassies, those acts of terrorism would have been far more catastrophic.

Shortly after the bombings, Congress provided \$50 million in emergency sup-

plemental appropriations to aid in the recovery process. And last October, the House passed the Foreign Service Victims of Terrorism Act of 2007 which provides compensation to the families victimized by these tragedies who are still recovering from their loss.

Our embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam have been rebuilt. Nevertheless, we must never forget the tragedy of that fateful day, and we must always remember the significance of the lives of those lost.

Madam Speaker, that is why I strongly urge and support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in that support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1461 which recognizes the 10th anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and honors those who were killed or injured as a result of these attacks.

I imagine there is not one among us here today that could not tell you exactly where they were or what they were doing when the al Qaeda terrorist network launched its cowardly and dastardly attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001.

Many of us recounted those stories just 2 weeks ago as the House and the Senate united to solemnly commemorate the seventh anniversary of the September 11 attacks. And while September 11 represents the deadliest attacks suffered by the American people at the hands of the al Qaeda operation to date, it was not the first.

Three years earlier on the morning of August 7, 1998, 223 people were killed and 5,000 people were injured as nearly simultaneous car bombs ripped through the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The bombings in Nairobi were particularly serious as the embassy stood on one of the busiest intersections in the city and the blast took down several neighboring buildings. The bombing in Tanzania was no less spectacular, but remarkably, it occurred on a national holiday when the embassy was closed.

Though these terrorist attacks reportedly were intended to punish the United States, the overwhelming majority of the victims that day were Kenyan and Tanzanian. This is typical of a network which callously views the innocent victims it kills, including fellow Muslims, merely as collateral damage. It also reveals the true hypocrisy of al Qaeda's radical Islamic agenda.

In all, 12 Americans were killed as a result of the east African embassy bombings, 31 foreign service nationals were killed, and one is still listed as missing. Scores more were saved as guards protecting the embassy in Nairobi succeeded in physically blocking the suicide bombers from gaining entry into the underground parking area. They paid with their lives for this act of heroism.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who died in service to our country on August 7, 1998. And we are compelled to express our profound sorrow for those whose lives were taken or were forever altered as a result of these dastardly attacks.

As we solemnly commemorate the 10th anniversary of the bombings in Kenya and Tanzania and the seventh anniversary of the September 11 attacks on our Nation, we seek to reaffirm our resolve to defend our Nation, to defend our interests from radical Islamic terrorists who seek to destroy the United States and our citizens.

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. SCOTT, for introducing this important measure, and I urge unanimous support for its passage.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with both sorrow and gratitude that we indeed recognize this 10th anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and in memorializing the citizens and families of the United States, the Republic of Kenya, and the United Republic of Tanzania whose lives were lost and injured as a result of these horrible terrorist attacks.

Mr. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1461, "Recognizing the Tenth Anniversary of the terrorist bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Kenya and Tanzania who lives were lost or whose were injured as a result of these attacks which is introduced by my distinguished colleague Representative SCOTT. This legislation is important to ensure that we remember those who lost their lives and those lives were affected by these tragic and horrendous bombings.

#### GENERAL

On August 7, 1998, approximately 4,000 people were injured in the Nairobi bombing and 85 injured in Dar es Salaam. These attacks which killed hundreds of people, first brought international attention to Osama Bin Laden and his al Qaeda terrorist network, and stand out as one of the worst anti-American terrorist attacks preceding September 11, 2001.

This legislation will recognize all the citizens whose lives were lost in these bombings. In addition to recognizing the 10th anniversary of the al Qaeda bombings, this resolution will recognize all the families and friends of victims lost in the attack and mourn those who lost their lives in these tragic and senseless attacks. This resolution will also express gratitude for the people of Kenya and Tanzania for their gracious contributions and assistance following these attacks in striving for future opportunity, democracy, and prosperity, and reaffirm its resolve to defeat al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations.

It is a national tragedy that lives have been victim to reckless acts of terrorism, and the least we can do as a Congress, as a Nation is to recognize those involved in this tragedy and the counties who came to our aid. We cannot withhold this honor from those victims that perished in the tragedy. As honored Mem-

bers of Congress, we have the honor to have the opportunity to recognize this anniversary and ensure the proper recognition is given to those involved in the terrorist bombings of 1998. Anything else would be giving in to the power of the terrorist, to which America will not yield.

I firmly believe that we must pass this legislation in order to demonstrate our support of those people who lost their lives and those people who lost their loved ones, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. Though this was a horrible tragedy, we can recognize the Tenth Anniversary and bring honor to those who were victims of al Qaeda.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. I yield back 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.

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. 1461, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### SUPPORTING RESTITUTION FOR PROPERTY CONFISCATED BY NAZI AND COMMUNIST REGIMES

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 371) strongly supporting an immediate and just restitution of, or compensation for, property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 371

Whereas the United States strongly supports an immediate and just restitution or compensation of property illegally confiscated during the last century by Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas the wrongful and illegal confiscation of property perpetrated by Nazi and Communist regimes was often an integral part of the persecution of innocent people due to their religion, nationality, or social origin, or the expression of a view that differed from that of the ruling regime;

Whereas the protection of and respect for property rights is a basic principle tenet for all democratic governments that operate according to the rule of law;

Whereas the participating countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

Europe (OSCE) have agreed to achieve or maintain full recognition and protection of all types of property, including private property, and the right to prompt, just, and effective compensation in the event private property is taken for public use;

Whereas the Paris Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE Assembly) in July 2001 noted that the process of restitution, compensation, and material reparation of victims of Nazi persecution has not been pursued with the same degree of comprehensiveness by all of the OSCE participating countries;

Whereas the OSCE Assembly passed a resolution during the 10th session that urged the OSCE participating countries to ensure that they implement appropriate legislation to secure the restitution of, or compensation for, both property loss by victims of Nazi persecution and property loss by communal organizations and institutions or their successors during the Nazi era, irrespective of the current citizenship or place of residence of victims or their heirs, or the relevant successor to communal property;

Whereas the Government of the United States has, since 1947, with the passing of Military Law 59 in the occupied American Zone of Germany, supported the return of property looted during the National Socialist era to the rightful owners, or the heirs, of such property;

Whereas during the last decade, Congress has passed resolutions that endorsed, reiterated, and emphasized the longstanding support of the United States for the restitution and compensation for property illegally confiscated during the Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas some post-Communist countries in Europe have taken steps toward compensating victims whose property was seized and confiscated by the Nazis during World War II or subsequently seized by Communist governments after World War II;

Whereas the legislation addressing the return of or compensation for such confiscated property enacted by post-Communist countries in Europe has, in various instances, not been implemented in an effective, transparent, and timely manner;

Whereas private properties were seized and confiscated by the Nazis in occupied Poland during the Nazi era and by the Communist Polish government after World War II;

Whereas Poland, virtually alone among post-Communist countries, has failed to enact any legislation that provides for a process for the restitution of, or compensation for, private property seized and confiscated by the Nazi and Communist regimes;

Whereas Jewish communal properties were seized and confiscated by the Nazis in Lithuania during the Nazi era and by the Communist Lithuanian government after World War II; and

Whereas Lithuania, virtually alone among post-Communist countries, has failed to implement legislation that provides for the restitution of, or compensation for, Jewish communal property seized and confiscated by the Nazi and Communist regimes: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) praises the efforts by those countries in Central and Eastern Europe that have enacted legislation for the restitution of, or compensation for, private and communal religious property improperly confiscated during the Nazi and Communist eras and urges each of those countries to ensure that the legislation is effectively and justly implemented;

(2) urges the countries in Central and Eastern Europe which have not already done so to return looted and confiscated properties