

and continue to promote legitimate transnational trade and exchange.

I would like to commend the Mexican Government under the leadership of President Felipe Calderon for having significantly increased their efforts to stop the drug cartels and end the violence, deploying some 45,000 troops and 5,000 police throughout Mexico. We in the U.S. will continue to support the Mexican Government as we did in 2008 when over \$1,300,000,000 was appropriated to the Mexican Government to fight the illicit drug trade. This money was appropriated under the Merida Initiative to help break the power of the drug cartels, assist the Mexican Government in strengthening its military organizations, to help improve the capacity of its justice system, curtail gang activity in Mexico, and to diminish demand for drugs in the region.

It is important that we continue to work vigilantly towards breaking the illicit drug trade links and networks between the U.S. and Mexico while working together to create a bright future through legitimate commercial and financial trade between our two great nations. I am quite confident that through a concerted effort towards increasing transnational trade and creating opportunities in the legitimate sector we can work towards a brighter future for both the U.S. and Mexico.

I ask that my colleagues support this resolution. I also ask my colleagues for their continued support of anti-drug trade measures as well as their support for ending the spate of violence that has become associated with the drug trade.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. 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 Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1032, 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: "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to assist the Government of Mexico in fighting the drug cartels and curbing violence against Mexican and United States citizens, both in the United States and abroad."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE PLIGHT OF PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM IN EAST AFRICA

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1088) recognizing the plight of people with albinism in East Africa and condemning their murder and mutilation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1088

Whereas, in parts of East Africa, most notably Tanzania, shamans promote the rep-

rehensible belief that people with albinism are less than human, and that their body parts can be made into potions to bring wealth or luck;

Whereas over the last 2 years, more than 50 adults and children with albinism have been murdered in East Africa by mercenaries who sell their body parts to shamans;

Whereas countless other people with albinism have survived these attacks, but have been permanently mutilated in the name of profit;

Whereas two mothers of children with albinism were attacked by gangs who were searching for the children in Eastern Tanzania in November 2008;

Whereas a 10-year-old boy with albinism, Gasper Elikana, was beheaded by men who fled with his leg in October 2008;

Whereas a 28-year-old woman with albinism, Mariamu Stanford, was attacked while she slept, losing both of her arms and her unborn child in October 2008;

Whereas a 17-year-old woman with albinism from Kenya, Vumilia Makoye, was killed by 2 men in her home who sawed off her legs in May 2008;

Whereas hundreds of children with albinism are living in fear for their lives in rural areas;

Whereas people with albinism are routinely shunned by their communities and often excluded from East African society;

Whereas a number of government officials in rural areas of East Africa have ignored or even colluded with local shamans in these degradations;

Whereas people with albinism in East Africa generally are not provided with life-saving information about preventing skin cancer, and have no means of protecting themselves from excess sunlight; and

Whereas people with albinism lack access to medical treatment for skin cancer, and the average person in East Africa with albinism dies by age 30 from skin cancer, and only 2 percent of people with albinism in that region live to age 40: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the murder and mutilation of adults and children with albinism for their body parts;

(2) expresses support for people with albinism in East Africa who have been the victims of such attacks;

(3) recognizes that the murder and mutilation of people with albinism in East Africa is a gross violation of human rights;

(4) urges governments in East Africa, particularly the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, to take immediate action to prevent further violence against persons with albinism and to bring to swift justice those who have engaged in such reprehensible practices;

(5) calls upon governments in East Africa, along with international organizations and other donors, including the United States, to actively support the education of people with albinism about the prevention of skin cancer and provide appropriate levels of assistance toward that end;

(6) calls upon governments in East Africa, along with international organizations, to educate populations in East Africa about the realities of albinism, with the purpose of eliminating discrimination and abuses against people with albinism; and

(7) calls upon the United States to work with the governments of East Africa, and international organizations and other donors, to eliminate violence against people with albinism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU). Pursuant to the rule, the gen-

tleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 Virginia?

There was no objection.

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

House Resolution 1088 shines a light on the untold horrors men and women with albinism have faced and continue to face in East Africa where human beings with albinism are butchered and their body parts sold for profit. These acts of brutal murder are best told through the story of a brave Tanzanian mother, one of the few survivors of the attacks. I had the honor of meeting a survivor of one of these attacks, a young woman from Tanzania named Mariamu Stanford, who epitomizes the essence of bravery.

These horrific acts, like the crime committed against Mariamu, are perpetrated by shamans who believe that the body parts of people with albinism have magical powers and can be mixed in potions to bring the buyer good luck. Rural villages have strong incentive to harvest the limbs of their neighbors with albinism because a single limb can sell for as much as \$2,000, a king's ransom in Tanzania's countryside.

Mariamu, who has albinism, is one of the few survivors of these attacks. Her story is one of fear, horror, and unbelievable courage. She told me her story through an interpreter the last day of the first session of this Congress in December.

One night in October of 2008, when Mariamu was sleep with her toddler son, a group of machete-wielding men from her own village broke into her home and attacked her. They cut off both of her arms while she struggled, screamed and shielded her 2-year-old from the blows. It was 6 long hours after the attack before Mariamu, who was 5 months pregnant, was able to receive any medical treatment. In the end, she lost her unborn baby, but she survived; and she is now relaying her story in the hopes that these brutal crimes against people with albinism will come to an end.

Mariamu came to the United States for a visit thanks to the generosity of many, including some of my constituents from northern Virginia with albinism and some who are parents of children with albinism, several of whom are here today in the gallery. While she

was here for nearly 2 weeks in December, Mariamu was fitted with prosthetic arms donated by the Orthotic Prosthetic Center in Fairfax County, Virginia; and she underwent intensive physical therapy.

She is a rare survivor of a horrific and inhumane crime that is of growing concern in East Africa. More than 54 people with albinism have been butchered in the region, most of them women and children. In November of 2008, a 6-year-old girl was shot dead in Burundi's eastern province of Ruyigi, close to the border of Tanzania. Her attackers removed her head and limbs, leaving only her dismembered torso. In January of 2009, three men armed with machetes killed an 8-year-old boy in Burundi and smuggled his limbs into Tanzania. Every one of these stories borders on the unbelievable and, quite frankly, must turn every stomach of those of us who have to hear them.

Not only do people with albinism face violence in parts of the world, but they are also at high risk for medical complications such as skin cancer and poor vision due to the lower melanin levels in their skin. In East Africa's harsh sun, this is a lethal combination, but oftentimes people with albinism have no choice but to expose themselves to the sun with little protection as they must be outside to work, go to school, and attend everyday business.

Unfortunately, the medical issues that people with albinism face are the least of their worries. The threat of brutal violence looms over them at all times. Tanzania Prime Minister Mizengo Peter Pinda has condemned, correctly, this violent crime against people with albinism, but judicial and enforcement barriers remain.

My meeting with Mariamu and local families concerned about her plight, and albinism in general, has moved me to take action. I am contacting President Obama and the State Department to urge them to place diplomatic pressure on Tanzania's federal and local governments to end these crimes now, these crimes against humanity, and to provide education to dispel the myth that body parts of those with albinism have any special properties.

I also believe we must look at providing humanitarian and medical assistance to people with albinism in East Africa, with a focus in Tanzania where most of these crimes have occurred. To this end, I introduced House Resolution 1088, a resolution recognizing the plight of people with albinism in East Africa, condemning these murders and mutilations, and advocating remedies to bring an end to this heinous and misguided behavior.

Specifically, the resolution urges governments in East Africa, particularly the governments of Tanzania and Burundi, to take immediate action to prevent any further violence against persons with albinism and to bring to swift justice those who have engaged in such reprehensible practices. It also calls upon those governments, along

with international organizations and other donors, including the United States, to actively support the education of people with albinism about the prevention of skin cancer and provide appropriate levels of assistance toward that end.

Finally, it urges the United States to work with the governments of East Africa and international organizations and other donors to eliminate violence against people with albinism.

I urge my colleagues to join Mariamu Stanford and me in bringing international attention to this horrific abuse of human beings and to bring those who have perpetrated that violence to justice by voting "yes" on this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1088.

In 2008, an undercover reporter for the BBC's Swahili Service broke the horrific story of the occult-based killings of albinos in parts of eastern Burundi and northwest Tanzania. Since that time, it has been revealed that albinos have been killed and mutilated by so-called "hunters" who sell their victims' body parts to unscrupulous traditional healers. The hunt is driven by the absurd belief that albinos possess mystical powers and that their body parts can be used as talismans to bring wealth and good luck. The market itself is driven by greed. It has been reported that a complete set of body parts can fetch up to \$75,000 on the black market.

To be clear, the hunting and mutilation of albinos in East Africa is by no means a common practice. The number of attacks is relatively few in terms of the broader population.

The hunting and mutilation of people simply because they look different is profoundly disturbing and requires us to condemn it. This resolution calls upon the governments in East Africa, particularly in Burundi and Tanzania, to take effective action to end these senseless attacks which constitute gross human rights violations. It also calls upon those governments, with support from international organizations and other donors, to take effective action to educate the general population with a view toward eliminating discrimination and abuse.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for introducing this measure, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I want to thank my friend and colleague from Florida for her cooperation and support and leadership on this issue.

I have to say, just on a personal note, there are many issues I thought I would face when I came here to the

United States House of Representatives; this was not one of them. It is an incredible tale, but it is something that we can do something about by bringing pressure to bear on the governments in East Africa. I thank my friend from Florida in helping to make that happen today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1088, "Recognizing the plight of people with albinism in East Africa and condemning their murder and mutilation."

Let me begin by thanking my colleague Representative GERRY CONNOLLY for introducing this resolution, as it is important that we recognize the plight of albinos in East Africa.

In recent years, the belief that albino body parts, particularly limbs, have magical powers has driven thousands of Africa's albinos into hiding. According to a report released in November of last year by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the killings of albino people in Burundi and Tanzania, based on occult practices, have triggered a crisis involving almost the entire albino population of the two countries.

The stories of these victims are heart wrenching. I recall an article in the New York Times in 2008 that vividly describes the horror and fear that many Albinos live with on a daily basis.

"In May 2008, Vumilia Makoye, 17, was eating dinner with her family in their hut in western Tanzania when two men showed up with long knives, 'Vumilia was like many other Africans with albinism. She had dropped out of school because of severe near-sightedness, a common problem for albinos, whose eyes develop abnormally and who often have to hold things like books or cell phones two inches away to see them. She could not find a job because no one would hire her. She sold peanuts in the market, making \$2 a week while her delicate skin was seared by the sun. When Vumilia's mother, Jeme, saw the men with knives, she tried to barricade the door of their hut. But the men overpowered her and burst in. 'They cut my daughter quickly,' she said, making hacking motions with her hands. The men sawed off Vumilia's legs above the knee and ran away with the stumps. Vumilia died. Yusuph Malogo, who lives nearby, fears he may be next. He is also an albino and works by himself on a rice farm. He now carries a loud, silver whistle to blow for help. 'I'm on the run,' he said."

According to the Red Cross, thousands more albinos across a huge swathe of countryside, are unable to move freely to trade, study or cultivate fields for fear of albino hunters. These albinos fear losing their lives and limbs to unscrupulous dealers who can make up to \$75,000 selling a complete dismembered set.

In his New Year's address to the nation, President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania said the nation that the government would step up efforts to stamp out the albino killings. I commend the government of Tanzania for acknowledging the danger posed to albinos in their country, but I hope that Tanzania and Burundi will do more to educate their nations about albinos. The Albino Association of Tanzania says that although just 4,000 albinos are officially registered in the country, they believe

the actual number could be as high as 173,000. A census is now under way to try to verify the figures.

In addition, in 2008, President Kikwete nominated Al-Shymaa Kway-Geer to represent the albino community at the national level. Ms. Kway-Geer is the first Minister of Parliament with albinism.

Yet, despite these improvements, people with albinism still live in fear. As Samuel Mluge, a Tanzania albino remarked to the reporter, "I feel like I am being hunted." No one should live in this state of fear. We must vocally denounce such killings, and do everything we can to prevent them from occurring in the future. I ask that my colleagues support this resolution. I also ask my colleagues for their continued support albinos in East Africa.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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 Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1088, 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.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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 motion will be postponed.

□ 1545

RECOGNIZING THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1107) recognizing the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1107

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in its original text, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the Greek national anthem (Hymn to Liberty) includes the words, "Most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land";

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the Greek people during their struggle for independence;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete, which provided the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding onto our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested over \$20,000,000,000 in the countries of the region, thereby creating over 200,000 new jobs, and having contributed over \$750,000,000 in development aid for the region;

Whereas Greece was extraordinarily responsive to requests by the United States during the war in Iraq, as Greece immediately granted unlimited access to its airspace and the base in Souda Bay, and many ships of the United States that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq were refueled in Greece;

Whereas Greece is an active participant in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

Whereas its Chairmanship of OSCE in 2009 underlined Greece's continued commitment to the trans-Atlantic community;

Whereas in August 2004, the Olympic Games came home to Athens, Greece, the land of their ancient birthplace 2,500 years ago and the city of their modern revival in 1896;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympics of over 14,000 athletes and over 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, which it did efficiently, securely, and with its famous Greek hospitality;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas the Government of Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and has been consistently working for rapprochement with Turkey, as most recently demonstrated by Prime Minister George Papandreou's visit to Turkey in October 2009, just days following his election, his first diplomatic trip abroad;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those and similar ideals have forged a close bond between Greece and the United States and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2010, Greek Independence Day, marks the 189th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and celebrates the aspirations for democracy that the peoples of Greece and the United States share; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two

great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 189 years ago.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1107.

I would like to begin by thanking my good friend and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership in introducing this important resolution which marks the 189th anniversary of Greek independence.

I am pleased to announce that, moments ago, the administration accepted Greece as a participant in the Visa Waiver Program.

As the birthplace of democracy, Greece stands alone among nations in its influence over our modern American Government. Our Founders fashioned our society based in significant part on the political experience and philosophy of the ancient Greeks.

Today, we stand here in a room surrounded by images of some of the greatest thinkers of world history, many of them Greek. We stand in a building inspired by ancient Greek architectural designs. We continue to legislate today under Greek ideals of democratic governance.

The Greek contribution to world culture is hardly limited to politics. From the ancient works of Homer, Plato, and Aristophanes, to the sculpture of Praxiteles, to the ethical sensibility of Hippocrates, to the mathematical insights of Archimedes and Pythagoras, we are indebted to the Greek nation for its scientific, philosophical, and artistic contributions to the development of the finest aspects of civilization.

The Greek-American bond, inspired by the ancients, remains vibrant today. Throughout the modern era, Greece has been one of the United States'