

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5825.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5825.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1240

SUPPORTING OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 266) expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 266

Whereas the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed in Chicago, Illinois, on December 7, 1944, and entered into force April 4, 1947, approved the establishment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), stating "The aims and objectives of the Organization are to develop the principles and techniques of international air navigation and to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to . . . meet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient and economical air transport";

Whereas following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the ICAO convened a High-level Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security that endorsed a global strategy for strengthening aviation security worldwide and issued a public declaration that "a uniform approach in a global system is essential to ensure aviation security throughout the world and that deficiencies in any part of the system constitute a threat to the entire global system"; and that there should be a commitment to "foster international cooperation in the field of aviation security and harmonize the implementation of security measures";

Whereas, on January 22, 2010, the Secretary General of the ICAO stated, "The attempted sabotage of Northwest Airlines Flight 253 on 25 December [2009] is a vivid reminder that security threats transcend national boundaries and can only be properly addressed through a global strategy based on effective international cooperation.";

Whereas the Taipei Flight Information Region, under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China (Taiwan), covers an airspace of 176,000 square nautical miles and provides air traffic control services to over 1,350,000 flights annually along 12 international and 4 domestic air routes;

Whereas over 174,000 international flights carrying more than 35,000,000 passengers

travel to and from Taiwan annually, reflecting its importance as an air transport hub linking Northeast and Southeast Asia;

Whereas a total of 30 airlines, 23 of which are foreign-owned, provide scheduled flights to Taiwan;

Whereas airports in Taiwan handle more than 1,580,000 metric tons of air cargo annually;

Whereas Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport was ranked in 2009 by the Airports Council International as the world's 8th and 18th largest airport by international cargo volume and number of International passengers respectively;

Whereas exclusion from the ICAO since 1971 has impeded the efforts of the Government of Taiwan to maintain civil aviation practices that comport with evolving international standards, due to its inability to contact the ICAO for up-to-date information on aviation standards and norms, secure amendments to the Organization's regulations in a timely manner, obtain sufficient and timely information needed to prepare for the implementation of new systems and procedures set forth by the ICAO, receive technical assistance in implementing new regulations, and participate in technical and academic seminars hosted by the ICAO;

Whereas, despite these impediments and irrespective of its inability to participate in the ICAO, the Government of Taiwan has made every effort to comply with the operating procedures and guidelines set forth by the organization;

Whereas, despite this effort, the exclusion of Taiwan from the ICAO has prevented the organization from developing a truly global strategy to address security threats based on effective international cooperation, thereby hindering the fulfillment of its overarching mission to "meet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient and economical air transport";

Whereas the United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, clearly declared its support for the participation of Taiwan in appropriate international organizations, in particular, on September 27, 1994, with the announcement by the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs that, pursuant to the Review and recognizing Taiwan's important role in transnational issues, the United States "will support its membership in organizations where statehood is not a prerequisite, and [the United States] will support opportunities for Taiwan's voice to be heard in organizations where its membership is not possible";

Whereas section 4(d) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3303(d)) declares, "Nothing in this Act may be construed as a basis for supporting the exclusion or expulsion of Taiwan from continued membership in any international financial institution or any other international organization.";

Whereas ICAO rules and existing practices have allowed for the meaningful participation of noncontracting countries as well as other bodies in its meetings and activities through granting of observer status: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) meaningful participation by the Government of Taiwan as an observer in the meetings and activities of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will contribute both to the fulfillment of the ICAO's overarching mission and to the success of a global strategy to address aviation security threats based on effective international cooperation;

(2) the United States Government should take a leading role in gaining international support for the granting of observer status to

Taiwan in the ICAO for the purpose of such participation; and

(3) the United States Department of State should provide briefings to or consult with Congress on any efforts conducted by the United States Government in support of Taiwan's progress toward observer status in the ICAO.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) and gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Ms. BERKLEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 266, expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization, the ICAO.

As cochairman of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I have seen firsthand the amazing progress that Taiwan has made in its economic and political development. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Taiwan's economy grew by more than an amazing 10 percent per year and is now the United States' ninth-largest overall trading partner, with two-way trade in 2008 valued at \$61.6 billion. Taiwan also is the sixth-largest destination for U.S. agricultural exports, about \$2.5 billion annually.

Meanwhile, Taiwan has developed one of the strongest democracies in the region, having had several peaceful, democratic transfers of power. I have met their current President, President Ma Ying-jeou, who is a well-spoken, Western-educated leader who has worked very hard to reduce tensions between Taiwan and China and concluded an Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement with the PRC Government recently.

All the while, however, Taiwan has been shut out of participating in international organizations like the International Civil Aviation Organization. Founded in 1947, ICAO's goal is to "meet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient, and economical air transport." These goals can only be reached through a cooperative approach that brings together the world's leading economies to share best practices and information. We need look no further than this past Christmas for a reminder of how our aviation security transcends national boundaries and can only be addressed through a cooperative, international strategy.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan deserves to be brought into the ICAO as an observer.

Over 174,000 international flights travel to and from Taiwan each year, carrying more than 35 million passengers. Their air traffic controllers now provide service to over 1.3 million flights each year. By cargo volume, Taiwan has the eighth-largest airport in the world.

Yet Taiwan has been excluded from ICAO since 1971, which has impeded Taiwan's efforts to maintain civil aviation practices that keep up with rapidly evolving international standards. It is unable to even contact ICAO for up-to-date information on aviation standards and norms, nor can it receive ICAO's technical assistance in implementing new regulations or participate in ICAO technical and academic seminars.

Despite these impediments, Taiwan has made every effort to comply with ICAO's standards, but their continued exclusion from such an important organization is nothing short of absurd. It not only hurts Taiwan, it puts us and the entire world at risk. With such a heavy volume of flights, Taiwan's exclusion has prevented ICAO from developing a truly global strategy to address security threats based on effective international cooperation. And regardless of one's position on the One-China Policy, ICAO's own rules allow for "noncontracting countries" to participate through observer status.

With this resolution today, we call upon the world community to grant Taiwan observer status at the ICAO, not only to help Taiwan but to ensure ICAO can fulfill its own stated mission and address threats to aviation security. We call on the U.S. government to take a leading role at ICAO to assist Taiwan in gaining this status and look forward to working with our administration officials to track the development of these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, enough is truly enough. It is time for the international community to recognize Taiwan as one of the world's leading economies, democracies, and responsible actors. It is a beacon of hope and liberty in a very difficult region, and we should be embracing, not excluding, these peace-loving people at every opportunity.

I hope ICAO will be only the beginning of Taiwan's reentry into the world community, to ICAO, to the World Health Organization, and other international organizations as appropriate.

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

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

I rise as a proud cosponsor of this important resolution, which calls upon the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, to accord observer status to Taiwan.

Can there be any doubt that Taiwan, which provides air traffic control services for well over 1.3 million flights per year, needs to be a part of the international organization responsible for air safety and security? Is this espe-

cially not true in a post-September 11 world where security in the skies is of paramount importance to not only the American people but to all across the globe?

The provincial and shortsighted manipulations of Beijing's leaders who seek to deny Taiwan's international space cannot stand in the way of airport safety and security. It is time to bring to an end Beijing's petty parlor games of one-upmanship and humiliating slights in the running of international organizations.

If the alleged thaw in cross-strait relations is to have any true significance, it must and should begin in the meeting rooms of ICAO and other international organizations. Those passengers, including our American citizens, who travel on any one of the almost 200,000 international flights headed to and from Taiwan every year expect and deserve every protection they can be afforded.

The time to let Taiwan begin to have constructive and meaningful participation in ICAO is long overdue. The United States State Department, as this resolution suggests, must assume a leading role to ensure that this happens as quickly as possible. The security in the skies of the people of Taiwan, of the people of the United States, and the citizens of the world demand no less.

So I strongly, Mr. Speaker, and enthusiastically urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BERKLEY. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Oregon, Congressman WU.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 266, to support Taiwan in its bid to participate meaningfully in the International Civil Aviation Organization, known as ICAO.

I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, and the other cochairs of the Taiwan Caucus for introducing this important resolution.

I have long believed that the greatest existential threat to Taiwan and, indeed, to any Nation is isolation, physical and psychological. I applauded Taiwan's participation in the 62nd World Health Assembly last year, which marked the first time since withdrawing from the United Nations 39 years ago that Taiwan rejoined a United Nations-related body as an observer. Taiwan's participation in the WHA was long overdue. Its renewed participation was an occasion to celebrate and to mark the beginning of what I hope is Taiwan's legitimate, growing involvement in other international organizations which do not require statehood.

□ 1250

Just as the United States supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in

the World Health Organization, so too should we take the lead in supporting observer status for Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation Organization.

ICAO was formally established in 1947 as a means to secure international cooperation and the highest possible degree of uniformity and regulations, standards, procedures, and organization regarding civil aviation matters. The 1944 convention on ICAO stated, "The aims and objectives of the organization are to develop the principles and techniques of international air navigation and to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to meet the needs of the peoples of the world for safe, regular, efficient, and economical air transport."

Taiwan, one of United States' closest allies in the Asia-Pacific region, is also a key transport hub that links Northeast and Southeast Asia with approximately 2,600 weekly flights to and from neighboring nations. In 2008, 174,000 international flights carrying more than 35 million passengers arrived in and departed from Taiwan. Moreover, in 2009, Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport was ranked by the Airports Council International as the world's eighth largest airport by international air cargo volume and 18th largest airport by international passengers.

Failure to include Taiwan as an observer in ICAO needlessly and recklessly endangers millions of passengers traveling through Taiwan, traveling through connecting airports and throughout the world because the threat of international terrorism finds any opportunity to enter our worldwide air transport system to threaten every passenger.

Given Taiwan's prominent role in regional and international air control and transport services, I support, and I believe the United States Government should support, Taiwan's meaningful participation in ICAO's meetings, mechanisms, and activities in order to ensure that Taiwan civil aviation regulations fully comply with ICAO standards and recommended practices. ICAO should find appropriate ways to incorporate Taiwan into its global civil aviation network.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Con. Res. 266 to bolster the integration of our friend Taiwan into the international air transport system.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am so pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY, an esteemed member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as one of the cochairs of the bipartisan Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 266, and I particularly want to commend one of my fellow cochairs, Ms. SHELLEY BERKLEY of Nevada, for her leadership on this issue. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I would like

to applaud the leadership of other co-chairs, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida and Mr. GERRY CONNOLLY of Virginia, for their work in bringing this resolution to the floor, and I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding me time.

Since its inception in 1947, the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, has been a great resource for the international community to develop and to foster the most efficient and the safest means of airline travel across the world. In the aftermath of the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, it was the ICAO that convened a conference to endorse a uniform, international strategy to ensure aviation safety throughout the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, our friends in Taiwan have been excluded from participation in the ICAO since 1971. Not only has that diminished Taiwan's ability to stay at the cutting edge of aviation, it has also presented obstacles to the international community as a whole, because ICAO cannot completely fulfill its mission to meet the needs of all people in efficient and safe air travel.

Taiwan has a very large footprint within commercial aviation that warrants its inclusion within ICAO. The Taipei Flight Information Region, as has been mentioned by my colleagues, covers an airspace of 176,000 square nautical miles. It provides air traffic control services to over 1.3 million flights annually. Additionally, there are over 174,000 international flights carrying more than 35 million passengers that fly in and out of Taiwan each and every year.

With this high volume of air traffic, Taiwan certainly deserves to have a seat at the table of ICAO at least, Mr. Speaker, as an observer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. This is precisely what this concurrent resolution seeks to accomplish. Providing Taiwan with meaningful participation at ICAO benefits both the Taiwanese and the international community as a whole.

Due to our longstanding relationship and our respect for our friends in Taiwan, I want to urge all of my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 266.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. You know, I don't want to be redundant; I just want to point out a couple of things that

have been said because I think everybody who is interested in air safety needs to understand what the ramifications of this legislation are, and I hope my colleagues will pay attention, those who aren't here on floor.

Taiwan's regional information center covers airspace of 176,000 square nautical miles and it provides air traffic control services to over 1.35 million flights a year. Now, when you are talking about air safety, and you are talking about that region—and many of us in this body have gone to that part of the world—you have to realize how important Taiwan's inclusion is because we are flying through that airspace and they should have observer status.

In addition to that, as has been stated, it's the eighth largest airport of international cargo volume in the entire world—so there are a lot of flights regarding cargo that are flying out of there on a regular basis—and it's the 18th largest airport as far as the number of passengers are concerned.

The safety of millions and millions of people that fly in and out of that entire region are at stake. In fact, they estimate as many as 10 million people's lives are at stake when they go through that area. So it seems to me logical and reasonable that Taiwan have observer status. It's important that everybody is coordinating, and Taiwan is an extremely important asset to that region.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I want to thank the sponsors, Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Ms. BERKLEY, for sponsoring this bill. I think it's extremely important.

Ms. BERKLEY. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I am very honored, Mr. Speaker, to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), my colleague, the ranking member on the Rules Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process and cochair of the Taiwan Caucus.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I thank my dear friend, the great leader from south Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

Today, a resolution, the resolution that we are debating, discussing, has been brought to the floor. It has been authored by another great leader, Congresswoman BERKLEY of Nevada, who I have the honor of serving with on the Taiwan Caucus, both of us as cochairs. She is an extraordinary leader, and I thank her for doing this.

Taiwan is such a special friend. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I often think about the undignified and treacherous betrayal of that exemplary friend and ally, the Republic of China, when the United States broke diplomatic relations—and again, I say, in a treacherous and undignified manner—in 1978.

So everything and anything that we can do to help our friends in that miracle of freedom and economic development, through their hard work and tal-

ent, achieved through their hard work and talent, that miracle of freedom and economic development that is Taiwan, anything that we can do and everything that we can do to help them, is appropriate and is dignified.

□ 1300

So I thank my colleague, Ms. BERKLEY, for bringing this resolution to the floor. I wholeheartedly support it and urge all of our colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 266.

For too long, Taiwan has been left out of international organizations at the demand of China. Taiwan was denied access to the World Health Organization, unable to participate as even an observer for over forty years. Thankfully, that changed last year as a Taiwanese delegation was able to observe meetings in Geneva. Infectious disease knows no borders.

Congress had long pressed for this action through bills and resolutions, so it is fitting that we once again take to the floor to press for Taiwan's inclusion in the International Civil Aviation Organization. Despite being home to the world's 18th busiest airport, Taiwan has been kept out of an organization that aims to keep passengers safe.

Indeed, as this resolution finds, Taiwan's exclusion from the ICAO has impeded Taiwan's government from keeping up to date with aviation standards, and prevented the implementation of new systems and procedures. The 35 million passengers that travel to and from Taiwan each year are done a great disservice by Taiwan's exclusion.

Mr. Speaker, in merely decades, Taiwan has gone from poverty to prosperity and autocracy to democracy. We have a strong relationship that stretches back over half a century. Today, our relations remain strong. Passage of this resolution will only serve to strengthen this relationship, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank all the speakers who spoke on this important resolution.

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 266.

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. BERKLEY. Mr. 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.

CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACKS IN KAMPALA, UGANDA

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1538) condemning the July 11, 2010, terrorist attacks in Kampala, Uganda, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1538

Whereas, on July 11, 2010, terrorists allegedly associated with the Somalia-based al Shabaab terrorist organization carried out multiple suicide attacks against civilian targets in the city of Kampala, Uganda;

Whereas Nate "Oteka" Henn, a United States citizen and committed volunteer of Invisible Children Inc., a nonprofit organization based in San Diego, California, and at least 70 other civilians were killed in the attack;

Whereas al Shabaab was designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and as a specially designated global terrorist under section 1(b) of Executive Order 13224 on February 26, 2008;

Whereas the attacks for which al Shabaab has claimed responsibility, were allegedly in retaliation for the presence of Ugandan peacekeeping forces contributing to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM);

Whereas Uganda currently has 3,400 peacekeeping troops deployed to Somalia in support of AMISOM and reportedly has committed to deploying an additional 2,000 troops; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States and the international community to support efforts in Somalia to achieve lasting peace, democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, and to eradicate extremism and terrorism from Somalia and the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns the terrorist attacks in Kampala, Uganda, on July 11, 2010;

(2) encourages the Administration to help Ugandan and Somali authorities bring those responsible for these attacks to justice;

(3) expresses its condolences to the families of Nate "Oteka" Henn and all the victims of these attacks;

(4) strongly condemns al Shabaab's destabilizing role in Somalia and the region;

(5) recognizes the contributions of Uganda's peacekeeping efforts in Somalia; and

(6) calls on the Administration to work with the international community to address the security threat emanating from Somalia.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. 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 gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I

yield myself such time as I may consume.

On July 11, 2010, bombs ripped through a crowd gathered in Kampala, Uganda to watch the World Cup finals. The Somali terrorist group al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for these cowardly attacks which killed at least 70 innocent civilians. Among those was one American, Nate "Oteka" Henn, a committed volunteer with the San Diego-based NGO Invisible Children. Dozens of others were injured in the blast, including several members of a Pennsylvania church group. The perpetrators of the attacks claim they were in retaliation for Uganda sending peacekeeping troops to participate in the African Union Mission in Somalia, or AMISOM.

Uganda currently has 3,400 troops deployed to Somalia in support of AMISOM and has pledged to deploy an additional 2,000 troops.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and our allies must support efforts by the Somali people and the African Union to achieve lasting peace, rule of law, democracy, and respect for human rights in Somalia. We must work together to eradicate extremism and terrorism from Somalia and the entire region and to counter the destabilizing influence of radical groups like al-Shabaab.

I would also like to thank my good friend from California (Mrs. DAVIS) for introducing this important resolution. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, House Resolution 1538, which condemns the deadly suicide attacks that took place in Kampala, Uganda on July 11, 2010.

In the past, some Members have questioned the accuracy of reported links between al Qaeda and al-Shabaab insurgents. Some claim that it is operationally focused solely upon Somalia and, thus, poses no tangible threat to Americans, our allies, or our interests. Unfortunately, the attacks that rocked Uganda on July 11, 2010 provided indisputable evidence that those assumptions were dangerously wrong. Scores were killed, including an American who worked with the advocacy group Invisible Children.

This senseless act of violence should serve as a wake-up call to U.S. officials on the need to vigorously address the threat of Islamist extremism wherever it lurks, which extends far beyond the Middle East. Many more lives are at stake.

The 1998 East Africa Embassy attacks exposed, and the July 11 Kampala attacks affirmed, that the United States cannot afford to ignore the activities of extremist groups in Africa as they attempt to expand their influence to bolster their ranks and spread their dangerous ideology. We must work

vigilantly and cooperatively with other responsible nations to disrupt the operations of extremist groups and hold accountable their regional sponsors.

Over 18 months ago, Mr. Speaker, I introduced a resolution, H. Con. Res. 16, which brings sorely needed attention to the threat of Islamist extremism in Africa. It is alarming that even after these tragic attacks I have not been able to get the majority to bring this resolution to the floor.

I understand that Attorney General Holder is currently in Uganda attending the African Union Summit, attempting to impress upon the AU heads of state the imperative of confronting violent extremists on the continent. He is highlighting many of the issues that I have been attempting to address for 1½ years. Isn't it time for this body to take this threat seriously?

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider H. Con. Res. 16 while supporting this important resolution before us, House Resolution 1538.

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California, an esteemed Member of Congress, Mrs. SUSAN DAVIS.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1538, and I want to thank Chairman BERMAN for bringing my resolution to the floor.

As the world watched the World Cup finals on July 11, terrorists launched suicide attacks against innocent men and women in the city of Kampala, Uganda. At least 70 people tragically died in those blasts, one of whom was a 25-year-old American, Nate "Oteka" Henn.

This resolution condemns the terrorist attacks in Kampala, recognizes the important role Uganda plays in the African Union Mission in Somalia, and sends a message to our allies that the United States stands by our strategic partners. It also highlights the urgent need for the United States to work with the international community to address the root causes of extremism and terrorism in East Africa. And finally, this resolution honors Nate "Oteka" Henn and all of the victims of this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, Nate was a committed volunteer for Invisible Children, Inc., a nonprofit organization headquartered in San Diego. That organization works to shed light on the grim reality that is faced by many Ugandans, particularly the children who are abducted and forced to become child soldiers there. Nate was a beloved and hard-working part of this cause, whether at the helm of an Invisible Children van as a member of the team of "roadies" or as an effective and heartfelt fundraiser who helped send Ugandan students to school. From what I now know of Nate's innate warmth, humor, and determination, it's no surprise that he was given the name "Oteka," which