

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

means “the strong one,” by his Ugandan friends, a name he proudly tattooed on his right arm.

Responsibility for the attack that killed Nate and the dozens of other innocent men and women in Uganda has been claimed by the Somalia-based al-Shabaab terrorist organization. Al-Shabaab has justified the deadly violence on Uganda’s 3,400-troop contribution to the African Union Mission in Somalia. But al-Shabaab, which means “the youth,” also chose its targets to send a message to Somalis around the world, a message designed to help tighten its control in Somalia and recruit young men into its ranks, including young men from many of the districts we represent.

□ 1310

Nate Henn’s life, on quite the other hand, and the work of groups like Invisible Children send a far different message to the youth of Africa, a message that is one of promise and hope rather than of war.

Today, Congress can help reinforce that message by showing that the American people stand side by side with those who strive to make the future brighter for Africa’s youth while at the same time telling groups like al-Shabaab that we will not ignore atrocities committed against civilians or our allies.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that all of my colleagues will support this important resolution.

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

Ms. BERKLEY. 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 gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1538, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 304. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to correct the enrollment of H.R. 725.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5610. An act to provide a technical adjustment with respect to funding for independent living centers under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure stability for such centers.

INTERNATIONAL MEGAN’S LAW OF 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5138) to protect children from sexual exploitation by mandating reporting requirements for convicted sex traffickers and other registered sex offenders against minors intending to engage in international travel, providing advance notice of intended travel by high interest registered sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5138

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “International Megan’s Law of 2010”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and declaration of purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Sex offender travel reporting requirement.
- Sec. 5. Foreign registration requirement for sex offenders.
- Sec. 6. International Sex Offender Travel Center.
- Sec. 7. Center sex offender travel guidelines.
- Sec. 8. Authority to restrict passports.
- Sec. 9. Immunity for good faith conduct.
- Sec. 10. Sense of Congress provisions.
- Sec. 11. Enhancing the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
- Sec. 12. Special report on international mechanisms related to traveling child sex offenders.
- Sec. 13. Assistance to foreign countries to meet minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
- Sec. 14. Congressional reports.
- Sec. 15. Authorization of appropriations.
- Sec. 16. Budget compliance.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Megan Nicole Kanka, who was 7 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered in 1994, in the State of New Jersey by a violent predator living across the street from her home. Unbeknownst to Megan Kanka and her family, he had been convicted previously of a sex offense against a child.

(2) In 1996, Congress adopted Megan’s Law (Public Law 104-145) as a means to encourage States to protect children by identifying the whereabouts of sex offenders and providing the means to monitor their activities.

(3) The sexual exploitation of minors is a global phenomenon. The International Labour Organization estimates that 1.8 million children worldwide are exploited each year through prostitution and pornography.

(4) According to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT International), all children are adversely affected by being commercially sexually exploited. Commercial sexual exploitation can result in serious, lifelong, even life-threatening con-

sequences for the physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional and social development and well-being of a child.

(5) ECPAT International reports that children who are commercially sexually exploited are at great risk of contracting HIV or AIDS and are unlikely to receive adequate medical care. These children are also at great risk of further physical violence—those who make an attempt to escape or counter their abuse may be severely injured or killed. The psychological effects of child sexual exploitation and threats usually plague the victims for the rest of their lives.

(6) ECPAT International further reports that children who have been exploited typically report feelings of shame, guilt, and low self-esteem. Some children do not believe they are worthy of rescue; some suffer from stigmatization or the knowledge that they were betrayed by someone whom they had trusted; others suffer from nightmares, sleeplessness, hopelessness, and depression—reactions similar to those exhibited in victims of torture. To cope, some children attempt suicide or turn to substance abuse. Many find it difficult to reintegrate successfully into society once they become adults.

(7) According to ECPAT International, child sex tourism is a specific form of child prostitution and is a developing phenomenon. Child sex tourism is defined as the commercial sexual exploitation of children by people who travel from one place to another and there engage in sexual acts with minors. This type of exploitation can occur anywhere in the world and no country or tourism destination is immune.

(8) According to research conducted by The Protection Project of The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, sex tourists from the United States who target children form a significant percentage of child sex tourists in some of the most significant destination countries for child sex tourism.

(9) According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), most victims of sex offenders are minors.

(10) Media reports indicate that known sex offenders who have committed crimes against children are traveling internationally, and that the criminal background of such individuals may not be known to local law enforcement prior to their arrival. For example, in April 2008, a United States registered sex offender received a prison sentence for engaging in illicit sexual activity with a 15-year-old United States citizen girl in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico in exchange for money and crack cocaine.

(11) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has taken a leading role in the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors abroad, in cooperation with other United States agencies, law enforcement from other countries, INTERPOL, and nongovernmental organizations. In addition to discovering evidence of and investigating child sex crimes, ICE has provided training to foreign law enforcement and NGOs, as appropriate, for the prevention, detection, and investigation of cases of child sexual exploitation.

(12) Between 2003 and 2009, ICE obtained 73 convictions of individuals from the United States charged with committing sexual crimes against minors in other countries.

(13) While necessary to protect children and rescue victims, the detection and investigation of child sex predators overseas is costly. Such an undercover operation can cost approximately \$250,000. A system that would aid in the prevention of such crimes is needed to safeguard vulnerable populations and to reduce the cost burden of addressing crimes after they are committed.