

McDermott	Poe (TX)	Sires
McGovern	Polis (CO)	Skelton
McHenry	Pomeroy	Smith (NE)
McIntyre	Posey	Smith (NJ)
McKeon	Price (GA)	Smith (TX)
McMahon	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)
McMorris	Putnam	Snyder
Rodgers	Quigley	Space
McNerney	Rahall	Speier
Meek (FL)	Rangel	Spratt
Meeks (NY)	Rehberg	Stark
Melancon	Reichert	Stearns
Mica	Reyes	Stupak
Michaud	Richardson	Stutzman
Miller (FL)	Rodriguez	Sullivan
Miller (MI)	Roe (TN)	Sutton
Miller (NC)	Rogers (AL)	Taylor
Miller, Gary	Rogers (KY)	Teague
Miller, George	Rogers (MI)	Terry
Minnick	Rohrabacher	Thompson (CA)
Mitchell	Rooney	Thompson (MS)
Mollohan	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (PA)
Moore (KS)	Roskam	Thornberry
Moore (WI)	Ross	Tiahrt
Moran (KS)	Rothman (NJ)	Tiberi
Moran (VA)	Roybal-Allard	Tierney
Murphy (CT)	Royce	Titus
Murphy (NY)	Ruppersberger	Tonko
Murphy, Patrick	Rush	Towns
Murphy, Tim	Ryan (OH)	Tsongas
Myrick	Ryan (WI)	Turner
Nadler (NY)	Salazar	Upton
Napolitano	Sánchez, Linda	Van Hollen
Neal (MA)	T.	Velázquez
Neugebauer	Sanchez, Loretta	Visclosky
Nunes	Sarbanes	Walden
Nye	Scalise	Walz
Oberstar	Schakowsky	Wamp
Obey	Schauer	Wasserman
Olson	Schiff	Schultz
Olver	Schmidt	Waters
Ortiz	Schock	Watson
Owens	Schrader	Watt
Pallone	Schwartz	Waxman
Pascrell	Scott (GA)	Weiner
Pastor (AZ)	Scott (VA)	Welch
Paul	Sensenbrenner	Westmoreland
Paulsen	Serrano	Whitfield
Payne	Sessions	Wilson (OH)
Pence	Sestak	Wilson (SC)
Perlmutter	Shadegg	Wittman
Perriello	Shea-Porter	Wolf
Peters	Sherman	Woolsey
Peterson	Shimkus	Wu
Petri	Shuler	Yarmuth
Pitts	Shuster	Young (AK)
Platts	Simpson	Young (FL)

NAYS—3

Chaffetz	DeFazio	Slaughter
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NOT VOTING—13

Blunt	Gordon (TN)	Pingree (ME)
Boozman	Halvorson	Radanovich
Davis (AL)	Kennedy	Tanner
Fallin	Kirk	
Gallely	Klein (FL)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

1745

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CONDEMNING BURMESE REGIME'S UNDEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1677) condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic upcoming elections on November 7, 2010, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1677

Whereas the current military regime, officially known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), known previously as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), held multi-party elections in 1990;

Whereas despite the threat and pressure by the military regime to vote for the candidates of the military-backed National Unity Party (NUP), the people of Burma voted 82 percent of parliament seats for the candidates of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, led by formerly detained leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and allied ethnic political parties;

Whereas the military regime refused to honor the election results and arrested and imprisoned both democracy activists and elected members of parliament;

Whereas the SPDC over a period of 14 years held a National Convention to draft a new constitution in which the process was tightly controlled, repressive, and undemocratic;

Whereas the NLD walked out of the convention in 1995 because participants were not allowed to table alternative proposals or voice disagreement with the military regime;

Whereas the people of Burma, led by democracy activists and Buddhist monks in August and September 2007, took to the streets for national reconciliation and the transition to democracy;

Whereas the military regime brutally crushed the peaceful protests, killing at least 31 people, leaving nearly 100 missing, and arresting 700 additional political prisoners bringing the number of Burma's political prisoners to approximately 2,100;

Whereas the SPDC has ignored the repeated requests of the United Nations and the international community to release all political prisoners and end attacks against civilians;

Whereas at the same time, the SPDC assigned a commission to draft a constitution on October 18, 2007, with 54 handpicked participants, in an attempt to ignore past election results, to lock in a process that excludes representatives of ethnic nationalities and the NLD from political participation, and to legitimize continued military rule;

Whereas the latest version of the draft constitution seeks to codify military rule by reserving 25 percent of parliamentary seats for military appointees, permits the head of the military to intervene in national politics, and ensures that key government ministries are held by military officers;

Whereas amidst the crisis in parts of the country caused by Cyclone Nargis, the country's military junta staged a referendum to force through a new constitution, drafted without input from the opposition;

Whereas the vote for the referendum did not follow a free and fair democratic process;

Whereas conditions prior to the referendum consisted of repression, a lack of a

free media, and a lack of an independent referendum commission and courts to supervise the vote;

Whereas the amnesty provision of the constitution removes any rights for civil redress for victims of crimes committed by the military and leaders of the democratic opposition have refused to accept this constitution;

Whereas the amnesty provision is a blatant attempt to legitimize the systematic violence in the country for all junta inflicted crimes;

Whereas the ruling military junta in Burma has one of the worst human rights records in the world and routinely violates the rights of Burmese citizens, including the systematic use of rape as a weapon of war, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, as well as slave and child labor, including child soldiers;

Whereas the previous detention of Aung San Suu Kyi by the Burmese military regime contravenes Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has drawn widespread condemnation from around the world;

Whereas in March 2010, the military regime announced laws governing the elections, including the Union Election Commission Law, giving their handpicked members complete authority to convene the election, along with final decisionmaking power, regarding election postponement, rejection, monitoring, forming sub-commissions, formation of constituencies, compiling list of eligible voters, and forming of tribunals to judge election dispute;

Whereas articles 4 and 10 of the Political Parties Registration Law bans all monks, nuns, and leaders of other religions, government staff, political prisoners and prisoners, foreigners, and members of and those related to unlawful associations and insurgent groups from forming and participating in a political party, further stating that failure to expel such individuals from your political party will result in abolishment of the political party;

Whereas article 6 of the Political Parties Registration Law states that all political parties must pledge to abide and protect the military regime's undemocratic and fraudulent 2008 constitution;

Whereas the NLD refused to re-register under such unjust election laws that would have forced them to expel their leader Aung San Suu Kyi and pledge support for the regime's undemocratic constitution;

Whereas the military regime's election commission released severely restrictive political party campaign rules banning all marches, chanting, and flags and also prohibits any speeches or publications that criticize the military regime;

Whereas the election commission can de-register any political party at their discretion;

Whereas it is impossible under the regime's 2008 constitution and 2010 election laws for the election to be free, fair, inclusive, or democratic; and

Whereas the November 7 election was marked by widespread fraud, voter intimidation, cheating, and irregularities reported throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) denounces the one-sided, undemocratic, and illegitimate actions of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) that seek to legitimize military rule through a flawed election process;

(2) denounces the military regime's dissolution of the National League for Democracy and insists that no government in Burma can be considered democratic or legitimate without the participation of Aung

San Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy, and ethnic nationalities and the full restoration of democracy, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens;

(3) insists that Burma's military regime begin an immediate transition toward national reconciliation, and the full restoration of democracy, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and internationally recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens;

(4) demands the immediate and unconditional release of detained Buddhist monks and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;

(5) calls on the Administration to not support or recognize the military regime's elections as legitimate;

(6) calls on the Burmese junta to change the current flawed constitution by permitting members of the democratic opposition and ethnic minorities to participate in government;

(7) calls for full accountability of those responsible for human rights violations;

(8) urges support for a credible and robust international inquiry to investigate the Burmese regime's war crimes, crimes against humanity, and system of impunity; and

(9) calls for the Administration to fully implement the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act of 2008 by nominating the Special Representative and Policy Coordinator on Burma and imposing appropriate financial sanctions to facilitate the priorities expressed in paragraphs (1) through (8).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

On November 7, 2010, Burma held its first election in 20 years. This should have been an important milestone for the 55 million people of that impoverished nation, but instead, it was more of the same. The ruling junta fixed the process to ensure its continuing domination, and the vote was marred by widespread fraud and intimidation.

This important resolution condemns the military regime's blatantly undemocratic effort to legitimize its rule through a sham election process.

In 1990, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, referred to as the "NLD party," handily won free and fair elections, but the junta refused to honor the results and, instead, arrested and imprisoned democratically elected members of parliament and democracy activists.

□ 1750

More recently, in 2007, thousands of ordinary Burmese citizens and Buddhist monks led a series of peaceful demonstrations calling for more openness and respect for human rights, only to be brutally crushed by the regime. Today, there are more than 2,200 political prisoners and prisoners of conscience languishing in Burmese prisons in the worst possible conditions.

The junta claims that the Burmese constitution of 2008 is part of a "roadmap to democracy," but in reality, that bogus document maintains power in the hands of military appointees, permits the head of the military to intervene in national policy, and ensures that key government ministries are held by junta officials. Under this framework, true democracy is impossible.

The regime's recent decision to release Aung San Suu Kyi, the iconic leader of Burma's democracy movement, is a transparent attempt to divert attention from its fraudulent election.

The international community must speak with one voice to condemn the results of the November 7 election; press the Burmese junta to respect basic human rights and allow freedom of expression and freedom of association; call for the release of political prisoners; and support national reconciliation between the junta, Aung San Suu Kyi, and ethnic leaders.

We must also continue to press for a robust international inquiry into the regime's crimes against humanity and war crimes, and do everything we can to end the systemic use of rape as a weapon of war, extrajudicial killings, torture, and child labor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise in strong opposition to the recent sham election that took place in Burma on November 7. As the sponsor of this important resolution, I want to lend a public voice for many people yearning to see democracy take real root in Burma.

The purpose of the election is crystal clear: to entrench the military junta's rule under a cloak of democracy. Notwithstanding the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the junta's actions cannot be an excuse to draw the curtain closed on so many people in Burma who yearn for the fresh breath of freedom.

While claiming the pro-junta party won 80 percent of the vote in the sham election, the Burmese regime clearly demonstrated its adherence to Chairman Mao's famous dictum that "political power comes from the barrel of a gun."

To make matters worse, just as rigged election results were being reported, junta troops engaged in shoot-outs with ethnic minority forces in border areas, sending tens of thousands of refugees fleeing into Thailand. Artillery fire even flew over the border, injuring refugees, Thai civilians, and Thai soldiers on the Thai side. Shelling your peaceful neighbor is no way for any government to conduct an election.

And while we all laud the release of the acclaimed Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, no one should be fooled into thinking that the Burmese junta leopard has changed its spots. The junta has treated Aung San Suu Kyi like its political yo-yo, letting her out and then pulling her back in whenever it has served the regime's political whims. Having gotten her out of the way during the critical runup to the bogus elections, the regime has now decided it is time to place her again in the world spotlight.

But we cannot for one moment forget that there are an estimated 2,500 other political prisoners, including brave monks and ordinary citizens from the Saffron Revolution 3 years ago, who still languish in the Burmese gulag. Until these others are free, Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma are indeed truly not free.

In 2008, I led the effort, along with my friend from New York, Representative JOE CROWLEY, to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Aung San Suu Kyi. We must never forget the strength and hope that she represents. We must never be fooled into believing that this time there really will be change in Burma.

A flawed election process cannot hide the fact that until a sincere, transparent dialogue of political transformation is begun with the opposition, there can be no true democracy and rule of law in Burma. One need only recall that Hitler and Stalin had elections also, and they were just as meaningless.

This raises the whole question of the value of engagement with a regime which hunts down refugees and shells its neighbor in the aftermath of bogus elections. The administration clings to the desperate hope that talking to dictatorial thugs with no preconditions will lead to a world of peace and harmony. The Burmese junta and their bogus elections demonstrate the naive assumption behind this approach to foreign policy.

The release of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest, however, still leaves one Peace Prize laureate behind bars. That is the recent Prize recipient, Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo. It seems high time for the rulers in Beijing to follow the example of their Burmese buddies and immediately release Mr. Liu. Governments which fear lone voices of conscience like Aung San Suu Kyi and Mr. Liu can never be truly secure, no matter how much voter fraud they conduct to prop up their regimes.

I strongly and enthusiastically urge my colleagues to stand up for democracy and freedom in the proud ancient land of Burma and to wholeheartedly support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, RUSH D. HOLT.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from California.

I rise to express strong support for House Resolution 1677, offered by Mr. MANZULLO, and I rise to denounce the flawed, undemocratic election that took place in Burma earlier this month. For nearly half a century now, the liberties of the Burmese people have been held hostage by successive military rulers. The regime refused to honor the results of open elections held in recent decades and then forced the acceptance of a new, illegitimate constitution in a sham referendum. Last week, the junta once again chose to disregard the will of the Burmese people by staging a fraudulent election.

When I first visited Burma decades ago, I learned what a difference a misguided regime could make. Burma had been a vibrant country known as the "rice bowl of Asia." Burma had had a rich history, fertile land, abundant resources, and a productive population. In the years following the coup in the early 1960s, the authoritarian regime impoverished a nation and brutalized a people. The generals have rejected the choices of the Burmese citizens, imprisoned or killed political dissidents, and failed to address humanitarian suffering caused by their own mismanagement and by tragic natural disasters. The United States has a duty to stand firmly against the military's human rights abuses and to work for justice, reconciliation, and the rule of law in Burma.

I join with those around the world celebrating the recent release from house arrest of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has led the nonviolent struggle for democratic reforms in Burma, at great personal sacrifice, for over three decades. The outpouring of support and affection for her is a clear signal that the spirit of liberty endures among the Burmese people. Yet we must be mindful of history's lessons. The military junta will not tolerate actions that threaten its iron grip on power. That is why the United States must continue to pressure the regime to end its repressive practices and to accept an immediate transition toward a more democratic government that respects human rights and respects the aspirations of the Burmese people.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 1800

Mr. MANZULLO. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEINRICH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1677, 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. WATSON. Mr. 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.

COMMEMORATING THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1672) commemorating the Persian Gulf War and reaffirming the commitment of the United States towards Persian Gulf War veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1672

Whereas, on August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded the State of Kuwait, thereby initiating the Persian Gulf War;

Whereas in the months following Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, the United Nations Security Council adopted 11 resolutions that, inter alia, demanded that Iraq unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait and imposed economic sanctions and other pressure against Saddam Hussein's dictatorship in Iraq;

Whereas on November 29, 1990, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 678, which authorized United Nations Member States to use all necessary means to uphold Resolution 660 (1990), which demanded that Iraq unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait;

Whereas on January 12, 1991, the United States Congress authorized the United States Armed Forces to help the State of Kuwait defend itself against the Iraqi invasion;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States, joined by coalition partners, overwhelmed the enemy in a short, decisive military campaign of less than 30 days;

Whereas the hostilities ended in a ceasefire declared by President George H.W. Bush on February 28, 1991, one hundred hours after the ground campaign began;

Whereas during the Persian Gulf War, approximately 694,550 members of the United States Armed Forces served in-theater along with the forces of over 30 other members of the United Nations;

Whereas casualties of the United States during the Persian Gulf War included 383 dead (of whom 148 were battle deaths), and more than 467 wounded;

Whereas approximately 2,225,000 American men and women served worldwide in the Armed Forces during the entire Gulf War era;

Whereas approximately 174,000 veterans suffer from illnesses related to service during the Persian Gulf War, including Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses;

Whereas Congress notes the Institute of Medicine's report, "Gulf War and Health", released on April 9, 2010; encourages the Department of Veterans Affairs task force to identify recommendations from this report to better treat illnesses related to service during the Persian Gulf War, including Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses; and reaffirms the commitment of the United States towards Persian Gulf War veterans;

Whereas since the end of the Persian Gulf War era, an average of more than 2,000 members of the United States Armed Forces have served annually in Kuwait to defend the State of Kuwait against external aggression, and to promote regional peace;

Whereas in addition to their participation in the Gulf War to liberate Kuwait, United States service members have maintained a significant military presence in the Gulf for decades and played a key role in defending United States interests and allies in the Gulf region; and

Whereas beginning in August 2010, various ceremonies are being planned in the United States to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Persian Gulf War and to honor all Persian Gulf War veterans: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the historical importance of the 20th anniversary of the Persian Gulf War, which began on August 2, 1990;

(2) honors the noble service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of allied countries that served in the Persian Gulf since 1990 to the present;

(3) encourages all Americans to participate in commemorative activities to pay solemn tribute to, and to never forget, the veterans of the Persian Gulf War;

(4) calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Persian Gulf War; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to peace and prosperity in the Persian Gulf region.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. 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 California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1672, which commemorates the Persian Gulf War of 1991 and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the well-being of Persian Gulf War veterans.

More than 20 years ago, on August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein ordered his army into Kuwait, starting a crisis that would lead to war. Although some predicted that Iraq's incursion would be limited, within hours Iraqi forces had seized downtown Kuwait City and were headed south toward the Saudi Arabian border, occupying all of Kuwait along the way. What followed was the largest build-up of American forces since the Vietnam War. Within a short period, members of the 82nd Airborne Division, as well as 300 combat aircraft, were headed for Saudi Arabia. By the end of September 1990, there were nearly 200,000 American personnel in Saudi Arabia ready to repel an Iraqi attack.