

Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea, apply all available economic sanctions on North Korea, and consider additional measures to strengthen bilateral security cooperation with South Korea, including increases in foreign military sales and joint exercises.

Like many of my colleagues, the constituents whom I represent want assurance that the United States is secure from all external threats, including the potential threat of weaponized intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). ICBMs are designed to travel between 5,500 km and 10,000 km. California is about 9,000 km from North Korea. Given that the North Korean regime has made steady advances in its nuclear weapons program over the past few years, it is not surprising that my California colleagues are increasingly alarmed by Pyongyang's actions.

The level of bipartisan support for H. Res. 92 reflects the importance of the threat North Korea poses to global stability. Our security and the security of our allies is an issue that crosses party lines. It is imperative to our national security interests that North Korea does not develop a weaponized ICBM capable of reaching any part of our country.

This resolution provides more assurance to our allies in the Asia-Pacific and sends a message to the North Korean regime that all Americans are united in our determination to safeguard our country against foreign threats. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote yes on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 92, 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. ROYCE of California. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES-ARGENTINA PARTNERSHIP AND RECOGNIZING ARGENTINA'S ECONOMIC REFORMS

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 54) reaffirming the United States-Argentina partnership and recognizing Argentina's economic reforms, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 54

Whereas, on November 22, 2015, the citizens of the Argentine Republic elected Mauricio Macri as their President;

Whereas President Macri has pledged to promote greater national unity, rebuild the economy, combat domestic corruption, strengthen freedom of the press, defend human rights abroad, attract foreign direct investment, return to international credit

markets, and reassert Argentina's leadership globally;

Whereas President Macri has emphasized his intention to seek closer ties with the United States and restore the bilateral partnership previously enjoyed by both countries;

Whereas the Argentine Republic has been a major non-NATO ally of the United States since 1998 and is the only country designated as such in Latin America;

Whereas United States-Argentina relations are historically characterized by comprehensive commercial ties and strong bilateral cooperation on human rights, peacekeeping, science and technology, non-proliferation, and education, as well as on regional and global issues;

Whereas, in an appearance with President Macri at the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires in March 2016, President Barack Obama said that "our countries share profound values in common—respect for human rights, for individual freedoms, for democracy, for justice, and for peace";

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry visited Argentina in August 2016 to launch a High-Level Dialogue to develop and sustain cooperation on bilateral, regional, and global challenges, including democratic development and protection of human rights in Latin America;

Whereas Secretary Kerry, during his visit, stated that "the United States strongly supports President Macri's effort to deepen Argentina's integration with the global economy" and that "our governments will be supporting policies that are aimed at strong, sustainable, and balanced economic growth";

Whereas the United States Department of the Treasury no longer opposes multilateral development banks lending to Argentina because of the Government of Argentina's "progress on key issues and positive economic policy trajectory";

Whereas President Macri prioritized Argentina resolving its 15-year standoff with private creditors stemming from the 2001-2002 economic crisis, which facilitated Argentina's return to international financial markets;

Whereas the Macri Administration lifted controls on trade, currency, and poultry, enhanced the quality and transparency of government data, and eliminated subsidies on electricity, water, and gas;

Whereas Argentina is Latin America's third largest economy and the International Monetary Fund, in April 2016, claimed the Macri Administration "embarked on an ambitious, much needed transition to remove domestic imbalances and distortions and correct relative prices"; and

Whereas the Government of Argentina has expressed a renewed commitment to bring the perpetrators of the 1994 bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) building, that occurred in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, killing 85 people and injuring hundreds, to justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) upholds its commitment to the partnership between the United States and Argentina and reaffirms that the Argentine Republic is a major non-NATO ally of the United States;

(2) encourages the Department of State to coordinate a new interagency strategy to increase cooperation with the Government of Argentina on areas of bilateral, regional, and global concern;

(3) commends the Government of Argentina for making far-reaching economic reforms that will benefit the people of Argentina, stimulate economic growth, and deepen

Argentina's integration with the global economy;

(4) praises the Government of Argentina for resolving most of its business disputes at the World Bank's International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) thereby hastening their re-entry into world financial markets to the benefit of the Argentine people; and

(5) encourages the Government of Argentina to continue to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the 1994 bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) building in Buenos Aires, as well as the January 2015 death of AMIA special prosecutor Alberto Nisman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to put any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just start by thanking Mr. SIREN, the author of this measure, and I rise in support of it. It reaffirms the United States-Argentina partnership.

After over a decade of economic mismanagement and corruption and alliances with the likes of Iran—well, we should say the Ayatollah in Iran—and alliances with the regime in Venezuela, the people of Argentina used their vote to usher in a new era of what I would call economic common sense and a new era of regional leadership.

Since assuming the Presidency in December 2015, President Macri has undertaken difficult economic reforms to undo the damage caused by his predecessor's policy and taken reforms to return to the global markets. He tore up the laughable agreement that President Cristina Kirchner signed with Iran to investigate the 1994 Hezbollah bombing of the Jewish community center, which killed 85 and injured hundreds of other people in the Jewish community in Argentina. He has shown regional leadership in condemning Venezuela's human and democratic rights violations.

As the new Argentinian Government undertakes difficult reforms, it needs the moral support of its allies in the region, including the support of this body. This measure seeks to reaffirm the partnership, the friendship that we share with Argentina. It commends the government's hard work in bringing Argentina back from economic ruin.

This measure also encourages the Government of Argentina to make good on its promise to finally bring the perpetrators of the 1994 bombing there

of the Jewish community center to justice, while thoroughly investigating the January 2015 death of special prosecutor Alberto Nisman. As my colleagues know, immediately before his mysterious death, Nisman was set to issue a thorough report on his findings that the government of Cristina Kirchner had colluded with Iran to conceal Iran's role in orchestrating that 1994 terrorist attack at the hands of the Iranian proxy in this case, Hezbollah.

Mr. Speaker, let me just mention another subject here. In South America, we are watching Venezuela lose any semblance of democracy or human rights. Last week, Venezuela's democratically elected National Assembly was dissolved. The Venezuelan people are greatly suffering. As Argentina has dropped its support of these authoritarians and stands with the rest of the region in strong condemnation of authoritarianism in Venezuela, the Venezuelan Government is now more isolated than ever.

Back to H. Res. 54. This reflects this body's support of and friendship with Argentina, and it reflects our gratitude for Argentine leadership in support of economic and democratic reform.

Again, I thank Mr. SIREs for this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

I would like to start by thanking Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and their staffs for working with me to bring H. Res. 54 to the floor. I would like to thank my friend from South Carolina, Chairman JEFF DUNCAN, who is in charge of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and led a delegation to Argentina last March to help restart relations with the Macri administration.

H. Res. 54 reaffirms the strong U.S. partnership with Argentina and acknowledges their President Mauricio Macri for his efforts to make the necessary changes and bring Argentina back into the international community. President Macri worked hard to stimulate growth and bring Argentina back as a powerful player in the region after years of isolationist views from the Kirchners.

I was pleased to visit Argentina last year and see, firsthand, the changes the new government was making, and it was refreshing to see the progress already being made. Most importantly, we received assurances from the Macri administration that they will restart the investigation into the horrific 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires, which left 85 dead and hundreds more injured, and the untimely and suspicious death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who was found dead on the eve of delivering his explosive report which outlined the connections between the bombing, Iran, and

former Argentina President Cristina Kirchner's efforts to cover up these links. Unfortunately, the victims of these attacks and their families still lack answers to what really occurred, and the troubling reports of Iran's role in the bombing deserves thorough investigation that finally brings the perpetrators to justice.

Argentina is a great partner and a friend, and I believe we must continue to support our friends and continue to grow this critical relationship. Once again, I thank my colleagues for their support of this resolution and urge Members of the House to support H. Res. 54 to further strengthen the great ties our country has with Argentina.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), who chairs the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He is the primary cosponsor of this measure.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I briefly want to mention the country of Colombia. Tremendous flooding and mudslides there have taken more than 200 lives. Colombia is in my prayers, the prayers of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, and the prayers of all of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 54, which reaffirms America's partnership with Argentina, and applaud the economic reforms undertaken in recent years.

I applaud Ranking Member SIREs for his leadership on this issue. Last year, he and I led a congressional delegation to Argentina to see the differences in the country under the new leadership of President Macri and to reextend a hand of friendship of the United States.

Though the previous government followed the path of ruinous economic and foreign policies, I saw new optimism that the new Macri administration would right these wrongs. For example, at the Organization of American States, Argentina has been supportive of the actions of OAS Secretary General Almagro, urging the Venezuelan Government to respect democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

In addition, President Macri is working to find justice for the 1994 AMIA bombing terrorist attack—the largest loss of life from an act of terror in this hemisphere prior to 9/11—and the murder of the AMIA special prosecutor, Alberto Nisman. It is my sincerest hope that he will find the perpetrators and hold them accountable for these heinous acts of terror.

In conclusion, the United States should be very clear that we are thankful for President Macri's courage and willingness to take unpopular but principled positions. I urge the new Trump administration to do all in its power to take the steps outlined in this legislation and advance a deeper bilateral relationship.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 54 and commend its authors and cosponsors.

With the new administration of President Macri, I think that there will be a deepening relationship between the United States and Argentina, and this resolution recognizes that. It also encourages the Argentine Government to continue to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the 1994 bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association, located then in the center of Buenos Aires, and the death of Argentine special prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who died mysteriously 1 day before he was going to submit a report to the Argentine Congress regarding that 1994 bombing.

I think it is apparent that that 1994 bombing was conducted by Iran in cooperation with Hezbollah, and we all want to encourage the Argentine Government to find out whether there was foul play in the death of Alberto Nisman and, if so, who was behind what has all the hallmarks of an assassination designed to prevent that report from being submitted to the Argentine people and Congress.

I commend the authors of this legislation. I urge its adoption.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), chairman emeritus of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and a cosponsor of this measure.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be standing here in strong support of the measure of my very good friend from New Jersey, Mr. ALBIO SIREs. H. Res. 54 is so important. It reaffirms the U.S.-Argentina partnership and recognizes Argentina's economic reforms. As Mr. ROYCE said, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of Mr. SIREs' important resolution.

Up until the recent election of President Macri, Argentina was going in the wrong direction. Since Macri came to office, he has made some tough but much-needed economic reforms. He has shown that Argentina is willing to be engaged in areas of mutual interest to our two countries and expand our bilateral relations. President Macri's commitment to these reforms should be commended.

But he hasn't just shown strong leadership on economic reforms. President Macri has shown strong character and leadership to the rule of law and pursuit of justice. He has done so by announcing his intention to continue to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the 1994 bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association, AMIA, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Last month, we marked the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which was followed by the 1994 AMIA attack.

It is no secret that the Iranian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah was responsible for these attacks; yet, to this day, Mr. Speaker, Iran and Hezbollah have evaded justice.

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The United States should support President Macri as he continues his investigation and seeks to hold those responsible accountable to make sure that he can bring them to justice for their deadly terror attacks.

We should also applaud and support his decision to investigate the suspicious circumstances involving the death of the special prosecutor of these cases, Alberto Nisman. Alberto had uncovered links between Hezbollah and these terror attacks, and I would speak with Alberto frequently about these troublesome ties.

Nisman was a good man and a strong supporter of human rights. We must help President Macri and the people of Argentina continue Nisman's work and legacy by bringing those responsible for his death and for those dastardly terrorist attacks to justice.

We can start by signaling to the people of Argentina that we support their government and that we value our bilateral relationship. Passing Mr. SIREs' resolution will do just that. We will send that message.

I urge my colleagues to support Mr. SIREs' measure.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

In conclusion, let me say that the U.S.-Argentina relationship is critical, and I stand in strong support of H. Res. 54.

Argentina's new President, Mauricio Macri, has done a tremendous job reforming their outdated and isolationist economic policies. Most importantly, the Macri administration has renewed its efforts to find the long sought after justice for the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Cultural Center, whose perpetrators are still evading justice.

His efforts have improved the lives of countless Argentines, and I look forward to working with his government to continue building on the progress we have already made.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and thank them all for their support.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues; I want to thank Mr. SIREs, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere; and I thank the chairman of that committee, Mr. DUNCAN, for their leadership in bringing this measure to the floor.

This important resolution reaffirms our relationship with the people and the government of Argentina. It calls on the State Department to develop an interagency strategy to maximize our

cooperation with Argentina as our countries work together to promote democracy, to promote human rights, and to promote economic freedom across the Americas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 54, 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.

NORTH KOREA STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM DESIGNATION ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 479) to require a report on the designation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 479

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "North Korea State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF GOVERNMENT OF NORTH KOREA AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States Government designated the Government of North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism on January 20, 1988.

(2) On October 11, 2008, North Korea's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism was rescinded, following commitments by the Government of North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. However, North Korea has failed to live up to these commitments.

(3) On October 22, 2015, the United States Special Representative for North Korea Policy with the Department of State, testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade that North Korea's "conduct poses a growing threat to the United States, our friends in the region, and the global non-proliferation regime" and the Deputy Coordinator for Homeland Security, Screening, and Designations with the U.S. Department of State noted that "weapons transfers that violate nonproliferation or missile control regimes could be a relevant factor for consideration, depending on the circumstances, consistent with the statutory criteria for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism".

(4) The Government of North Korea has harbored members of the Japanese Red Army since a 1970 hijacking and continues to harbor the surviving hijackers to this day.

(5) On July 16, 2010, in the case of *Calderon-Cardona v. Democratic People's Republic of Korea* (case number 08-01367), the United

States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico found that the Government of North Korea provided material support to the Japanese Red Army, designated as a foreign terrorist organization between 1997 and 2001, in furtherance of a 1972 terrorist attack at Lod Airport, Israel that killed 26 people, including 17 Americans.

(6) In the case of *Chaim Kaplan v. Hezbollah* (case number 09-646), a United States district court found in 2014 that North Korea materially supported terrorist attacks by Hezbollah, a designated foreign terrorist organization, against Israel in 2006.

(7) In June 2010, Major Kim Myong-ho and Major Dong Myong-gwan of North Korea's Reconnaissance General Bureau pled guilty in a South Korean court to attempting to assassinate Hwang Jang-yop, a North Korean dissident in exile, on the orders of Lieutenant General Kim Yong-chol, the head of North Korea's Reconnaissance General Bureau. The court sentenced each defendant to 10 years in prison.

(8) In March 2015, the Government of South Korea concluded that North Korea was responsible for a December 2014 cyber attack against multiple nuclear power plants in South Korea. The South Korean Government stated that the attacks were intended to cause a malfunction at the plants' reactors, and described the attacks as acts of "cyber-terror targeting our country".

(9) On December 19, 2015, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) concluded that North Korea was responsible for a cyber attack on Sony Pictures Entertainment and a subsequent threat of violence against theaters that showed the film "The Interview". The FBI concluded that the "Guardians of Peace", which sent the threat to Sony Pictures Entertainment, was a unit of North Korea's Reconnaissance General Bureau, its foreign intelligence service.

(10) Malaysian authorities have alleged that officials from North Korea's secret police and Foreign Ministry were involved in the poisoning and killing of the estranged half-brother of the country's leader, Kim Jong-nam, using the chemical weapon VX nerve agent, a substance banned for use as a weapon by the United Nations Chemical Weapons Convention, on February 13, 2017, in Kuala Lumpur.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Government of North Korea likely meets the criteria for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism and, if so should be so designated.

(c) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a determination as to whether the Government of North Korea meets the criteria for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

(d) FORM.—The determination required by subsection (c) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex, if appropriate.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) NORTH KOREA.—The term "North Korea" means the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(3) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term "state sponsor of terrorism" means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined, for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Administration