

tried to say that it was a suicide, but we know it was not.

I hope that we get to the bottom of the truth and that Mr. Nisman is honored, which he should be. It is just an absolute disgrace that he was murdered.

Again, I thank Mr. DEUTCH for authorizing this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 441 which conveys the indignation and concern many of my colleagues and I have regarding the severe delay in the conclusion of and lack of accountability for the July 1994 AMIA Jewish Community Center attacks.

On July 18, 1994, 85 innocent people lost their lives and 300 more were wounded in an act of terror and hate perpetrated against the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA).

This attack came two years after the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires which claimed the lives of an additional 29 civilians.

In both instances, there was considerable evidence that linked the attacks to the Lebanon-based terrorist group Hezbollah, which is supported by the Syrian Arab Republic and is sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the quarter century since the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, little has been done to bring those responsible, including Iranian officials and their Hezbollah proxies, to justice.

Those charged with bringing the attackers to justice have unfortunately been made victims themselves or since been found to have undermined and misled their investigations into the attacks.

Alberto Nisman, one of the original prosecutors that formally accused the Government of Iran of directing the bombing, was also critical of the Government of Argentina's response to the 1994 AMIA bombing.

Nisman alleged that there was a conspiracy among high-ranking Argentinian government officials, including then-President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, to cover up Iranian involvement.

Unfortunately, Nisman was shot in the head in his apartment the day before he was scheduled to present new findings to the Argentinian Congress.

Other individuals responsible for investigating the AMIA bombing, Argentina's deadliest terrorist attack, have since been convicted by an Argentine court for interfering with the official inquiry and diverting the investigation away from the truth.

As a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 441 and in condemning what has been a systemic failure to carry out justice for the victims of the July 18, 1994 terrorist attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 441.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS ON PEACEFUL PROTESTERS AND SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN-LED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN SUDAN

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 432) condemning the attacks on peaceful protesters and supporting an immediate peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 432

Whereas in 2016, the Government of the United States launched a plan aimed at reducing conflict and expanding humanitarian access in Sudan, improving counterterrorism cooperation, ending Sudan's negative interference in South Sudan, and addressing the threat of the Lord's Resistance Army, that, according to the Department of State, led to significant progress in these areas and resulted in the lifting of some United States sanctions on Sudan in October 2017;

Whereas the Department of State announced "Phase II" of the bilateral reengagement framework with Sudan in November 2018, under which the United States would consider rescinding Sudan's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism if the country met the relevant statutory criteria for delisting and if the Government of Sudan made progress along six identified areas of concern related to counterterrorism cooperation, humanitarian access, respect for human rights, a cessation of internal hostilities and a conducive environment for peace processes, efforts to address outstanding terrorism-related legal claims, and adherence to United Nations Security Council resolutions on North Korea;

Whereas despite the Government of Sudan's pledge to cease hostilities, the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Sudan reported in January 2019 that forces of the Government of Sudan had launched "large-scale military operations" against insurgents in the Jebel Marra region of Darfur in 2018 and that elements of Sudan's Rapid Support Forces and associated militia were implicated in indiscriminate shootings, rape, acts of torture, and other inhumane treatment of civilians;

Whereas the Department of State's country reports on human rights practices describe reports of serious human rights violations by Sudan's intelligence service and military, including the Rapid Support Forces, citing credible reports that villages in Jebel Marra were targeted for attack in 2018, resulting in the displacement of thousands of civilians and noting that Sudan's Rapid Support Forces were implicated in the majority of reported human rights violations against civilians in the country;

Whereas contrary to the requirements of Phase II, humanitarian organizations report that humanitarian access restrictions have persisted, including bureaucratic interference, and reports of serious human rights abuses and media censorship increased after Phase II was launched;

Whereas in December 2018, protests that began in Damazin and Abbara spread across the country, with thousands of Sudanese gathering to demand political change;

Whereas the Sudanese authorities responded to the protests by detaining hundreds of people, including protesters, members of the political opposition, civil society, journalists, and more than a dozen American citizens, and by using excessive and lethal force against protesters;

Whereas in late February 2019, President Bashir declared a yearlong nationwide state of emergency, dissolving the Federal and State governments and appointing senior military officers to key government posts, banning unauthorized gatherings, demonstrations, and strikes, expanding authorization for searches, seizures, and arrests, and barring news deemed to undermine his government;

Whereas tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of protesters gathered in Khartoum on April 6, 2019, calling for the end of the government of President Bashir, and on April 11, 2019, he was ousted from power by the military and replaced by Defense Minister and First Vice President Lt. Gen. Ahmed Awad Ibn Auf, who later ceded power to Military Inspector General and Army Chief Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan;

Whereas Lt. Gen. Burhan stated that his Transitional Military Council is committed to transferring power to a civilian government, but the Council has sought to maintain the military's dominance in negotiations with opposition representatives on a transitional arrangement;

Whereas protesters maintained their vigil in Khartoum, calling for the military to transfer power to a civilian-led transitional authority that would end Sudan's civil wars, address the country's economic crisis, and lay the foundations for democratic elections;

Whereas the Transitional Military Council has not met the demands of the protesters and the African Union Peace and Security Council to "step aside and hand over power to a civilian-led transitional authority, in accordance with the will of the people and constitutional order";

Whereas on June 3rd, elements of Sudanese security forces, led by the Rapid Support Forces, violently dispersed the sit-in of the protesters and killed over 100 people, with hundreds more injured and reports of rape and other human rights abuses committed;

Whereas negotiations between the Transitional Military Council and the opposition coalition, known as the Forces for Freedom and Change, on the composition and powers of a transitional government are complicated by the role of individuals in the Military Council who have been accused of war crimes, by the Council's insistence on Islamic Sharia law as the basis for laws, and by security forces use of live fire against protesters in the cities of Nuala, Zalingei, and Khartoum, resulting in multiple deaths, during the talks; and

Whereas in the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004, Congress expressed its sense that individuals found to be involved in the planning or carrying out of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity should not hold leadership positions in the Government of Sudan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) stands in solidarity with the people of Sudan and strongly supports the right of the Sudanese people to assemble peacefully and express their legitimate demands for fundamental political change, including a democratic, civilian-led government;

(2) condemns the Government of Sudan's use of violence and arbitrary detention against peaceful protesters and the harassment and intimidation of medical professionals, journalists, human rights defenders, political opposition, and civil society actors;

(3) strongly supports an immediate transfer of power by the military to an inclusive, civilian-led government that reflects the aspirations of the Sudanese people and puts Sudan on the path toward democracy and peace;

(4) condemns efforts by regional actors to undermine negotiations between the Military Council and the protesters, including efforts to offer financial support to military leaders;

(5) encourages the African Union and its member states to continue supporting the Sudanese people's aspirations for democracy, justice, and peace;

(6) urges the United States Government to continue efforts to convene and work with the international community in support of a civilian-led government in Sudan;

(7) emphasizes that a more positive and productive relationship between the United States and Sudan requires meaningful political reform, greater accountability, and a clear demonstration by the Government of Sudan of greater respect for human rights;

(8) calls upon Sudanese authorities to—

(A) immediately cease attacks on protesters and civilians, respect the right to freedom of association and expression, and investigate protester deaths and pursue accountability for serious crimes and human rights abuses that have occurred in the past three decades;

(B) protect the rights of political parties, journalists, human rights defenders, religious minorities, and nongovernmental organizations to operate without interference and release political prisoners;

(C) lift the bureaucratic restrictions on, and facilitate unhindered access across the country for, humanitarian relief operations;

(D) introduce strong measures to create transparency and address the structural corruption and kleptocracy of the state;

(E) meaningfully engage with opposition forces in Darfur, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile with the aim of achieving a just and sustainable peace; and

(F) foster conditions for a viable transition to democracy, economic stability, and sustainable peace and development; and

(9) calls upon the people of Sudan to work together to resolve conflicts peacefully.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 432.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Representatives KILDEE, BILIRAKIS, and MCGOVERN, our Speaker pro tempore, for their hard work on this measure. I was glad to join as an original cosponsor, as well.

Sudan is at a critical moment, Mr. Speaker. Three months ago, when the Transitional Military Council, the TMC, seized power, one of my top concerns was when the reins will be turned

over to civilian authorities. Despite the possibility of a breakthrough between the TMC and the Forces of Freedom and Change, the FFC, I remain concerned that Sudanese security forces intend to tighten their grip on power once again and even more. The sad fact is, for the overwhelming majority of its history since independence, Sudan has been ruled by military dictatorships.

This group, the TMC, has shown the world who they really are, and it is not a pretty picture. On June 3, they turned on the peaceful prodemocracy movement, committing a brutal massacre at the movement's sit-in site.

Following that atrocity, the TMC shut the internet down in a blatant attempt to slow the momentum of antigovernment protesters and kill the prodemocracy movement in its infancy.

Now that internet access has slowly been restored, the world is getting its first glimpses of deeply disturbing images: Sudan's citizens being murdered, tortured, or raped in Khartoum and across the country last month.

These troubling developments start to make sense when we look at the cast of characters involved. The deputy of the TMC, General Mohamed Hamdan "Hemeti," leads the Rapid Support Forces. We know them as the Janjaweed, and we know that they have on their hands the blood of the Darfur genocide. Now, they are turning their violent tactics against the broader Sudanese population.

These are the same thugs responsible for the repression and economic mismanagement that characterized Omar al-Bashir's three blood-soaked decades in power. He is gone, but they continue to drive the country into the ground.

Thankfully, the Sudanese people are resilient. They continue to fight for their country's future, even in the face of violence and repression. Their civil society and diaspora networks have helped to shine a light on what the people in Sudan are enduring. They have had enough, and the United States and partners around the world need to have their backs.

This resolution underscores Congress' desire to see a civilian-led transition in Sudan, a transition free from violence and bloodshed. It is a good resolution. I am glad the House is considering it.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution condemning the attacks on peaceful protesters and supporting an immediate peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan. I thank Congressman KILDEE, Congressman BILIRAKIS, and Chairman ENGEL for their leadership on this issue.

For months, thousands of Sudanese peacefully took to the streets to pro-

test the brutal and oppressive dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir. In April, he was removed from office.

I condemn the brutal attacks against peaceful protesters that took place on June 3. Over 120 people were killed, and hundreds more were wounded. The security forces responsible for carrying out and orchestrating these heinous attacks must be held accountable.

While we are hopeful that the July 5 agreement on the composition of a transitional government will be officially signed and set into motion, there is still much more to be done to advance a true civilian-led democracy. We cannot tolerate spoilers of this process, particularly those who look to support the status quo and the military regime in Khartoum.

I support the diplomatic efforts of Special Envoy Booth and commend President Donald Trump's administration for convening high-level working groups to align other countries in supporting a peaceful and democratic future for Sudan. We must continue our engagement at the highest levels to stand with the Sudanese people and their struggle for freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the author of this bill.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. ENGEL, the chairman, for his leadership on this issue, and my friends Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WILSON, and, obviously, Mr. MCGOVERN, who have been working on this with me, along with Congresswoman BASS.

Congress cannot sit idly by while one nation kills its own people, blocks all communication to the outside world, and commits serious human rights violations. The people of Sudan, like all people, deserve the ability to determine their own future. They deserve a civilian-led democratic society. They deserve to not have to live in constant fear of violence.

It is for these reasons that we offer this resolution to affirm the position of the United States Congress, despite views that we may differ on, on other matters, and that we come together, Democrats and Republicans, across the political spectrum to denounce the trampling of human rights that is taking place in Sudan, to call on the Transitional Military Council to immediately stop any violence against those civilian protesters, and to begin the immediate transition to a civilian-led government.

The Sudanese people have a right to be free. They have a right to a democratic society. They have a right to not have to deal with the kind of oppression that they have experienced.

This resolution also lays out some very clear areas where Sudan simply has to improve if it wants to have a

productive relationship with the U.S. I believe that the U.S. should be engaged with Sudan, but we have to insist that the Sudan that we engage with and that the Sudan that we work with is a nation that is led by its own people and not subjected to the horrific examples of persecution that we have seen.

For three decades, the people of Sudan have suffered under terrible repression. Now that we have this moment where the page is turned, the worst thing would be to succeed one terrible period of oppression with another. That is why it is somewhat hopeful to see that there are some signs that some view as reason for optimism.

We have to make sure that this transition to a civilian-led government is something that actually takes place and that we don't allow Sudan to simply go back to the kind of military-led repression that we saw under Bashir. That is completely unacceptable.

While the situation is fluid, we have an opportunity to state with a very clear voice from the Congress of the United States, from the American people, to the people of Sudan and to the people of the world that the world is watching. We are paying attention to what takes place. We have a stake in the freedom of the people of Sudan.

That is why we are speaking up with one voice today. I am honored to join with my colleagues, as I said, across the aisle and across the political spectrum to speak with one voice on this subject. Congress has a chance to make a difference on this. The people of the United States stand with the people of Sudan. We deserve better, and they deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all of my colleagues to join us in this resolution and call for freedom and justice for the people of Sudan.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the primary Republican cosponsor of this measure.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILSON for yielding. He is a great friend, as well as the chairman. I thank Chairman ENGEL for putting this on the floor. Of course, I thank my colead, Mr. KILDEE.

Sudan is at a critical juncture between choosing freedom and democracy or continuing with authoritarian oppression. This resolution today is a powerful message for the United States that we stand behind the civilian protesters and a civilian-led government.

Yesterday's violence and the horrific brutality on June 3 proved that elements of the old regime are still alive and well, unfortunately. Bad actors within the military, such as the Rapid Support Forces, should be condemned for their actions and have no place in Sudan's future.

The United States and the international community need to maintain pressure on the military council to

cease all attacks on peaceful protestors and civilians and to respect their right to assemble peacefully. The Rapid Support Forces and other perpetrators of violence also need to be held accountable for their violent acts. These bad actors have no place in a peaceful and democratic Sudan.

Again, I am proud to be the colead on this timely resolution with Mr. KILDEE. I thank him for his leadership.

One story that I like to tell is when I was in Sudan, in March, I met with a United States citizen who was a political prisoner there, detained since January 4, away from his four children and his wife. He went over to Sudan a few years ago to take care of his mother, his elderly mother, and I respect that tremendously. He allowed his brother, who also is a U.S. citizen, to come to the United States and practice medicine.

Well, in any case, the gentleman was detained because he took his body to a peaceful rally, a peaceful protest, a democratic rally for democracy, and he was detained and put in jail. I met with him outside of jail and he told me his story. We demanded his release, and within a few days he was released, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, this just tells you that we have a voice here, as United States Members of Congress, and we need to use it for a good cause. This is definitely a good cause.

□ 1530

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), chairwoman of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support H. Res. 432, condemning the attacks on the Sudanese people peacefully protesting their right to have a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan. The legislation emphasizes a positive and productive relationship between the United States and Sudan and demands significant political reforms and more accountability.

The situation in Sudan escalated in December 2018 and has been unstable ever since. The Transitional Military Council used Sudanese security forces to shoot peaceful protesters, leaving bodies in the Nile River. They shut down the internet for a month to try and disparage citizens from a united front and blocked journalists from doing their jobs, a clear violation of the freedom of the press.

The people of Sudan have the right to assemble and demand that the Sudanese security forces negotiate without being killed or wounded. The international community and its partners must continue to demand that the security forces stop assaulting their own citizens and adhere to the July 5 agreement.

The recent attempted coup was a ploy to try and deter the agreement,

and the Transitional Military Council nor the civilian-led faction must deviate from this process. This agreement is too important, and the future of Sudan is at stake.

The agreement would potentially end months of atrocities and gross human rights abuses that have destabilized the country. The negotiated deal would have five Military Council members, five civilian members, and one civilian member chosen by both parties. The military member would lead the council for the first 21 months and then transition into a civilian-led council thereafter. This is a step in the right direction because both the Transitional Military Council and civilian-led groups negotiated the settlement.

I am also calling on the Sudanese Traditional Military Council to immediately open up the internet because it was a clear violation of the freedom of the press. Journalists must also be able to do their jobs and report and write on stories without being intimidated or physically harmed.

I support this resolution because it encourages the rights and freedoms of all Sudanese people and their right to peacefully protest and assemble and their right to a civilian-led government.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the chairman of the Rules Committee and one of the most vocal Members on Sudan in Congress. He has done great work for many years.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise in support of H. Res. 432, and I want to commend my good friend and colleague, Mr. KILDEE, for his leadership on this issue. I also want to commend the incredible work of Chairman ENGEL for all he has done on this issue, as well as Chairwoman BASS and Mr. BILIRAKIS and others here.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to express my unwavering support for the people of Sudan in their long-held desire to live in a democratic nation, a nation where all the Sudanese people live in dignity and where their rights and freedoms are respected and protected.

For three decades, the people of Sudan have suffered under the brutal, genocidal regime of Omar al-Bashir. They were murdered, mutilated, bombed, starved, imprisoned, tortured, and raped by Bashir's army, air force, police, intelligence unit, and paramilitary allies, formerly known as the Janjaweed and now organized as the Sudanese Rapid Support Forces.

Villages were burned to the ground, churches destroyed, radio stations and the press shut down, protests violently repressed, and food and medicine denied to populations at risk.

Last December, the people of Sudan rose up in massive protests across the

country and said: Enough. No more. The time for change is now.

On April 11, Bashir was removed from office by the Sudanese military. But instead of turning the government over to the civilian-led council, they took power for themselves.

On May 16, 92 Members of Congress sent a bipartisan, bicameral letter to the administration expressing support for a civilian-led transition in Sudan and concern about the military's escalating violence against the peaceful protesters, which I include in the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2019.

Hon. MIKE POMPEO,
Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

STEVEN MNUCHIN,
Secretary of the Treasury, U.S. Department of
the Treasury, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY POMPEO AND SECRETARY MNUCHIN: We write to express our deep concern about the current situation in Sudan and our support for a rapid transfer of power to a civilian-led transitional government committed to laying the foundations for democracy in the country. This is a critical moment for Sudan, one that came about because the Sudanese people took to the streets to demand it. It is also critical for the United States to support Sudanese citizens' demands for real democratic change.

We welcome the April 18th statement by the State Department supporting "a transition to a peaceful and democratic Sudan led by civilians who represent the diversity of Sudanese society," and expressing support for the "will of the Sudanese people" for "a transitional government that is inclusive and respectful of human rights and the rule of law." We appreciate the efforts of the Africa Bureau to update congressional offices about the changing situation in Sudan. We also acknowledge the African Union's condemnation of the military takeover as a coup d'état and its demand that the military "step aside and hand over power to a transitional civilian-led political authority, in accordance with the will of the people" by June 3rd. We also welcome U.S. efforts to bring together like-minded nations and donors to emphasize international support for a civilian-led transition.

The military leadership who have taken power are attempting to create the appearance of change, but elements and structures of the old regime remain. The Transitional Military Council (TMC) does not meet the aspirations so clearly articulated by months of peaceful pro-democracy protests that demanded an inclusive, civilian-led democratic change. A government dominated by the military is not the goal of the Sudanese people and the longer the protestors' demands remain unfulfilled, there is increased probability of conflict like the violence against protestors, deaths and injuries that occurred this week.

We support your decision to continue Sudan's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) and to suspend Phase II discussions. Congress also has a role to play in law regarding changes to Sudan's status as a state sponsor of terrorism. We encourage close consultation with and the consent of Congress should the Administration seek to alter the SST designation or provide further economic relief to Sudan, actions which at the current moment would be inappropriate and premature. We understand that rapidly changing events on the ground might require a corresponding change in U.S. policy and we are ready to work as equal partners in deci-

sions that advance civilian democratic governance, respect for human rights, including religious freedom, and rule of law.

The United States must send a clear message that the path to international credibility and American partnership will only come through credible civilian leadership. We encourage you to use all mechanisms and leverage to facilitate, as quickly as possible, an inclusive civilian-led transition to democratic governance. The United States should make clear to foreign governments that have expressed support for the TMC that a civilian transition that reflects the will of the Sudanese people is nonnegotiable.

In this regard, we are dismayed by the announcement from the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that they intend to provide Sudan with \$3 billion in budget support and aid. We urge you to use all appropriate diplomatic and political channels to discourage such a transfer of funds. If funds are disbursed, this will likely encourage the TMC to delay a civilian-led transition.

The Sudanese people will rightly determine matters of justice regarding the crimes of the previous regime, given the millions of people who suffered and perished under its deliberate and repressive actions. It is important for you, Mr. Secretaries, to emphasize that former President Bashir and other officials and military officers of his regime are internationally indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide. It is an urgent matter of international law that they face trial and judgement on these charges.

There are additional actions that we strongly encourage you to take in your respective capacities as Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury:

When a civilian-led transitional council is established—one supported by the pro-democracy movement and the Sudanese people—it is vital that the United States press for unimpeded access by international humanitarian aid agencies so that they may finally deliver, without interference or conditions, emergency relief to populations in conflict areas such as South Kordofan, Blue Nile and northern Darfur. We understand this is also a current priority for the U.S. and other aid donors, but unobstructed delivery of humanitarian aid to these regions is likely to remain stalled until inclusive civilian rule is established.

To support and increase the capacity of civilian leadership and civil society, the United States should provide transitional civilian authorities and entities with technical and capacity-building assistance.

The United States, in consultation with Congress, should signal its willingness to engage with and support international financial institutions in aiding Sudan once civilian-led transitional authorities are in place and functioning.

The State Department should not issue visas to any Sudanese official to travel to the United States until credible civilian-led government is in place and functioning independently. Nor should any Sudanese or TMC official be issued a visa who has been internationally indicted, or who might be subject to justice in Sudan for war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

Treasury, in consultation with the State Department and relevant congressional committees, should continue to use the sanctions authorities provided under the Global Magnitsky program to target key Sudanese individuals, officials, entities and networks.

Recognizing Sudan's extensive corruption, money-laundering operations and theft of state resources, it is critical for the United States to provide leadership on preventing funds from being moved out of the country

during this period when the former Bashir regime is being pushed aside but current regime structures remain in place. The Treasury Department should issue public advisories to banks and other financial institutions regarding the risk of such capital flight and other high-risk transactions from Sudan, such as the gold trade. This would be an action like the one taken by Treasury in 2014 related to Ukraine. It is also critical that the Treasury Department continue to track and respond aggressively to similar transfers of funds that occurred prior to Bashir's downfall.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent concerns and recommendations. We look forward to working together and developing a new policy framework consistent with American values and the aspirations of the Sudanese people.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern; Ann Wagner; Karen Bass; Jeffrey A. Merkley; Todd Young; Christopher H. Smith; Chris Van Hollen; Tina Smith; Gary C. Peters; Roger F. Wicker; Richard J. Durbin; Richard Blumenthal; Elizabeth Warren.

Eliot L. Engel; Barbara Lee; Adam B. Schiff; Nita M. Lowey; Frank Pallone, Jr.; Maxine Waters; Zoe Lofgren; Raúl M. Grijalva; Michael T. McCaul; Gus M. Bilirakis; Barry Loudermilk; Steve Watkins; Mark Meadows; Elijah E. Cummings; John A. Yarmuth; John Lewis.

Naydia M. Velázquez; David Trone; Chellie Pingree; Gwen S. Moore; Gregory W. Meeks; Yvette D. Clarke; Jan Schakowsky; Donald M. Payne, Jr.; Peter A. DeFazio; Eleanor Holmes Norton; Sheila Jackson Lee; Grace Meng; Jared Huffman; Bonnie Watson Coleman; Federica S. Wilson; Joaquin Castro.

Earl Blumenauer; Mike Doyle; Pramila Jayapal; Jim Costa; David N. Cicilline; Suzanne Bonamici; Steve Cohen; Ihan Omar; Jamie Raskin; Bobby L. Rush; Mark Pocan; Daniel T. Kildee; Andy Levin; Seth Moulton; Chrissy Houlahan; Jennifer Wexton.

José E. Serrano; Donald S. Beyer, Jr.; Alan S. Lowenthal; Darren Soto; Val Butler Demings; Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.; Stephen F. Lynch; Ruben Gallego; Anna G. Eshoo; Emanuel Cleaver, II; Peter Welch; Albio Sires; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; André Carson; Lori Trahan; Mark DeSaulnier.

Paul D. Tonko; Danny K. Davis; Ron Kind; Ro Khanna; Rosa L. DeLauro; Ann McLane Kuster; William R. Keating; Adriano Espaillat; Katherine M. Clark; Brian Higgins; Richard E. Neal; Joseph P. Kennedy, III; Eddie Bernice Johnson; Ayanna Pressley; Norma J. Torres.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we had good reason to be concerned. Just 2 weeks later, in a clear demonstration of how little has changed, the Sudanese police and RSF, under the leadership of the Transitional Military Council's second in command, General Hemeti violently attacked the unarmed protesters, killing, wounding, and raping hundreds.

In an act of great cowardice and complicity, the Sudanese military chose to withdraw from the scene or stood by and watched the attack, doing nothing to protect the people. The Transitional Military Council then shut down the internet so information about the massacre couldn't come out. Last week,

they were forced to restore the internet, and the world has now seen hundreds of videos documenting this heinous crime.

On Saturday, thousands demonstrated to mark the 40 days since the deadly crackdown. Right now, African mediators are attempting to broker the details of a power-sharing agreement between the forces of freedom and change people's alliance in the Transitional Military Council.

I hope that they are successful in reaching a deal that guarantees a genuine civilian-led transition and democratic governance, but I don't want to see the civilian-led democratic reform movement undermined and forced to accept a bad deal, one where power and the corrupt and brutal structures of the former regime remain under military control.

Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I have been engaged on the issue of Sudan for nearly 15 years. On April 28, 2006, I led Members of Congress, religious, and NGO leaders in an act of civil disobedience at the Sudanese Embassy to highlight the atrocities taking place in Darfur. It was my first of three such direct actions.

On May 1 of that year, I joined over 50 of those people on The National Mall to protest the genocide in Darfur. I took my young son and daughter to see how people from all walks of life came together in solidarity with the people of Sudan and demanded action.

Mr. Speaker, my children are now grown and in college, so I am not exaggerating when I say that what we are seeing happening today in Sudan is a once-in-a-generation moment for the people of Sudan. We cannot be silent.

Along with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I want the people of Sudan to know that we stand with them, that we have always stood with them, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the co-chair of the Progressive Caucus.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 432, a very important resolution that condemns the attacks on peaceful protesters and supports an immediate, peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan.

I am so incredibly inspired by the people of Sudan who organized peacefully and adhered consistently to a nonviolent strategy of protest in order to achieve a democratic future for their country.

I especially want to call attention to the Sudanese women, who played an outsized role in holding strong in the face of violence, danger, and even death. In the words of Andrew Gilmour, the Assistant Secretary-General for human rights at OHCHR:

What the world has seen in the past month and still now will go down in history as the greatest mass non-violent movement of our generation.

Because of this nonviolent people's movement that refused to accept no for an answer, even in the face of brutal and barbaric violence from government-linked militias, the people of Sudan have achieved a real opportunity for peace. Just last week, civilian leaders and the Transitional Military Council reached an agreement where they will share power to pursue a democratic future.

In order for that peaceful transition to work, there must also be justice for those who were killed in the June 3 massacre through an independent investigation with real consequences for the perpetrators, along with true civilian oversight of the security forces.

I am heartbroken for every life that was lost, but I am also deeply hopeful because we have seen the shining light of courage, resilience, and commitment to nonviolent resistance movements and to the possibilities they bring for lasting peace. The United States must stand with the people of Sudan and do everything in our power to help achieve that peace and stability.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, I just want to recognize a very important person in my home State of Washington, Mubarak Elamin, who has been with me on this issue of Sudan, his birth country, in making sure that we have all the information we need.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank my colleagues for offering this timely resolution to condemn the brutal attacks on peaceful protesters and stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan.

The United States must continue our efforts to support a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan and take action against those who wish to undermine the will of the Sudanese people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and, of course the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. MCGOVERN.

What happens in Sudan in the coming weeks and months is a high priority for the United States. It is in our national security interest to support a peaceful, civilian-led political transition in Sudan and is consistent with our values to support the democratic aspirations of a people who have suffered under a brutal, violent rule for so long.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 432, a resolution

“Condemning the attacks on peaceful protesters and supporting an immediate peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan.”

H. Res. 432 is a bipartisan resolution calling on the Sudanese government to transition power to a civilian led government, to respect democratic principles, and to end all violence against its citizens.

Since the ousting of President Al-Bashir on April 11, 2019 the Transitional Military Council (TMC) has seized power halting the proposed transition to a representative democracy.

On June 3, 2019 multiple peaceful protesters were killed in Sudan as the Sudanese government continues to perpetuate violence against its own people.

Protests in Sudan continue, however, as the Sudanese people call for a transition from a military ruling council to true democratic governance.

It is critical for the United States Congress to stand with the women and men advocating and speaking up for the Sudanese people.

I applaud the efforts and sacrifices pro-democracy activists have made and they ought to know that the United States fully supports their desire for freedom and peace, and strongly condemns the violent and oppressive tactics of the Transitional Military Council.

When enacted, H. Res. 432 will lay out areas where the Sudanese government must improve if it wants to continue a productive engagement with the United States, including political reform and a respect for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 432 to confront these atrocities we have seen in Sudan which pose a strong threat the democratic values we work to protect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 432, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ENGEL. 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.

RECOGNIZING WIDENING THREATS TO FREEDOMS OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 345) recognizing widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, reaffirming the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2019, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.