

As part of our close partnership with Israel, the United States has long sought to help Israel counter that threat. We have worked together on development of the Iron Dome aerial defense system. We continue to work together on counter-tunnelling technology.

And again, now, with this bill, we will help Israel to counter Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad by denying these groups the use of funds for their terror operations.

For over a decade, Mr. Speaker, the executive branch, across multiple administrations, has sanctioned many individuals as well as a select number of foreign entities that are associated with Hamas, all under the general authority of broad executive order.

This bill will codify and standardize those sanctions in statute and require the administration to comprehensively assess whether other supporters of Hamas should be sanctioned who have thus far remained unaffected by their support of this terrorist group.

The bill also requires the President to report on whether foreign governments are supporting Hamas or the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Mr. Speaker, we know well that Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, and Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad are among Iran's many terrorist beneficiaries. In fact, it was reported just a few days ago a senior Hamas delegation was in Tehran.

This legislation will ensure that the Iranian regime is held to account for its maligned activity undermining peace and security in the Middle East. Bahrain's Foreign Minister said, last week, were it not for Iran's support for Hamas, there would be a better chance of achieving peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The goal of this legislation is to cut off Iran's support for terrorism and, therefore, make peace more probable.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1850, the Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act, bipartisan legislation that I was proud to introduce with my good friend and Republican colleague, Congressman BRIAN MAST from Florida.

I also thank my good friend, Mr. SMITH from New Jersey, for his leadership.

I want to thank House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ELIOT ENGEL and Ranking Member MIKE MCCUAUL, who were original cosponsors of our legislation, for their support and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Hamas is a heinous terrorist group responsible for the murders of innocent American and Israeli citizens, which has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the State Department since 1997. It is well

known for firing rockets and digging terror tunnels into Israel and using Gazans, including women and children, as human shields. In fact, in May, terrorist groups like Hamas and PIJ in Gaza fired more than 600 rockets at Israel in just 36 hours.

It is critical that the United States and our allies continue to isolate Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad by cutting them off at the source, including Iran.

As the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, the Iranian regime provides more than \$70 million annually to the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza.

□ 1645

Just yesterday, Iran's supreme leader met with the political deputy chief of Hamas and renewed Iran's commitment to supporting this terrorist organization in its armed struggle against Israel.

Iran is also a principal funder of PIJ, helping the group amass a stockpile of more than 8,000 rockets aimed at Israel, an arsenal even larger than that of Hamas.

PIJ has also claimed credit for multiple terrorist attacks in Israel, including a gruesome suicide bus bombing in April 1995 that killed New Jersey student Alisa Flatow, a graduate of the Frisch School in my district in Paramus. And I will say forever that her memory should never be forgotten.

H.R. 1850 would require the President to submit to Congress an annual report for the next 3 years identifying foreign entities who assist Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or an affiliate or successor, and impose at least two or more crippling sanctions.

This bill would also crack down on foreign terrorist governments that support these groups, by suspending U.S. foreign aid, making it harder for them to receive loans or technical assistance, and tying up their credit.

This bipartisan bill will strengthen existing sanctions to weaken these terrorist groups that threaten our ally Israel, undermine peace, and further destabilize the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critical legislation and in the fight against terror.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for allotting me this time, and commend my colleagues, Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. MAST, for bringing this bill.

I rise in support of H.R. 1850 and applaud the House for taking action to combat terrorist activity in the Middle East.

This bill sanctions individuals and foreign governments that knowingly and materially assist Hamas and the

Palestinian Islamic Jihad or an affiliate or successor entity.

These groups have been designated as foreign terrorist organizations by the Department of State since 1997. There is no disputing that they have and continue to sow instability and terror, including by indiscriminately launching countless rockets and mortars at Israel, attacks from subterranean tunnels, and even the use of human shields.

To achieve two states for two peoples living side by side in peace and security, we cannot let extremist voices control the narrative and we must always confront these terrorist activities.

But let me be clear: This bill does not target the vast majority of Palestinian people who long for peace. Rather, it solely goes after Hamas and PIJ and those who assist their terrorist activities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank our ranking member, Mr. MCCUAUL of Texas, and our colleagues who worked so hard on this good, bipartisan measure. I want to thank Mr. MAST, for whom I have enormous respect, and I thank Mr. SMITH, who is always there fighting the good fight and always consistent in saying what he believes.

Let me just say, the actions of Hamas, of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, are a constant danger to innocent Israelis and innocent Palestinians. They are also a terrible roadblock that stand in the way of Israelis and Palestinians ever finding peace.

These terrorist groups don't want peace. They know that their violent tactics will never contribute to a peaceful resolution. They want to see Israel wiped off the map, plain and simple.

We need to crack down on them and we need to crack down on those who stand behind them in the shadows quietly fueling their violence that they carry out.

This bill would give us more tools to cut off the flow of resources, and that is why it is so important.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support this bill and I urge all Members to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

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 pass the bill, H.R. 1850, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced

that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1327. An act to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2092, and for other purposes.

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON AND ARMED GROUPS TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL CAMEROONIAN CITIZENS

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 358) calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue a broad-based dialogue without preconditions to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 358

Whereas many Anglophone Cameroonian have long felt marginalized by official actions and policies of the Government of Cameroon, including the abolishment of a federal form of government, which was the constitutional basis under which English-speaking Southern Cameroons entered into the union, and replacing it with a unitary state dominated by the Francophone majority;

Whereas, beginning in late 2016, protests organized by lawyers, teachers, and students were violently repressed by the Government of Cameroon, leading to numerous deaths and imprisonments, including of journalists, teachers, lawyers, and an Anglophone judge on the country's Supreme Court;

Whereas the conflict escalated in late September and early October 2017, when Cameroonian security forces brutally cracked down on peaceful Anglophone civilian demonstrators, resulting in dozens of deaths and leaving over 100 injured;

Whereas, in 2017, separatists launched a campaign to pressure school officials in the Northwest and Southwest Anglophone regions to go on strike as part of a boycott against the Government of Cameroon, and reportedly began burning school buildings, threatening education officials with violence if they did not comply with a boycott, and kidnapping for ransom children and teachers who defied the boycott;

Whereas numerous human rights monitors have documented armed separatists killing traditional leaders and targeting civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, who are perceived to be supporting or working with the Government of Cameroon, and reports indicate that armed separatists have killed scores of security force personnel;

Whereas the security forces of the Government of Cameroon have attacked medical facilities and health workers in the Northwest and Southwest regions;

Whereas numerous credible reports from human rights monitors, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, have documented the excessive use of force by government security forces against Cameroonian civilians living in the Anglophone regions, including the burning of villages, the use of live ammunition against protestors, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, sexual abuse, and killing of civilians, including women, children, and the elderly;

Whereas the Department of State has expressed serious concern over the manner in which the government has used force to unlawfully restrict the rights to free expression and peaceful protest that are protected under the Cameroonian Constitution and international law;

Whereas the government has charged journalists, social activists, and members of political opposition parties with terrorism-related crimes and prosecuted them in military tribunals;

Whereas the Government of Cameroon arrested opposition leader Maurice Kamto and roughly 150 members of the Cameroon Renaissance Movement party following peaceful protests on January 26, 2019, charging them with crimes that could result in the death penalty and handling their cases at the Military Tribunal even though they are civilians;

Whereas the Government of Cameroon continued to place bans on Cameroon Renaissance Movement's attempts to hold peaceful protests, and civil society reported that security forces interfered with MRC registration processes in Yaoundé, Douala, and Bafoussam in February 2019;

Whereas the Government of Cameroon has repeatedly restricted freedoms of expression by shutting down the internet, harassing and detaining journalists, refusing licenses to independent media, and intensifying political attacks against the independent press;

Whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated in April 2019 that more than 530,000 people were internally displaced in areas affected by the Anglophone conflict;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that more than 32,000 Cameroonian refugees have registered in Nigeria;

Whereas the Department of State has expressly called on the Government of Cameroon to respect the rights, including the right to due process, of 47 Cameroonian forcibly returned in January 2018 from Nigerian custody to Cameroonian authorities, many of whom had reportedly submitted asylum claims in Nigeria; and

Whereas ten of the 47 Cameroonian forcibly returned from Nigeria now face charges before a military court punishable by the death penalty, while the other thirty-seven reportedly remain in detention without charge: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns the abuses committed in Cameroon's Anglophone regions by the Government of Cameroon security forces and armed groups, including extrajudicial killings and detentions, the use of force against nonviolent civilians and protestors, and violations of the freedoms of press, expression, and assembly;

(2) affirms that the United States continues to hold the Government of Cameroon responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens, regardless of political views or beliefs or the regions in which they reside, in accordance with Cameroon's international obligations and Cameroon's own Constitution;

(3) urges all parties, including political opposition groups, to exercise restraint and to ensure that protests remain peaceful;

(4) urges the Government of Cameroon to—

(A) initiate broad-based dialogue without preconditions and make a credible, full faith effort to work with religious and community leaders in the Anglophone region to address grievances and seek nonviolent solutions to resolve conflict and constitutional reforms that would protect minority concerns, such as reconstituting a Federal system;

(B) follow through on the initiatives developed to address grievances, including the

Commission of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, the Ministry of Decentralization, and the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, that currently offer no visible evidence of having played a constructive role in resolving the crisis;

(C) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonian citizens, including political activists and journalists;

(D) ensure that any security operations are conducted in accordance with international human rights standards, including efforts to ensure security forces only use force under appropriate circumstances;

(E) transparently investigate all allegations of human rights violations committed in the Anglophone regions and take the necessary measures to prevent arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances, deaths in custody, and inhumane prison conditions;

(F) promptly charge or release all those detained in the context of the Anglophone crisis, including the Cameroonian forcibly returned from Nigeria, and ensure that any future detainees are treated with due process, in line with Cameroon's penal code;

(G) allow unfettered access to humanitarian and health care workers in accordance with humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence;

(H) release the leaders and members of the Cameroon Renaissance Movement party who were arrested following their peaceful protests, and ensure that this party, like others, can participate unfettered in upcoming municipal, parliamentary, and regional elections;

(I) release human rights defenders, civil society activists, political prisoners, journalists, trade unionists, teachers, and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained without trial or charge;

(J) ensure that detainees are treated fairly and humanely, with proper judicial proceedings, including a registry of those detained by the Cameroonian security forces, and with full access to legal resources; and

(K) ensure that Cameroon's antiterrorism legislation is used only to prosecute offenses that would be considered acts of terrorism under international legal standards, and cease to use this legislation to sanction activities that are protected by national and international guarantees of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association with others; and

(L) urges the separatist groups to—

(A) engage with Cameroonian government officials, as well as civil society and religious leaders, in a broad-based dialogue without preconditions to peacefully express grievances and credibly engage in nonviolent efforts to resolve the conflict;

(B) immediately stop committing human rights abuses, including killings of civilians, use of child soldiers, torture, kidnapping, and extortion;

(C) end the school boycott immediately and cease attacks on schools, teachers, and education officials, and allow for the safe return of all students to class;

(D) end incitement to violence and hate speech on the part of the diaspora; and

(E) immediately release all civilians illegally detained or kidnapped in the Anglophone Northwest and Southwest regions.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.