

She went on to say: “Whether it is providing surveillance, aircraft training, pesticides, and training about how to use the pesticides in order to avoid environmental damage and so forth—it is a very important enabling complement to the other work we do on food security.”

□ 1600

Finally, I would like to call attention to the yeoman’s work that was done by our past ambassador to the United Nations Food Agencies, Kip Tom. This is an absolutely critical position that tends to be overlooked.

He advised us, provided unbelievably important insights and information that helped us craft a response to push the previous administration to do more. And, hopefully, this will help coordinate everything.

I would note, parenthetically, that President Biden has nominated Cindy McCain to fill that role at FAO, and I look forward to working with her and the rest of the administration on this important initiative.

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), the lead Democrat on this bill.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, once again I thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing H.R. 1079, the Desert Locust Control Act to the House floor today. As chair of the subcommittee, I am glad to colead this important bill with Ranking Member SMITH.

Ranking Member SMITH has been the lead on this issue for several years. The current Desert Locust Control issue, which predominantly plagues East Africa, is the worst it has been in 70 years, and is causing serious famine and instability in the region.

During a recent House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, USAID Administrator Samantha Power confirmed the need to address the millions of people facing food scarcity. This is compounded with the global resurgence of a new COVID-19 variant; although, in Africa, most people do not yet have access to the vaccine. So this is not just an issue of a pest; this is an issue that affects health systems, child education, local economies, and political stability.

H.R. 1079 is a great first step to alleviate the locust problem in East Africa by aiming to set up an interagency working group to develop a strategy on combating the locust by meeting periodically and annually, and reporting progress to Congress. This bill would also allow the interagency working group to review the effectiveness of regional and multilateral efforts to control the desert locust outbreak and the coordination among relevant U.S. Government agencies, regional governments, and international organizations, including the World Food Program and the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SMITH for his leadership on this bill, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 1079.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to close.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank my good friend and colleague, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, the chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. We have worked so close on so many issues. Sometimes she takes the lead; sometimes I take the lead, but we are always striving for that same outcome, and I thank her for her great support for this. It really is an honor to work with the gentlewoman.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, given the incredible damage locusts can inflict in such a short time, it is critical that our ability to evaluate and respond to these outbreaks is efficient across our government, including the U.S. mission to the Food and Agriculture Organization and to the USAID.

That is exactly what this bill will do to help support regions that were already struggling with food security from being further impacted by locust swarms consuming their crops.

I thank the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, my colleague, Representative SMITH, for introducing this important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1079, 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.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

#### BASSAM BARABANDI REWARDS FOR JUSTICE ACT

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1036) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards under the Depart-

ment of State’s rewards program relating to information regarding individuals or entities engaged in activities in contravention of United States or United Nations sanctions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1036

*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 “Bassam Barabandi Rewards for Justice Act”.

#### SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE REWARDS PROGRAM.

Subsection (b) of section 36 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph.

“(13) the identification or location of an individual or entity that—

“(A) knowingly, directly or indirectly, imports, exports, or reexports to, into, or from any country any goods, services, or technology controlled for export by the United States because of the use of such goods, services, or technology in contravention of a United States or United Nations sanction; or

“(B) knowingly, directly or indirectly, provides training, advice, or other services or assistance, or engages in significant financial transactions, relating to any such goods, services, or technology in contravention of such sanction.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HOULAHAN. 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.R. 1036.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1036, the Bassam Barabandi Rewards for Justice Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by my friend, the gentleman from South Carolina, Congressman JOE WILSON, and the gentleman from Florida, TED DEUTCH.

Mr. Speaker, whistleblower programs have proven themselves effective over and over again. In 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice collected \$3.7 billion in settlements and judgments from False Claim Act cases against companies and individuals who had defrauded the government. Of the \$3.7 billion, 92 percent came from cases brought by whistleblowers. Whistleblowers have easier access to evidence of misdeeds than outside law enforcement investigators, deeper knowledge of the bad

actors engaged in unlawful behavior, and greater insights into the methods through which fraud or theft is being carried out.

This bipartisan bill would authorize the Department of State to offer rewards for information about the identity or location of individuals who defy sanctions imposed by the United States or by the United Nations.

This legislation builds on several existing programs that provide rewards of information leading to the arrest or conviction of criminals engaging in human trafficking, smuggling, or other transnational crimes.

This bill will also increase compliance with American and international sanctions programs and, therefore, serves a valuable role promoting human rights, good governance, and the rule of law around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILSON and Mr. DEUTCH for their diligent work on this legislation, and I encourage all Members to join me in supporting it.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Rewards for Justice Act introduced by our good friends, JOE WILSON and Congressman DEUTCH. It is a good bipartisan bill, and I think it will really make a difference.

The bill would expand the Rewards for Justice program at the State Department to authorize rewards for individuals coming forward with information on sanctions evasion practices.

The bill was inspired by Bassam Barabandi, a Syrian defector and former diplomat at the Syrian embassy in Washington, who worked to provide passports to critics of the criminal Assad regime.

For years after his defection, Bassam lobbied the U.S. Government with information on Syrian oligarchs close to Assad, detailing their sanctions evasion practices. Bassam's assistance highlighted the need to create a clear mechanism to incentivize individuals to come forward with this kind of vital information.

The legislation will do just that and ultimately enhance compliance with U.S. and international sanctions, increase confidence in the rule of law, and bring criminals and rogue regimes seeking to circumvent U.S. law to justice.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is vital to helping the United States protect human rights and the rule of law around the world.

By allowing the State Department to compensate individuals for bringing forward evidence of sanctions evasion and criminal misconduct by bad actors, America will be better equipped to punish those who flout the rule of law.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives WILSON and DEUTCH for putting forward this key legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1036.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## DIVIDED FAMILIES REUNIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 826) to require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members in North Korea, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 209]

YEAS—415

Adams	Barr	Boebert	Good (VA)	Maloney,
Aderholt	Barragán	Bonamici	Gooden (TX)	Carolyn B.
Aguilar	Bass	Bost	Gosar	Maloney, Sean
Allen	Beatty	Bourdeaux	Gottheimer	Mann
Allred	Bentz	Bowman	Granger	Manning
Amodei	Bera	Boyle, Brendan	Graves (LA)	Massie
Armstrong	Bergman	F.	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Arrington	Beyer	Brady	Green, Al (TX)	McBath
Auchincloss	Bice (OK)	Brooks	Greene (GA)	McCarthy
Axne	Biggs	Brown	Griffith	McCaul
Babin	Billirakis	Brownley	Grijalva	McClain
Bacon	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan	Grothman	McClintock
Baird	Bishop (NC)	Buck	Guest	McCollum
Balderson	Blumenauer	Burchett	Guthrie	McEachin
Banks	Blunt Rochester	Burgess	Hagedorn	McGovern
			Harder (CA)	McHenry
			Harris	McKinley
			Harshbarger	McNerney
			Hartzler	Meeks
			Hayes	Meijer
			Hern	Meng
			Herrell	Meuser
			Herrera Beutler	Mfume
			Hice (GA)	Miller (IL)
			Higgins (NY)	Miller (WV)
			Hill	Miller-Meeks
			Himes	Moolenaar
			Hinson	Mooney
			Hollingsworth	Moore (AL)
			Horsford	Moore (UT)
			Houlahan	Moore (WI)
			Hoyer	Morelle
			Hudson	Moulton
			Huffman	Mrvan
			Issa	Murphy (FL)
			Jackson	Murphy (NC)
			Jackson Lee	Nadler
			Jacobs (CA)	Napolitano
			Jacobs (NY)	Neal
			Jayapal	Neguse
			Jeffries	Nehls
			Johnson (GA)	Newhouse
			Johnson (LA)	Newman
			Johnson (OH)	Norcross
			Johnson (SD)	Norman
			Johnson (TX)	Nunes
			Jones	O'Halleran
			Jordan	Oberholte
			Joyce (OH)	Ocasio-Cortez
			Joyce (PA)	Omar
			Kahele	Owens
			Kaptur	Palazzo
			Katko	Pallone
			Keating	Palmer
			Keller	Panetta
			Kelly (IL)	Pappas
			Kelly (MS)	Pascrell
			Kelly (PA)	Payne
			Khanna	Pence
			Kildee	Perlmutter
			Kilmer	Perry
			Kim (CA)	Peters
			Kim (NJ)	Pfluger
			Kind	Phillips
			Kinziger	Pingree
			Kirkpatrick	Porter
			Krishnamoorthi	Posey
			Kuster	Pressley
			Kustoff	Price (NC)
			LaHood	Quigley
			LaMalfa	Raskin
			Lamb	Reed
			Lamborn	Reschenthaler
			Langevin	Rice (NY)
			Larsen (WA)	Rice (SC)
			Larson (CT)	Rodgers (WA)
			Latta	Rogers (AL)
			LaTurner	Rogers (KY)
			Lawrence	Rose
			Lawson (FL)	Rosendale
			Lee (CA)	Ross
			Lee (NV)	Rouzer
			Leger Fernandez	Roy
			Lesko	Roybal-Allard
			Letlow	Ruiz
			Levin (CA)	Ruppersberger
			Levin (MI)	Rush
			Lieu	Rutherford
			Lofgren	Ryan
			Long	Salazar
			Loudermilk	Sánchez
			Lowenthal	Sarbanes
			Lucas	Scalise
			Luetkemeyer	Scanlon
			Luria	Schakowsky
			Lynch	Schiff
			Mace	Schneider
			Malinowski	Schrader
			Malliotakis	Schrier