

also rise to pledge my and the rest of the House of Representative's steadfast support of the people of Egypt as they stand resolute in the face of terror.

On July 23, 2005, a series of explosions throughout Sharm el-Sheikh; Egypt, resulted in the death of eighty four civilians and injured hundreds of others.

These murderers, whoever they are, have an absolute disregard for human life. They deliberately kill innocent people. These explosions were strategically placed in public areas, to kill the maximum number of people.

Sadly, we should not be surprised by the barbaric attacks in Sharm el-Sheikh. We have seen it before. We experienced our own tragedy from terrorism, losing 3,000 of our own citizens in one awful morning. Across the ocean that same fashion evil touched London, and fifty two people died with hundreds of others injured.

We are engaged in a global struggle against an apocalyptic radicalism that will take not only military power, but also the power of our ideology that values freedom and diversity. The latest attack in Egypt changes nothing. We still stand strong in the face of terror. We remain loyal to finding the terrorist wherever they may be, and capturing them from behind the rocks and shadows where they hide.

Egypt has been a strong and faithful ally throughout the war on terror. Her resolve is only strengthened by this latest attack. Our Egyptian friends will continue to fight terrorist with the same devotion they have already shown. Today we see the character Egyptians share. Many Egyptians returned to their public facilities the very next day, unafraid of the terrorists.

I have no doubt that our two nations will continue to face down terrorists and extremists. Our cause, which speaks to the noblest parts of the human soul, will win, just as it has throughout our shared times past.

May God bless America and Egypt.

COMMENTS BY A REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, too often, violence claims innocent lives in our world. We have seen suffering on our own soil, and all over the world in places like Indonesia, Israel, Palestine, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and recently, England. Amid this instability, for a Representative in the United States Congress to even hypothetically suggest that the United States would destroy Mecca, a holy site of one of the world's major religions, serves only to exacerbate the impression that U.S. actions in the Muslim world are part of a religious struggle—certainly a step backwards in national security. Sadly, such statements also perpetuate the unfortunate misunderstanding that an entire religion is responsible for the actions of a minority of religious extremists. These reckless comments do not reflect American values, and irresponsibly put American security at risk.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, not so long ago, 40 years ago, in many parts of the American South, it was almost impossible for people of color to register to vote. Just 40 years ago, people of color had to pay a poll tax and pass a so-called literacy test in some States in the South. There were black men and women who were professors in colleges and universities, black lawyers and black doctors who were told that they could not read or write well enough to register to vote. People were turned away from the courthouse when they attempted to register. Some were jailed.

Forty years ago, on March 7, 1965, about 600 black men and women, and a few young children attempted to peacefully march from Selma, Al, to Montgomery, to the State Capital, to dramatize to the world that people of color wanted to register to vote. And the world watched as we were met with night sticks, bull whips; we were trampled by horses and tear gassed.

Eight days after what became known as Bloody Sunday, President Johnson came to this very Chamber and spoke to a joint session of Congress. He started off that speech on March 15, 1965 by saying: "I speak tonight for the dignity of man and for the destiny of democracy." President Johnson went on to say: "At times, history and fate come together to shape a turning point in a man's unending search for freedom. So it was more than a century ago at Lexington and at Concord. So it was at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama."

And during that speech, 40 years ago, President Johnson condemned the violence in Selma, and called on Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act. Echoing the words of the civil rights movement, he closed his speech by saying "And we shall overcome."

Forty years ago, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, and on August 6, 1965, it was signed into law.

Because of the action of Congress and the leadership of a President and the courage of hundreds and thousands of our citizens, we have witnessed a nonviolent revolution in America, a resolution of values, a revolution of ideas. The passage of the Voting Rights Act helped expand our democracy and open up our democracy to let in millions of our citizens.

We still need to keep the voting rights act strong. The Voting Rights Act must be reauthorized. Not just reauthorized, it must be renewed and strengthened. The vote is the most powerful, nonviolent tool that our citizens have in a democratic society, and nothing, but nothing, should interfere with the right of every citizen to vote and have their vote count.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the right to vote in America is a history of conflict, of struggling for the right to vote. Many people died trying to protect that right.

For millions like me, the struggle for the right to vote is not mere history; it is experience. The experience of minorities today tells us that the struggle is not over and that the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act are still necessary.

I am proud to be the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 216, a resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which I introduced with my colleagues from the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CHABOT and Mr. NADLER. In that resolution, we pledge to "advance the legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Act to protect the voting rights of all Americans."

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect the voting rights of all Americans.

Today we celebrate how far we have come. We celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain famously said that one of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives. This is certainly the case with respect to one of the most persistent slanders against the State of Israel: the contention that on June 8, 1967, the Israel Defense Forces intentionally attacked a U.S. Naval Intelligence vessel, the USS *Liberty*.

Fortunately that lie has been put to rest once and for all by the careful and exhaustive research of the Honorable A. Jay Cristol, a distinguished judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. His careful research of the *Liberty* incident clearly demonstrates that this tragedy was the result of mistaken identity at the height of the Six Day War, when Israel's very survival was at stake.

This conclusion is in line with the conclusions of 10 official U.S. investigations—including five congressional investigations—that there was never any evidence that the attack was made with knowledge that the target was a U.S. ship. There is substantial evidence the attack was a tragic mistake caused by errors on the part of both the U.S. and Israel.

On June 8, 1967, at the height of the Six Day War, a U.S. Naval intelligence vessel, the USS *Liberty*, strayed into the waters 14 miles off the Sinai Peninsula, near El Arish. The Israel Defense Forces, having incorrectly identified it as an Egyptian vessel engaged in an attack of Israeli forces, attacked the *Liberty*, killing and wounding some of the crew.

As a U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry found, "Available evidence combines to indicate that the attack on LIBERTY on 8 June was in fact a case of mistaken identity."

No one with an open mind can read the evidence amassed by Judge Cristol and reach any other conclusion. Nonetheless, the conspiracy theories persist.

Conspiracy theories tend to have a life of their own. They can never be disproved. If there is no evidence supporting the conspiracy, then it is proof of a coverup. If there is evidence proving there was no conspiracy,