

H. Res. 557

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

September 25, 2007.

Whereas Article II of Chapter I of the United Nations Charter states that “[t]he Organization is based on the principles of sovereign equality of all its members”;

Whereas the former United Nations Human Rights Commission was widely discredited for its incessant attacks against Israel and for granting membership to Cuba, Zimbabwe, China, Saudi Arabia, and other countries that were notorious human rights violators;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to adopt a resolution establishing the United Nations Human Rights Council, stating that “members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights”;

Whereas the resolution also stated that “the Council shall be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner”;

Whereas China, Cuba, and Saudi Arabia are members of the United Nations Human Rights Council;

Whereas in the past year that the United Nations Human Rights Council has been in existence, the Council has

held four special sessions to address pressing human rights situations;

Whereas of the four special sessions, three sessions were held for purposes of condemning Israel for alleged human right abuses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and in Lebanon, and the fourth session was a non-condemnatory expression of “concern” regarding the situation in Darfur, Sudan;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council has failed to condemn serial abusers of human rights throughout the world, including Iran, Syria, North Korea, Cuba, China, Zimbabwe, Venezuela, and others;

Whereas, on June 19, 2007, a Department of State spokesperson specifically identified Burma, Cuba, North Korea, Zimbabwe, and Belarus as countries that merit consideration by the United Nations Human Rights Council due to their “serious human rights violations”;

Whereas during its fifth special session, the United Nations Human Rights Council voted to make Israel the only country permanently included on its agenda; and

Whereas United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated he was “disappointed at the Council’s decision to single out only one specific regional item, given the range and scope of allegations of human rights violations throughout the world”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly condemns the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in other countries, while choosing to unfairly target the State of Israel;

(2) strongly urges the United Nations Human Rights Council to remove Israel from its permanent agenda;

(3) strongly urges the United Nations Human Rights Council to hold special sessions to address other countries in which human rights abuses are being committed, adopt real reform as was intended for the Council when it replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and reaffirm the principle of human dignity consistent with the original intent envisioned at the Council's establishment;

(4) strongly urges the United States to make every effort in the United Nations General Assembly to ensure that the United Nations Human Rights Council lives up to its mission to protect human rights around the world, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/251 establishing the Council; and

(5) strongly urges the United States to work with the United Nations General Assembly to ensure that only countries that have a well-established commitment

to protecting human rights are chosen to serve on the
Council.

Attest:

Clerk.