

It is time for the House of Representatives to embrace Senator MCCAIN's anti-torture language and move on.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2017, "The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005."

Torture can have devastating physical and psychological consequences for its victims. It is a worldwide health and human rights concern. The need for assistance for torture victims living in the United States is enormous. It is estimated that more than half a million survivors of torture, who fled persecution in their native countries, now live in the United States. Survivors of torture arriving in this country include students, academicians, religious leaders and political activists.

Programs funded through the Torture Victims Relief Act help torture victims heal and rebuild their lives. Because of this legislation, more than 30 organizations in more than 20 States are caring for refugees and asylum seekers who have been brutally tortured and traumatized in their countries of origin. Torture treatment programs funded by the Torture Victims Relief Act provide critical medical care, mental health care, and social services.

I am proud that one of the leading centers in the United States, the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, is located in my district. This program is jointly sponsored by Bellevue Hospital, the nation's oldest public hospital, and New York University School of Medicine, a leader in medical education and research. Since the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture began in 1995, more than 1,800 men, women, and children (more than 600 in the last year alone) from more than 70 countries have received vital care. The Bellevue/NYU Program has established an international reputation for excellence in its clinical, educational and research activities.

One patient cared for through the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture is Samten. He is a gifted painter and was a leading artist in Tibet. After being arrested and imprisoned for writing poetry critical of the government, he was brutally beaten. During an interrogation session, he was told that he "was causing nothing but trouble with his hands" which were then forced into a coal oven. The severe burns caused significant scarring and disfigurement of his hands. He could barely hold a paintbrush and when he did, he had terrifying flashbacks of his abuse. Nightmares interrupted what little sleep he got.

At the time of referral to the Bellevue/NYU Program he did not have a regular place to stay. Through the Bellevue/NYU Program, he received primary medical care including pain management, treatment for exposure to tuberculosis as well as referral to hand specialists and subsequent hand surgery. Social service staff assisted him in finding housing and a pro bono attorney to represent him in his asylum case. He also attended a support group for Tibetan survivors which helped him to restore important social connections. Following surgery, he had marked improvement in the use of his hands. Recently, he was granted asylum, and he is again drawing and able to support himself.

The Bellevue/NYU Program and other treatment centers try to help torture survivors by restoring their dignity and their sense of trust. The centers also help them heal physically and psychologically, and assist them in getting on with their lives. Patients who have received

care from the Bellevue/NYU Program and other torture treatment centers are now working, going to school, and again leading productive lives.

It is urgent that we continue to support torture treatment centers, both domestically and internationally, through the Torture Victims Relief Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2017.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

URGING MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO STOP SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS THAT UNFAIRLY CASTIGATE ISRAEL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 438) urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 438

Whereas the 60th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations is currently underway in New York City;

Whereas the State of Israel is a critical strategic ally of the United States in the Middle East and the only true democracy in the region;

Whereas 60 years ago the United Nations was founded, in part, to prevent another Holocaust from ever happening again;

Whereas three years after its founding, the United Nations passed General Assembly Resolution 181, which provided for the partition of Mandatory Palestine and the establishment on its territory of an independent Jewish state, which became the State of Israel;

Whereas in recent years, the General Assembly of the United Nations has engaged in a pattern of approving resolutions that unfairly criticize and condemn Israel;

Whereas during the 59th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the General Assembly adopted 21 resolutions criticizing Israel;

Whereas despite the myriad of challenges facing the world community, the General Assembly of the United Nations has devoted a vastly disproportionate amount of time and resources to castigating Israel;

Whereas for the past 30 years, the United Nations has funded three entities that support anti-Israel propaganda, including the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Human Rights Practices Affecting the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

Whereas the double standard against the State of Israel that is perpetrated at the United Nations is pervasive: of ten emergency special sessions called by the General

Assembly of the United Nations, six have been about Israel, and since 1997, at the annual meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, only Israel has had its own agenda item (Item 8) dealing with its alleged human rights violations, whereas all other countries are dealt with in a separate agenda item (Item 9); and

Whereas as a founding member of the United Nations, the United States has a special responsibility to promote fair and equitable treatment of all member states of the United Nations: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives urges member states of the United Nations to—

(1) stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel; and

(2) promote within the United Nations system a more balanced and constructive approach to resolving conflict in the Middle East.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 438, which I am proud to cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for their initiative in drafting this measure.

Let me also thank the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations and the House leadership for moving this resolution to the floor so rapidly.

Mr. Speaker, as the current session of the General Assembly of the United Nations winds toward a close, there are still important decisions to be made. Will the United Nations reform itself along the lines suggested by the United States, indeed, by this House? Many of these reforms are supported widely among the member states of the U.N. and even in some parts of its bureaucracy. Or will it continue along its way, wasting money and political capital on what lawyers might call "larks and detours"?

Among the most wasteful of the activities of the U.N. is its incessant use of funds and time on Israel-bashing resolutions and institutions. While these were never good ideas, and have been opposed by all American administrations, any excuse for supporting them has simply disappeared with the changes in the situation on the ground in the Middle East.

The resolution carefully catalogs the abysmal record of the United Nations' one-sided criticism of Israel over the decades. I will not repeat the details that are covered in the resolution; but it is enough to say, enough is enough. It is time to bring this unacceptable behavior to an end.

The United Nation has legitimate work to do. It should not sully its hands further with this one-sided agenda which serves no useful purpose, but only prevents it from doing good where it might be able to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the administration which has been working on these issues energetically to increase its efforts to correct this situation, including through the elimination of Palestinian offices and commissions that serve to fuel the anti-Israel bias and the resolutions that they always consider.

I included such a mandate in the U.N. Reform Act, the Henry Hyde bill, and I look forward to working with the administration toward this goal.

When our current permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador John Bolton, was Assistant Secretary of State for organizational affairs during the administration of the first President Bush, he executed a masterful strategy aimed at the repeal of the infamous Zionism is Racism resolution of the General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence that given his energy and the backing of the Department, he will have success in carrying out the agenda outlined in this resolution before us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to render their strong support for this resolution.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution. The primary pathology that infects the United Nations General Assembly is its continuing obsession with singling out and castigating the democratic nation of Israel by the passing of a series of outrageous resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my good friend and colleague from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) for offering this measure which encourages the U.N. to confront this pathology.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N.'s obsessive focus on Israel is not just an obstacle to the promotion of peace between Israel and the Palestinian people. The massive amount of time and resources spent on this issue by the General Assembly and the so-called U.N. Human Rights Commission crowds out the consideration of truly critical problems such as the ongoing genocide in Darfur, the AIDS crisis in Africa, Mugabe's murderous campaign against his own citizens in Zimbabwe, and scores of other real issues.

The climate created by the repeated passage of anti-Israeli measures at the U.N. also emboldens the most hate-filled, ignorant, and pathological mem-

bers of the international community such as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who recently declared that Israel should be wiped off the map.

The U.N.'s repeated official condemnation of Israel's efforts to provide basic security for its citizens also emboldens further violence and terrorism against innocent Israelis.

□ 1600

Just yesterday, five innocent Israeli civilians were killed by suicide bombers. Since Israel's population is 1/60th of ours, this would have amounted to mass murder had it occurred in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, several recent developments have provided the U.N. with an opportunity to move past its shameful legacy of bias and hatred for Israel. After decades of exclusion from positions of leadership at the U.N., Israel has gained a more normal status at the organization, culminating in the recent historic election of Israeli Ambassador Gillerman as vice president of the General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N. currently has two bold and principled leaders who have committed themselves to confronting the U.N.'s lingering anti-Semitism. Secretary General Kofi Annan has made numerous statements on this issue and convened an historic commemorative session on the 60 anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps earlier this year.

The new president of the General Assembly, Sweden's former distinguished ambassador here in Washington, my dear friend Jan Eliasson, pressed the General Assembly to adopt a U.N. date to memorialize the suffering of the Jewish people in the Holocaust as the first official act of the 60th session.

Mr. Speaker, the current U.N. reform effort also presents the organization with an opportunity to eliminate the three entities that support anti-Israel propaganda: The Division For Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Human Rights Practices Affecting the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. That is quite a title for an organization, which is useless.

Mr. Speaker, I earnestly hope that the U.N. will take advantage of this moment and will begin to reverse its pattern of outrageous attacks on Israel. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 438.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to my good friend and distinguished colleague from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN), the sponsor of the resolution.

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership on all these issues and for yielding me time. I would also like to thank the gentle-

woman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) for all of her support for reforms at the U.N., as well as support for the State of Israel, what is right, and my dear friend and colleague on the House Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), who has worked with me on a number of issues relating to reforms at the U.N. and various other issues that we hold very near and dear to our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, what if I were to ask you the following question? Maybe would you possibly guess what is the answer. As you know, the United Nations has about 190 countries in it, 190 countries in the United Nations. What if I told you that over the last 30 years, about on average one-third of each of the resolutions each year at the United Nations for the last 30 years, about one-third of the resolutions relate to criticizing one country, every year, one-third of the resolutions of the General Assembly of the U.N.

You would say, wow, one country gets one-third of the resolutions at the U.N.? What country deserves the attention, the energy, the money, the hot air of the U.N. and the condemnation of that world body? Well, you would say, maybe had to do with the slaughter in the Sudan, the genocide in Rwanda or Cambodia or Bosnia, or the actions of Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Maybe those nations. Well, we are only talking about one, so it cannot be all of them. Would one of those be the one that for 30 years has gotten one-third of the resolutions condemning a country?

What if I told you that the country that for the last 30 years was condemned with 30 percent of the resolutions at the U.N., the only country, was the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East? They get one-third of the resolutions of the U.N. addressed to it, the State of Israel, condemning it.

You would say, wow, what did Israel do to deserve that? Is it because Israel is a democracy and the world does not like democracies? The U.N. is against democracies, so they attack the only democracy in the Middle East? Or maybe you are more cynical and you say, ah hah, the Arab world does not like the State of Israel, so since the Arab world has all the oil, maybe that is why the U.N. devotes one-third of its resolutions every year to criticizing Israel, because they have no oil and the Arabs do not like Israel. Or maybe it is because Israel is America's best friend in the Middle East, its most reliable and trusted ally in the Middle East, and maybe that is why the U.N. does not like Israel. Or maybe you might say maybe it is because Israel is the only Jewish state in the world. Maybe that is why the U.N., of the 190 nations, singles out Israel for one-third of its resolutions a year, every year, for the last 30 years.

The 5 million Jews in Israel deserve castigation and condemnation, out of the 6 billion people on the planet, and

we pay American taxpayer dollars to finance the U.N. to do that? It is absurd. It is immoral. It is shameful.

Yet just last week, the United Nations again passed six more resolutions condemning the State of Israel. And if it is on target for each of the last 30 years, this year the United Nations will expend one-third of its resolutions criticizing one nation in the world, the tiny state, the only democracy in the Middle East, the only Jewish state in the world, the State of Israel.

Something is terribly wrong, Mr. Speaker, and this resolution that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and I have put together, with the help and support of the leadership of both parties, on the IR Committee and in the House, simply says to the United Nations that they should stop supporting these resolutions, wasting their money attacking America's best friend, the only Jewish state in the world, and instead use their energy, if they want to focus on the Middle East, how about the slaughter going on in all the dictatorships in the Arab world?

Why does the U.N. not spend its money more constructively if they want to be a legitimate help in resolving issues in the Middle East? Maybe they want to introduce some pro-democracy movements in all of the Arab dictatorships in the Middle East, or maybe they want to introduce some resolutions about the torture in Arab nations around the world, or the genocide going on in every continent of the world.

But I must tell you this: The American taxpayers are sick and tired, as are the Members of this House of Representatives, of the United Nations wasting our taxpayer money to attack our best friend for no reason with double standards. It is shameful, it is fraudulent, it is slanderous. There is no way to describe their lies being offered up as truths. And we are paying for it as a member nation of the U.N.? That is wrong.

The U.N. must stop its double standard against the State of Israel, wasting one-third of its resolutions for the whole year attacking Israel, or they are going to have to deal with the consequences.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for bringing this resolution forward, and especially a man that we all follow his leadership for the dignity of human rights and the individual, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. Speaker, we founded the United Nations 50 years ago with the promise of "never again." The Nazi Holocaust had just claimed 6 million Jewish lives, and we pledged to the civilized world that we would never again allow such a brutal genocide. Two years later, we

fulfilled the first step in that promise by passing a plan for Palestine, granting the Jewish people a homeland of their own in a world that had sought their destruction.

How 50 years can change things. Today, the very institution which recognized and helped create the Jewish state works almost daily to make it a pariah in the world. The U.N. General Assembly has evolved into a relentlessly anti-Israel body, scapegoating the preeminent democracy in the Middle East for the bulk of the world's problems.

When Jews are murdered in shopping malls in Netanya or in pizza parlors in Jerusalem, the General Assembly is silent. When Jews stand up against terrorism and defend themselves, that is when the General Assembly erupts into condemnation.

There is now a chilling double standard at the United Nations that roots itself in the very ideology we defeated in Europe 50 years ago. It is rooted in a new 21st century anti-Semitism that targets the political manifestation of the Jewish people.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Israel once again face a threat of genocide and annihilation, they call it the existential threat, from the President of Iran who outlined his vision of a world without a State of Israel and highlighted his pursuit of nuclear power until that vision is realized.

The United Nations cannot sit by and allow that to happen. Now is the time to fulfill our promise, never again. We need to wake up now and see the United Nations for what it is, not what it was. What it is now, in part, is a corrupt and anti-Semitism organization. What it should become is a reformed body that fulfills the promise Mrs. Roosevelt set for it as a dream and a force for peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from New Jersey for his leadership on this issue, and also thank the gentlewoman from Florida and the gentleman from California for bringing this key resolution to the floor.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has supported a series of three resolutions which praise Palestinian actions while condemning Israeli self-defense. Rather than promoting democracy in the Middle East, the U.N. continually strikes at Israel, even though it is the only true democracy in that region.

Without any consideration of Palestinian aggression, the U.N. has relentlessly gone on the offensive against the Israeli government, despite themselves having established the State of Israel after the Second World War. It is truly shameful that some 30 percent of the U.N.'s total legislative business is anti-Israel, when so many of the U.N.'s member nations have abhorrent human

rights records that go unaddressed and unspoken of.

Mr. Speaker, I have a simple request for the United Nations: Please do your job. Stop wasting our time with your anti-Israel political agenda and start doing something useful, might I suggest, like really investigating the Oil-For-Food scandal and holding the responsible parties accountable.

Most importantly, take a fair and balanced approach towards solving the problems that are plaguing the Middle East. If we are honestly trying to bring peace to the Middle East, we must help the Palestinians establish their own independent state, while at the same time showing them they must live in peaceful coexistence with Israel.

Mr. Speaker, the President of Iran recently said that Israel needs to be wiped off the face of the map, yet no one at the U.N. made more than a passing reference to these outrageous comments. The United Nations must realize that all member states deserve respect, and that these kinds of hateful, anti-Semitic remarks offend fair-minded people throughout the entire world.

□ 1615

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that many Americans question our membership in the United Nations. Many resent that our dues are being spent on a political agenda that undermines our American ideals; and when such ridiculous actions are taken, no wonder questions arise about our involvement and our membership.

I urge our colleagues to support H. Res. 438 and ask that the United Nations as well take a balanced approach to the problems facing the Middle East.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 438 today to once again demonstrate my strong resolute support for the State of Israel and all of our support for Israel, and its beleaguered people as well. When we think about it, it is really unfortunate that Congress has to get together and even make such a statement, but I believe that the circumstances and world politics necessitate that we do so.

In addition to being one of the United States' closest allies, Israel is also the only truly fully functioning democracy in the Middle East. Yet, ever since 1948, when the world officially established the State of Israel and recognized its right to exist in the Middle East, the United Nations has shown an extraordinary bias against it.

It is my hope that it would be clear to all the freedom-loving peoples in the world and all the peaceful nations throughout the world that such a sentiment is unwarranted. Israel has done no more than to promote religious and economic freedom and democratic principles to each of its citizens, and it has

done so while enduring literally decades upon decades of violent attacks from many of its neighbors.

The U.N.'s bias has only served, however, to embolden Israel's enemies and to promote an anti-Israel attitude. That body's record of lagging in promotion of Israeli ambassadors to leadership positions while turning basically a blind eye when condemnation of actions against Israel were warranted is just one of the reasons why the U.S. Congress cannot sit idly by and do nothing.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 438, I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to join in support of this resolution and also the next resolution, H. Res. 535, which honors the life and work of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Together, these resolutions demonstrate the contrast of peace and democracy versus the hatred and bias that has surrounded Israel and the United Nations' treatment of it over the years.

I am hopeful that our united stand today will persuade the U.N., which has a history of inefficiency and corruption, to change its approach and its dealings with these issues.

I thank the gentlewoman for this opportunity.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), a distinguished member of the International Relations Committee.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the distinguished gentleman from California, for the time.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 438, which urges the U.N. member states to cease unfairly castigating Israel and adopt a balanced approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I would also like to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for their diligent effort on this issue, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Mr. Speaker, this resolution concerns one simple issue: equality of all U.N. member states. It is shameful, absolutely shameful, that Israel, a state established by U.N. consensus in the ashes of the Holocaust, has been unjustly maligned for decades. More than 30 years since the infamous Zionism of Racism resolution, an established precedent of Israel-bashing still thrives at the United Nations.

Within the context of U.N. reform, eradicating the various mechanisms of bias is crucial to its success. Examples include the plethora of resolutions condemning Israel while the world's worst human rights abusers escape attention or are even appointed to key U.N. panels.

I am particularly concerned with the three annual U.N. resolutions which reauthorize the so-called Division on Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to

Investigate so-called Israeli Human Rights Abuses. These bodies serve no other purpose than to bash Israel and endorse the cause of one side in the long-standing conflict. Such discriminatory treatment of Israel discredits the entire United Nations organization and should be immediately eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from meetings in the European Union. I and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and other colleagues urged European Union officials to switch their vote in the U.N. General Assembly from "abstention" to "no" on those resolutions which fund anti-Israel entities. I say to our friends in the European Union, an abstention is the equivalent of voting "yes" and continuing the bias against Israel. By voting "no," the EU can join the United States in dissolving these inherently discriminatory panels, transfer the funds to a real humanitarian purpose, and move unequivocally to the realm of honest broker. If the EU states were to vote "no," funding would stop because there would not be the necessary two-thirds to perpetuate the funding.

Mr. Speaker, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not be solved by constantly berating one side, Israel. By tolerating such action, the organization responsible for maintaining world peace is actually exacerbating the conflict by discriminating against a member state.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 438.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker I rise in support and as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 438, which urges member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East.

Israel is a critical strategic ally of the United States and is the only true democracy in the Middle East. The United States and Israel are built on a common set of core democratic principles and operate under the rule of law. The United States and Israel must continue to work closely together to eliminate terrorism and foster the spread of democracy and economic prosperity throughout the Middle East.

The state of Israel, founded shortly after the Holocaust, serves as a safe haven and strong voice for Jews around the world.

The Charter of the United Nations—adopted after the end of World War II—states that the U.N. was founded to "maintain international peace and security" and "develop friendly relations among nations." The Charter also states that "[this] Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has utterly failed to live up to the principles and obligations of its charter when it comes to its treatment of Israel. The United Nations has a long history of singling out Israel for unfair, biased, and one-sided criticism and treatment. Let me mention just a few examples. Israel is the only country that has three special committees set up to support propaganda against it. Israel is the only country that has had its own agenda item dealing

with its alleged human rights violations in annual meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, in contrast to all other countries which are combined into a separate agenda item. Israel is the only member nation of the United Nations that has consistently been denied full admission to its regional grouping, which violates the U.N. Charter guarantee of "sovereign equality" and denies Israel the right to fully participate in all U.N. functions.

Out of the ten emergency special sessions called by the United Nations General Assembly, six have related to Israel. During last year's session of the U.N. General Assembly, the body adopted a total of 71 resolutions by roll call vote, 21 of which (roughly 30 percent) criticized Israel. These resolutions are biased and one-sided, and I am disappointed that the U.N. has not focused its efforts on condemning and bringing an end to Palestinian terrorist attacks launched against Israel.

Finally, I want to cite the recent bipartisan task force report issued in June 2005 entitled "American Interests and U.N. Reform: Report of the Task Force on the United Nations." The report, authored by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, found that "systematic hostility" against Israel is "routinely expressed, organized, and funded" within the U.N. system, which treats Israel as a "second-class citizen."

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has a critical role to play in the 21st century in its role as peacekeeper, election monitor, and humanitarian relief provider. The U.N. has also made great strides in promoting the rule of law and democracy. Unfortunately, the U.N. to date has not played a constructive role in resolving conflict in the Middle East, and the U.N. allowed itself to be hijacked by those with a political agenda. I have also written to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and expressed my concerns about anti-Semitic statements made by U.N. officers, and have urged him to follow the lead of the Helsinki Commission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in combating anti-Semitism. I hope today's resolution will cause the U.N. and its member states to reevaluate their attitudes toward Israel and to reflect on how they can use the U.N. to make a constructive and meaningful contribution to international peace and security.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my fellow colleague from New Jersey, Congressman ROTHMAN, for sponsoring this important resolution which addresses the unfair treatment of Israel in the United Nations.

Too frequently we witness the destructive effects of anti-Semitism, hatred and intolerance on innocent people around the world. Just this past weekend, a suicide bomber killed 5 people and wounded at least 66 others at a shopping mall in Netanya, Israel.

Year after year, anti-Israel sentiments have manifested themselves in U.N. resolutions that unfairly condemn and castigate the State of Israel. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution that criticizes the blatant anti-Israel tone within the United Nations and calls on the U.N. to encourage a more balanced approach to the Middle East conflict.

At a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world, the United Nations should

be taking a strong stance in support of tolerance. Instead, it is funding entities that support anti-Israel propaganda; it has dedicated over half of its emergency special sessions to Israel; and it continues to single out Israel for human rights violations in both the annual meetings of the UN Commission on Human Rights and in thirty percent of the resolutions voted on by the UN General Assembly each year.

Let me be clear—there have been some improvements, such as the election of Israel's Ambassador to the vice presidency of the 60th General Assembly. And yet Israel still remains the only member nation that has been denied admission to its regional grouping.

In 1948, the United Nations established the State of Israel as a homeland and refuge for Jewish people around the world. It is shameful that 57 years later, anti-Semitism has not gone away but is on the rise.

The United Nations Charter calls for its members to practice tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbors. Yet the UN's unbalanced approach toward the situation in the Middle East in general, and toward Israel in particular, risks undermining this foundation.

The United Nations should be a bastion of equal rights, equal voices, equal treatment and, when necessary, equal condemnation. If it cannot be an impartial judge of circumstances, the UN risks losing its credibility in the Middle East and undermining any future peace process.

I join my colleagues in supporting this bill to call on the United Nations to stop unfairly castigating Israel, and to support fair and equal treatment of all member nations.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this resolution offers support for our closest ally, Israel, and calls upon member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly criticize Israel.

Israel is the only member-state in the UN that is prevented from belonging to the regional grouping which it geographically belongs in and is, therefore, prevented from participating in much of the ordinary work of the UN. Israel cannot vote for or be elected to many of the UN's central organizations. Just as troubling as being denied full membership, however, is the disproportionate number of resolutions passed in the UN that unfairly criticize Israel.

Anti-Israel resolutions are often adopted in agencies, and on issues which have no relevance to the work or mandate of these organizations. Additionally, the Commission on Human Rights routinely adopts a grossly disproportionate number of resolutions concerning Israel. Of all condemnations of this agency, 26 percent refer to Israel alone, while states such as Syria and Libya are rarely criticized.

Another egregious example of bias against Israel is the fact that the UN has repeatedly held Emergency Special Sessions of the General Assembly on Israeli construction in Jerusalem. The Emergency Special Session was originally conceived in 1950 for emergencies like the Korean War, however in the last two decades, these special meetings have only been held regarding Israel. Emergency Special Sessions were not convened over the genocide in Rwanda, ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, or with regard to the other major world conflicts.

Since joining the United Nations on May 11, 1949, Israel has been singled out time and again for disproportionate criticism, underrepresented on important committees, denied full membership in regional groupings and constantly attacked by a bloc of Arab states and their supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this resolution to once again reaffirm our support for Israel, and to urge members of the UN to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly criticize Israel and prevent Israel from fully participating in the UN.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional requests for time, and we yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 438, as amended. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 535) honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 535

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin was born March 1, 1922, in Jerusalem;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin volunteered for the Palmach, the elite unit of the Haganah (predecessor of the Israeli Defense Forces), and served for 27 years, including during the 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 Suez War, and as Chief of Staff in the June 1967 Six Day War;

Whereas in 1975, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the interim agreement with Egypt (Sinai II) which laid the groundwork for the 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin served as Ambassador to the United States from 1968–1973, Minister of Defense from 1984–1990, and Prime Minister from 1974–1977 and from 1992 until his assassination in 1995;

Whereas on September 13, 1993, in Washington, D.C., Yitzhak Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles framework agreement between Israel and the Palestinians;

Whereas upon the signing of the Declaration of Principles, Yitzhak Rabin said to the Palestinian people: "We say to you today in

a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough! We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side by side with you—in dignity, empathy, as human beings, as free men.";

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin received the 1994 Nobel Prize for Peace for his vision and bravery as a peacemaker, saying at the time: "There is only one radical means of sanctifying human lives. Not armored plating, or tanks, or planes, or concrete fortifications. The one radical solution is peace.";

Whereas on October 26, 1994, Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan;

Whereas on November 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was brutally assassinated after attending a peace rally in Tel Aviv where his last words were: "I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace . . . Peace is what the Jewish People aspire to.";

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin dedicated his life to the cause of peace and security for the state of Israel by defending his nation against all threats, including terrorism and undertaking courageous risks in the pursuit of peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the historic role of Yitzhak Rabin for his distinguished service to the Israeli people and extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Yitzhak Rabin and the people of Israel on the tenth anniversary of his death;

(2) recognizes and reiterates its continued support for the close ties and special relationship between the United States and Israel;

(3) expresses its admiration for Yitzhak Rabin's legacy and reaffirms its commitment to the process of building a just and lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors;

(4) condemns any and all acts of terrorism; and

(5) reaffirms unequivocally the sacred principle that democratic leaders and governments must be changed only by the democratically-expressed will of the people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 535, honoring the life, the legacy and the example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for introducing this resolution. I would also like to thank the leadership, along with Chairman