

weeks every 4 years. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, since September 11, the entire world has been transformed. Now, unprecedented levels of security are required to protect Olympic athletes and their teams from attacks.

After all, the Olympic Games were once the target of horrifying attacks on athletes by terrorists. This resolution commends our good friends and allies, the people and Government of Italy, for their extraordinary efforts in protecting the world's athletes during these games.

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To implement such an extraordinary security measure while also ensuring the fun, passionate Olympic environment is something not many countries can do with such successful orchestration.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Olympic Committee and team should also be congratulated for winning 25 medals during these Winter Games, nine of them gold, second only to the team's record for the number of medals won at the Winter Games that was set during the Salt Lake City games; and the United States Paralympic team ranks seventh among all nations in the number of medals won during the Paralympic Winter Games.

I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to each of our medal winners who shall forever make the United States proud.

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

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

I would first like to thank my good friend and colleague, Chairman HENRY HYDE, for sponsoring this measure.

Mr. Speaker, just a few months ago, Italy hosted the winter Olympic Games in Torino. We want to congratulate the people and the government of Italy for the great success of these games.

The Torino Olympic Committee, the International Olympic Committee, and the United States Olympic Committee should be commended for these games, which were effectively and successfully organized and implemented.

The slogan of the games, Mr. Speaker, was "Passion Lives Here," which was certainly an accurate depiction of the enthusiasm, passion and pride the Italian people have not only for sports but also for their wonderful culture and heritage. The welcoming attitude they displayed to citizens of over 80 nations of the world who sent Olympic athletes and guests was outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend those involved with the security aspect of the games. As we all know, this kind of world gathering unfortunately presents potential terrorist opportunities. The Italian government and security officials performed magnificently. The venue was stable and secure for athletes, officials and spectators.

These games have many memorable moments and many new records were made, but, for me, the highlight of the Torino Winter Games came when a 26-year-old American speed skater, Joey Cheek, announced that he would donate his \$40,000 in bonus money to an organization called Right to Play, which helps children in poverty-stricken, war-torn countries in Africa. Joey also encouraged Olympic sponsors to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, Joey did not stop there. Just 2 days ago, tens of thousands of us rallied on the National Mall to call attention to the sickening and outrageous genocide occurring as we speak in Darfur, Sudan. It was my great pleasure to stand side by side with Joey Cheek at this rally where we both spoke to prod the international community not to forget the people of Darfur and to act to stop this genocide.

Joey Cheek's actions on behalf of the people of Africa, both at the Olympics and on the Mall, typify the true Olympic spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Italy for keeping this Olympic spirit alive. These Torino games rekindled the spirit for another 4 years. It is important that, just as we have seen in these Italian games, the Olympics best demonstrate the spirit of competition and the spirit of selflessness that Joey Cheek and other athletes have typified.

This was the third time Italy has hosted the Olympic games, and judging by the welcoming attitude and success of the Torino games, we look forward to future Olympic events in Italy.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I 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. 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. 697, 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.

RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 392) recognizing the 58th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 392

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;

Whereas despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists during the past five years, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas visionary Israeli leaders like Yitzhak Rabin and Ariel Sharon were at the forefront of creating conditions for peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with May 3, 2006: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and well-being;

(3) congratulates the United States and Israel for the strengthening of bilateral relations in the past year in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security and encourages both nations to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges; and

(4) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 58th anniversary of Israel's independence.

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 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.

This week, we commemorate Israel's Independence Day. Israel's Independence Day comes just days after the Holocaust Remembrance Day, a date set aside for recalling the victims of the Holocaust and for contemplating what can happen to a civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign.

Following on the heels of the Holocaust Remembrance Day, the commemoration of Israeli Independence is a salute to and a celebration of Jewish perseverance and endurance, of the strength of character of the Jewish people.

On this day, we honor the great people of Israel, who are in constant struggle to safeguard their nation and ensure their survival amidst military attacks from hostile neighbors and prolonged terrorist campaigns.

Throughout its short history, Israelis have fought against incredible odds to reestablish the birthplace of the Jewish people.

Israel has been in a state of war for 58 years, commencing the moment that Israeli independence was declared by David Ben-Gurion. Yet, even at war, Israel's democracy and its vibrant, diverse and free society have remained strong. As democracies and freedom-loving nations, we stand side by side against oppression, terrorism, hatred and intolerance.

Today, Israel is a strong and prosperous nation. Its economy is thriving, and it has been a world leader in scientific discoveries.

The Israeli government has taken unprecedented steps in the past year to reach a peaceful resolution of their conflict with the Palestinians. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon implemented his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. Yet Israel still finds itself without a partner for peace, as the Hamas-led PA has shown that they continue to support acts of terrorism against innocent Israeli civilians.

Today, as the State of Israel marks its 58th anniversary, we pay tribute to the strong bonds of friendship between the United States and Israel, and we reiterate our commitment to its security and its stability.

The United States will never waiver. We will never falter in our support for the State of Israel.

We look forward to a date soon when we can celebrate an independent Israeli

Jewish State that exists in peace and security and no longer has to fear for its very survival. I hope that all Americans will join us in extending our best wishes and congratulations to the Israeli people and to the Jewish nation.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

The resolution before the House expresses Members' heartfelt congratulations to the Israeli people in recognition of the 58th anniversary of their independence, which they will celebrate tomorrow. I strongly commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), my colleague, for bringing this resolution before the House.

The story of Israel's independence is no less inspirational simply because it is well known. It represents a remarkable triumph of the human spirit.

Today, the day before its Independence Day, Israel memorialized its thousands of fallen soldiers, who themselves silently testify to the sacrifice with which Israel won and has perfected its independence and freedom.

Although Israelis have been relentlessly under attack since their nation's birth, they have succeeded in creating one of the most democratic, prosperous, technologically advanced and humane societies on earth.

Mr. Speaker, Israel celebrates its anniversary this year after having unilaterally withdrawn its troops and settlements from Gaza. This was done under the courageous leadership of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and marked only the most recent testimony of Israel's singular willingness to take risks to achieve peace.

Now, a new prime minister, Ehud Olmert, has taken office. He, too, has bold ideas about how to achieve peace. I know him well, and I know he is more than up to the task. We congratulate him on his electoral victory. We look forward to working with him, and we wish him every success in his endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, the establishment of the State of Israel has been a great boon not only for those who live in Israel but for our Nation as well. We treasure Israel as our most loyal ally in the Middle East and as the embodiment of values we cherish.

The United States has played a critical role in supporting Israel's security. It has played that role in a bipartisan fashion. Congress has had a leading responsibility in shaping the structure and content of that support. Our support for Israel is an important contribution to, and a credit to, U.S. foreign policy, and we are proud of that support.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do so.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for offering this important bipartisan resolution recognizing the 58th anniversary

of the independence of the State of Israel. And I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

Throughout the last 58 years, Israel—an oasis of freedom in a sea of despair—has been vilified, threatened and attacked by those who seek her destruction. And yet, she has prevailed and prospered—just as she will prevail and prosper today, tomorrow and in the future.

Harry Truman made the United States the first nation to recognize the new State of Israel in 1948, just 11 minutes after its creation.

"I had faith in Israel before it was established, I have faith in it now," said President Truman. "I believe it has a glorious future before it—not just another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization."

Israel's security and success is not only a strategic imperative for the United States. It is a moral imperative, as well. Ours is a relationship of shared values and common aspirations, and of principle and conscience.

We are nations of immigrants, safe havens for the oppressed and partners for peace. And, we are united in fighting terrorism.

No people on earth have been subjected to more bigotry and violence than the Jewish people, and no people are more in need of a sovereign, secure homeland to provide safe haven and to protect identity.

I have had the privilege of leading Congressional delegations on tours of Israel twice in the last three years. And, I can say with confidence that the special bond that exists between the United States and Israel is strong, growing stronger and will not break.

Last August, our Congressional delegation saw firsthand the pain caused by Israel's unilateral disengagement from Gaza—another bold step undertaken in the pursuit of peace and stability.

But more importantly, we saw a people deeply committed to the democratic process and the rule of law. What our Members saw was a reflection of themselves: People who love their country; people who want to live in peace and freedom; and people who want their children to have even greater opportunities.

Today, as our allies in Israel prepare to celebrate their 58th anniversary of independence, let us honor their determination to fulfill the vision of Zionism's founding father, Theodor Herzl, who observed, "If you will it, it is no dream."

Through courage and will, Israel was born and the dream of generations was made real—and it will endure.

I want to congratulate the citizens of Israel and the entire Jewish community on this 58th anniversary of Israel's founding.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I join in support of House Concurrent Resolution 392 which I authored. In the wake of the Holocaust, the nation of Israel was established as a refuge for millions of Jews who survived horrendous crimes committed by the Nazis. Over the course of the next fifty-eight years, the people of Israel demonstrated the resiliency of the human spirit while overcoming tremendous obstacles. Their country now serves as a source of pride for the Jewish people and a strong partner in democracy with over 160 countries.

Today, by recognizing the independence of Israel, commending our country's support for

Israel, and encouraging our two countries to strengthen bilateral relations, Congress is clearly stating its confidence in the future of this great country. Israelis and Americans share mutual democratic values, and respect, and our countries are stronger when we work together. As citizens of both nations face similar enemies in the Global War on Terrorism, we must remain committed to a strong friendship which will protect both of our countries.

As the people of Israel celebrate their 58th year of independence, I am honored to extend my warmest congratulations on this inspiring achievement.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, Israel is one of the United States' greatest allies and I am proud to join my colleagues in recognizing it on the occasion of its 58th anniversary celebration of independence.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the U.S.-Israeli relationship is its mutual benefits. For 58 years the United States has assisted Israel diplomatically, financially and militarily, while Israel has proved itself to be a stalwart friend of democracy in a volatile region of the world. Particularly since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Israel has not hesitated to provide technical assistance, intelligence and advice on matters of homeland security, on which it has become, out of necessity, an expert in its own right.

Although the history of the Land of Israel stretches back far longer than that of the United States, we share a common history as refuges to victims of persecution, and as nations that never balked to defend freedom, democracy and the inalienable rights of man.

The United States is proud of its alliance with Israel—a friendship that officially began 11 minutes after Israel's creation. I look forward to many great years of thoughtful exchange and the promotion of our common interests of world peace and prosperity. Congratulations to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 58th anniversary of their statehood.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 392, which celebrates the 58th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. Today, we remember and pay tribute to the creation of the democratic State of Israel. It took the United States only eleven minutes after Israel had been declared a state to officially welcome her into the community of nations. For the last 58 years the United States and Israel have built a unique special relationship.

The creation of the State of Israel was a bold step in May of 1948. The first Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, once said that, "courage is a special kind of knowledge: the knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared." It is from such courage that the State of Israel was formed and from which Israel continues to maintain its vibrant and strong democracy today. We can all learn examples from the struggles that the citizens have endured and the grief they have overcome to remain a democratic outpost in the Middle East.

I am proud to join my colleagues today to reiterate our continued strong support of Israel and her right to defend herself and her people from terrorism, and to focus on the special relationship that exists between our two nations. I have had the pleasure of traveling to Israel

on a number of occasions, and these visits have only reinforced my strong conviction that the United States must remain actively engaged in ensuring a peaceful and equitable agreement between the two parties to the current conflict.

Yet, much work remains unfinished. We are all troubled by the recent Palestinian elections that put Hamsa in control of the Palestinian Authority and by the hateful, threatening comments that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has made about Israel. This year also brought a transition from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to Ehud Olmert, and my thoughts and prayers remain with the Sharon family. This has been a unique year for Israel, full of challenges that were admirably met. As Ben-Gurion used to say, "in Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles." I still strongly believe in the dream that has become the wonderful reality of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution celebrating the 58 years of Israel's existence as a beacon of democracy and hope in the Middle East. I also celebrate today the daily courage exhibited by the citizens of Israel and express my personal commitment to Israel at this milestone in its history. I look forward to future anniversaries, and to the day when Israel and her citizens can live in peace without the need for courage against fear.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to join in celebrating the anniversary of Israel's independence. Israel is one of America's closest allies. We rely on her good will in our War on Terror. We enjoy mutually beneficial economic agreements. And, we value Israel as the only functioning democracy in the world's most volatile region.

On May 14, 1948, or the fifth day of the month of Iyar, which is the Hebrew date of the formal establishment of the State, members of the "provisional government" read and signed a Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv. After decades of no homeland, the State of Israel was finally returned to the Jewish people. This year will mark the 58th anniversary of "Yom Ha'atzmaut" or Independence Day.

Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel is always preceded by Yom Hazikaron—Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers. The message of linking these two days is clear: Israelis owe their independence—the very existence of the State—to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for it, a sentiment not lost on Americans.

The official transition from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut is a moving event that takes place a few minutes after sundown with a ceremony on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem in which the flag is raised from half staff to the top of the pole. The President of Israel delivers a speech of congratulations, and soldiers representing the army, navy, and air force parade with their flags.

I wish our good companion, Israel, safety and security, prosperity and good fortune over the upcoming year. I vow to continue standing with you and working to ensure that the friendship between our two great nations remains strong.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 58th birthday of the State of Israel. Israel is an important ally of the United States and like our great country, Israel was founded by people seeking freedom from religious persecution. This persecution came in the form of the Holocaust—one of the most heinous events in recent history.

The United States recognized Israel within 11 minutes of its creation as an independent nation; however, not all developments in Israel's infancy as a nation were welcome. Attacked in 1948 from all sides by surrounding Arab nations, Israel defeated its enemies but soon learned it would have to develop as a democratic nation while vigilantly patrolling its borders for foreign invaders.

In addition to being a picturesque country located on the Mediterranean Sea, Israel is home to many religious sites that are sacred to people of the Muslim, Christian and Jewish faith. This concentration of Holy sites makes it all the more unfortunate that Israel and its people are the targets of so many terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, Israel and the United States have strong bilateral relations that I hope will continue to grow and strengthen in the years to come. I wish the people and the leaders of Israel best wishes, continued prosperity and a peaceful future.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution congratulating Israel on the occasion of its 58 years of independence.

On May 14, 1948, facing overwhelming odds and almost assured destruction by its Arab neighbors, Jews living in their ancestral homeland, survivors of the Holocaust and Jewish refugees from around the world gathered in a small room in Tel Aviv to announce the creation of the Jewish state of Israel. In the shadow of the murderous genocide of the Holocaust, the state of Israel was created so that Jews around the world would always have safe refuge from oppression and annihilation.

In 1948, years of Zionists' dreams culminated as David Ben Gurion announced to the world that once again Israel was to be a free and independent state, founded on principles of freedom and democracy, the new state of Israel was quickly recognized by the United States as a welcome ally in the Middle East. Unfortunately, within hours of this historic declaration, the neighboring Arab nations attacked and sent Israel into its first war as an independent nation. Despite conventional wisdom, and the great surprise of many around the world, Israel survived the attack but at a heavy cost to the young nation.

Today, 58 years after the creation of the state, Israel still struggles with an enemy who wishes to destroy it. In addition, just last January, the Palestinian people freely elected Hamas, a terrorist organization that strives for the destruction of the state of Israel, to run its government. Israel is a thriving democracy and one of the United States' strongest allies in the global war on terror. Israel has demonstrated to the world that democracy can thrive in the Middle East and that freedom of religion, freedom of the press and basic human rights can work in a region that is otherwise dominated by terror and oppression.

I stand today to congratulate Israel on its strong dedication to freedom and democracy throughout its 58 years of existence. I look forward to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship and continuing to celebrate Israel's independence in years to come.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 392, 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.

CONVEYING SYMPATHY OF CONGRESS TO FAMILIES OF YOUNG WOMEN MURDERED IN CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) conveying the sympathy of Congress to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 90

Whereas the Mexican cities of Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua have been plagued with the abduction, sexual assault, and brutal murders of over 400 young women since 1993;

Whereas there have been at least 56 murders of women in Ciudad Juárez and the city of Chihuahua since 2004;

Whereas at least 152 of the victims were sexually assaulted prior to their murders;

Whereas more than half of the victims are women and girls between the ages of 13 and 22, and many were abducted in broad daylight in well-populated areas;

Whereas these murders have brought pain to the families and friends of the victims on both sides of the border as they struggle to cope with the loss of their loved ones;

Whereas many of the victims have yet to be positively identified;

Whereas the perpetrators of most of these heinous acts remain unknown;

Whereas the Mexican Federal Government has taken steps to prevent these abductions and murders in Ciudad Juárez, including setting up a commission to coordinate Federal and State efforts, establishing a 40-point plan, appointing a special commissioner, and appointing a special prosecutor;

Whereas the Mexican Federal special prosecutor's review of the Ciudad Juárez murder investigations found evidence that over 100 police, prosecutors, forensics experts, and other State of Chihuahua justice officials failed to properly investigate the crimes, and recommended that they be held accountable for their acts of negligence, abuse of authority, and omission;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has recognized the importance of the work of the Mexican Federal special prosecutor and has shifted the mission of the prosecutor's office to assist local authorities in investigating and prosecuting crimes of violence against women throughout the country;

Whereas in 2003 the El Paso Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the

El Paso Police Department began providing Mexican Federal, State, and municipal law enforcement authorities with training in investigation techniques and methods;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development has begun providing assistance to the State of Chihuahua for judicial reform;

Whereas the government of the State of Chihuahua has jurisdiction over these crimes;

Whereas the Governor and Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua have expressed willingness to collaborate with the Mexican Federal Government and United States officials in addressing these crimes;

Whereas the Department of State has provided consular services on behalf of the American citizen and her husband who were tortured into confessing to one of the murders;

Whereas Mexico is a party to the following international treaties and declarations that relate to abductions and murders: the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Declaration on Violence Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention of Belem do Para, the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance, and the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance; and

Whereas continuing impunity for these crimes is a threat to the rule of law in Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns the ongoing abductions and murders of young women in Ciudad Juárez and the city of Chihuahua in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, since 1993;

(2) expresses its sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of the victims of these murders;

(3) recognizes the courageous struggle of the victims' families in seeking justice for the victims;

(4) urges the President and Secretary of State to incorporate the investigative and preventative efforts of the Mexican Government in the bilateral agenda between the Governments of Mexico and the United States and to continue to express concern over these abductions and murders to the Government of Mexico;

(5) urges the President and Secretary of State to continue to express support for the efforts of the victims' families to seek justice for the victims, to express concern relating to the continued harassment of these families and the human rights defenders with whom they work, and to express concern with respect to impediments in the ability of the families to receive prompt and accurate information in their cases;

(6) supports ongoing efforts to identify unknown victims through forensic analysis, including DNA testing, conducted by independent, impartial experts who are sensitive to the special needs and concerns of the victims' families, as well as efforts to make these services available to any families who have doubts about the results of prior forensic testing;

(7) condemns the use of torture as a means of investigation into these crimes;

(8) encourages the Secretary of State to continue to include in the annual Country Report on Human Rights of the Department

of State all instances of improper investigatory methods, threats against human rights activists, and the use of torture with respect to cases involving the murder and abduction of young women in the State of Chihuahua;

(9) encourages the Secretary of State to urge the Government of Mexico and the State of Chihuahua to review the cases of murdered women in which those accused or convicted of murder have credibly alleged they were tortured or forced by a state agent to confess to the crime;

(10) strongly recommends that the United States Ambassador to Mexico visit Ciudad Juárez and the city of Chihuahua for the purpose of meeting with the families of the victims, women's rights organizations, and Mexican Federal and State officials responsible for investigating these crimes and preventing future such crimes;

(11) encourages the Secretary of State to urge the Government of Mexico to ensure fair and proper judicial proceedings for the individuals who are accused of these abductions and murders and to impose appropriate punishment for those individuals subsequently determined to be guilty of such crimes;

(12) encourages the Secretary of State to urge the State of Chihuahua to hold accountable those law enforcement officials whose failure to adequately investigate the murders, whether through negligence, omission, or abuse, has led to impunity for these crimes;

(13) encourages the Secretary of State to urge the Government of Mexico to ensure that the Mexican Federal special prosecutor's office, responsible for assisting local authorities in investigating and prosecuting crimes of violence against women throughout the country, gives particular attention to the murders of women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua City;

(14) strongly supports the work of the special commissioner to prevent violence against women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua City;

(15) condemns all senseless acts of violence in all parts of the world and, in particular, violence against women; and

(16) expresses the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Mexico in the face of these tragic and senseless acts.

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 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 today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 90, introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

The resolution before us respectfully conveys to the families of more than 400 young women who have been murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, the deepest sympathy of the