

have subsequently expressed strong support for the attacks on Israel.

The United States Congress has already enacted several laws, including the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, and the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act, all of which call for the imposition of sanctions on Syria and Iran for, among other things, their support for terrorism and terrorist organizations. We must insist that President Bush bring the full force of political, diplomatic, and economic sanctions available to the Government of the United States against the Governments of Syria and Iran.

Sadly and frighteningly, Hezbollah remains off the European Union's (EU) terrorist list. This means that European nationals continue to provide Hezbollah with material support to this day. President Bush and Secretary of State Rice must make an immediate push with our European allies to have Hezbollah added to the EU terrorist list.

Israel has the responsibility to defend its citizens and cannot be expected to tolerate the violent provocations Hamas and Hezbollah committed this month. And while I am convinced that Israel is using every possible effort to avoid civilian casualties, it has become clear that the terrorists in Hamas and Hezbollah stage their actions from within civilian communities, thereby intentionally putting civilians at risk. Israel must do what is necessary to defend itself while continuing to make every effort to avoid civilian casualties.

As the New York Times stated: "Kidnapping Israeli soldiers to use as bargaining chips for the release of Arab prisoners is horrible behavior for groups that claim international recognition and political legitimacy, as Hamas and Hezbollah do. The same applies to lobbing rockets over Israel's borders in the hope that they might kill unsuspecting civilians."

It is long past due for the international community to implement fully UN Security Council Resolution 1559, adopted in September 2004, which calls for the Lebanese army to secure southern Lebanon's border and for Hezbollah to be disarmed and disbanded. Lebanon cannot be free and democratic so long as Hezbollah continues to operate as a state within a state, complete with its own army.

Regarding the Palestinians, the peace process will continue to be under attack until Hamas denounces its violent charter, rejects terrorism, and recognizes Israel's right to exist and decides it is more important to build a Palestinian state than destroy the Jewish State. I encourage Israeli leaders to maintain a dialogue with moderates within the Palestinian Authority in order to keep hope of a two-state solution in the near future alive.

But in the meantime, the United States must stand by its friend and ally, Israel, and the Bush Administration must actively engage itself in seeking a resolution to this situation. As a first step to restoring calm, the kidnapped Israeli soldiers in Gaza and Lebanon must be returned unconditionally and unharmed, and the indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israeli civilians by Hamas and Hezbollah must end immediately.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 921.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today the world watches with sadness and grave concern as the Middle East is at war, civilians are being killed and maimed, and the possibility of a region-wide conflict grows by the day. People around the world watch this violence and ask what are the world's leaders doing to stop the killing, to end the bloodshed? We hear tough words, satellite television diplomacy, accusations and excuses, but no action or urgency to end the violence. With this type of global response we can all be tragically assured that our televisions will continue to show the horror, destruction and the suffering faces of innocents in Israel and Lebanon for some time to come.

I extend my prayers and heartfelt sympathy to the citizens of Israel and Lebanon who are suffering and grieving. Allow me to also extend my sympathies to Canada which also had citizens tragically killed in this conflict. In light of so many civilian deaths and destruction of infrastructure, it would be my hope and desire that the international community, led by the United States, would immediately start the difficult work of brokering a cessation to the killing and the start of a process to resolve this conflict through diplomacy rather than rockets and bombs. This is essential to allow the thousands of U.S. citizens to be safely evacuated out of Lebanon, as well as to prevent a much larger regional conflict from starting.

The entire world knows that Hezbollah, a terrorist organization, has provoked this conflict by illegally entering the sovereign territory of Israel on the border with Lebanon, abducting two Israeli soldiers and killing eight more. Today, this House rightly condemns this act and Hezbollah's on-going acts of terror with the passage of H. Res. 921.

The United States has a profound national interest in the security of Israel. The right of Israel and all sovereign nations to be secure and defend themselves from acts of violence and terror is clearly defined in international law. The action of Hezbollah to enter Israel on July 12, 2006 and commit acts of kidnapping and terror demands a focused military response that sends a clear message that terrorism will not be tolerated. The firing of rockets into Haifa and other Israeli cities and towns with the intent of killing and harming innocent civilians requires a firm, focused and proportional response against Hezbollah.

Yet, today, after a week of open warfare, there is the on-going destruction of civilian infrastructure in both Haifa and Beirut and more than 300 dead in Lebanon and at least 25 dead in Israel, overwhelmingly innocent civilians on both sides. In the near term, there is no prospect of security for Israeli or Lebanese civilians, only more death, destruction, fear and suffering on both sides. It is time for the international community to change this hopeless dynamic and immediately start to work to end this war using diplomatic power before it escalates and spreads throughout the entire Middle East. On the day of Hezbollah's incur-

sion into Israel, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said, "I want to make clear that the event this morning is not a terror act, but an act of a sovereign state that attacked Israel without reason." This statement explicitly attributes to the Lebanese Republic the responsibility for this aggression against Israel, not Hezbollah. This is of concern since there has been no evidence put forth that the nascent government of Lebanese Prime Minister Faud Siniora has any knowledge of or sanctioned Hezbollah's terrorist act.

Lebanon is being bombed, ripped apart, in response to Hezbollah's terrorism. This strategic response may offer short-term security for Israel, but it also has the very real potential of transforming Lebanon into a radicalized, failed state. How will Lebanon recover politically and economically when this war ends? It is inconceivable that when the bombing stops there will suddenly be an international outpouring of generous donors willing support to spend billions of dollars to rebuild Lebanon's destroyed infrastructure, re-invest in its evaporated economy, and salvage its threatened democracy. It is much more likely that a new generation will be radicalized by the loss of hope in the future. At this moment, the prospect of a land bridge—a terrorist highway—of failed states and rogue nations stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf is a scenario that has emerged and poses a major threat to global security.

I am disturbed at the diplomatic impotence of the Bush administration as it plays the role of a spectator watching this war escalate and the death-toll mount. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan is correct and to be commended for moving forward quickly to marshal international support to negotiate an immediate cease fire. I believe President Bush should join him in working to make a cease fire a reality. Furthermore, I strongly agree with Mr. Annan's call for a significant multinational force in Lebanon to secure the border with Israel, eliminate Hezbollah's military capacity, and help to establish the presence of whatever Lebanese army remains to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1559.

Of course there are many voices here in the United States that oppose diplomacy and are comfortably dismissive of the death, destruction and long-term consequences of this war. Today, an editorial in the Washington Post dismisses diplomacy by saying, "If Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice makes the mistake of visiting Damascus, Mr. Assad will roll out the red carpet; then he will offer to stop the rocket and missile fire against Israel by Hezbollah and Hamas, on Syria's terms. The result will be to restore Damascus's influence in Lebanon and destroy the new independent, democratic government in Beirut—which has far more to fear from such a deal than from Israel's cratering of its airport runways and bridges." This "let them fight" sycophancy from the comfort of a safe office in the U.S. rather than a bombed out apartment or office building in Beirut ignores the obvious—Lebanon's democracy is being destroyed and it is a country on a path to becoming a failed state, as well as a haven for terrorists for years to come, unless the international community intervenes to change the current equation and establishes a guarantee of security for civilians.

It is important to remember that on April 18, 2006, President Bush appeared at a White

House with Lebanon's Prime Minister Siniora and said, "There's no question in my mind that Lebanon can serve as a great example of what is possible in the broader Middle East; that out of tough times the country has been through will rise a state that shows that it's possible for people of religious differences to live side-by-side in peace; to show that it's possible for people to put aside past histories to live together in a way that the people want, which is, therefore, to be peace and hope and opportunity."

Three months later Prime Minister Siniora's nation is a war zone, Israel is under attack daily from Hezbollah rockets, and the United States is content with waiting for the outcome of a conflict which threatens our vital security interests. It is shocking, sad and disturbing turn of events.

Today we pass H. Res. 921 and recommit our support for Israel as it is under attack from a terrorist organization. Our prayers are with the families in Israel that want security, peace and hope. At the same time, my prayers are with the people of Lebanon who reject terror and have rebuilt their country over the past decade after years of civil war. Israeli cities and towns are being terrorized by Hezbollah rockets that should be targeted and destroyed, but I do not believe the massive attacks launched against civilian targets in Lebanon are justified.

The U.S. has an obligation to stand with our ally as well as advance our vital interests in the region—security for Israel and the survival of Lebanon. Defending these interests is complicated and extraordinarily difficult because Israel is not secure and Lebanon may not survive. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has chosen the path of apathy, not diplomatic action. It is absolutely essential that the U.S. engage the region, hold terrorists accountable, and mobilize the Arab world, along with our European allies, to end the terrorist attacks on Israel while providing Lebanon with the support and resources needed to survive and excise Hezbollah. To do anything less in the upcoming days allows the possibility for an escalation into a global security and economic nightmare that will bring this Middle East war home to America.

TRIBUTE TO MICHEL CONLEY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Officer Michel Conley of the Estes Park Police Department.

On July 31, 1976, Officer Conley and his wife Phyllis were driving up the Big Thompson Canyon. Throughout that afternoon and evening, 14 inches of rain would fall in just over 4 hours time during a tremendous thunderstorm. The rain had brought a large boulder down the canyon, obstructing the road where it came to rest.

Conley stopped and headed to a nearby lodge to alert State patrol of the obstruction. By this time the rain was heavy and the canyon was in danger. Conley, though off duty, acted with the bravery and sense of public service with which he served as a police officer and began to alert residents and visitors in the canyon, telling them to get to high ground.

He notified somewhere between 75 and 175 people, saving them from the 20-foot wall of water that came rushing down the canyon, sweeping away roads, cars, and buildings in its path. Conley's wife was able to get to higher ground, but he was not. As the wall of water came sweeping toward him he climbed a telephone pole in a desperate attempt to get above the water, but the pole was swept away and Officer Conley lost his life. Along with Officer Conley, 143 people lost their lives in the devastating flood.

At the time, the Estes Park Police Department had no formal way of honoring officers who lost their lives in acts of such honor. However, on the 30th anniversary of the flood, and his heroic efforts to save the lives of those in danger, he will be honored with a medal of valor. Today I stand to honor his selfless act of heroism. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"—John 15:13. Officer Conley did so for mere strangers and I pay tribute to his valiant act as we remember the legacy of one of the worst natural disasters in the history of Colorado.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, during these troubled times it is more important than ever for the United States to express its firm commitment to the State of Israel.

Since the very beginning of its existence, Israel has been a vital ally of the United States, enjoying a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect.

The State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation 58 years ago, and it continues to be a strong friend of the United States and a beacon of democracy in the Middle East. Our democracy must stand by democratic governments such as Israel as their existence is threatened by the forces of totalitarianism and extremism.

The people of Israel have worked tirelessly to live in peace with their neighbors in the Middle East, and I commend them for their efforts. Unfortunately, that fragile peace has been shattered by the acts of terrorists bent on death and destruction, and Israel must be allowed to defend itself against these attacks.

Today a multitude of my fellow Chicagoans will join in a rally at the Federal Plaza to express their solidarity with the State of Israel. I commend these citizens and the organizers of the rally, including the Jewish Federation of Chicago. I also commend the Jewish United Fund for its financial contributions to help move children and refugees out of the northern region until this conflict is resolved.

Madam Speaker, I wish peace and prosperity to return to the region for all of its people. But a just and lasting peace can only be achieved with an end to terrorism. We stand with the State of Israel in that fight.

STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-127)

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in strong support of a veto override for H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. It is clear that a majority of Americans and a bipartisan majority in Congress strongly support embryonic stem cell research because it could prove to be critical for some 128 million Americans who suffer from juvenile diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, cancer, heart disease, spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, and other diseases.

Stem cell research is essential for the future of medicine in America; one that should be allowed to transcend political lines so that critical gains can be made to save millions of human lives. One such life is that of my constituent, 24-year-old Bishoy Abo-Saif. In his letter to me, Bishoy described his daily struggle with cerebral palsy. He has been to Canada, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Poland and the Ukraine looking for alternative therapies for his disease. Nothing has worked. Even though he has accomplished academic goals, he still feels he is on the sidelines. As he stated to me, "the wheelchair is always in the way." However, he said that, "stem cell treatment is the only hope to overcome his condition."

Most scientists agree that embryonic stem cell research offers the greatest hope to people like Bishoy. America has always been on the cutting edge of new innovation and now we stand on the brink of groundbreaking medical advancements that would dramatically alter the lives of people such as Bishoy. We must not prohibit this promising research.

But the opponents of this measure have put forward disingenuous arguments that fly in the face of widely accepted scientific research and proven potential. They wrongly portray the decision on funding for additional stem cell research as a choice between one life or another. In fact, we are choosing between disposing of embryonic stem cells or using those cells to save countless lives and advance lifesaving science in previously unrealized ways. It is incomprehensible that anyone would allow politics and personal preference to trump hard facts and science. And, like the overwhelming majority of Americans, I am deeply disappointed and dismayed over President Bush's decision to issue his first veto on this bill, dashing the hopes so many families who are battling critical illnesses have pinned on the promising potential of stem cell research.

President Bush acted to snuff out the hopes of millions of Americans only to please a small right-wing constituency which has politicized this medical issue. Once again, the Bush administration has put politics before science sadly taking hope and health away from countless families. We should not delay or deny the potentially lifesaving research offered by stem cell technology. Bishoy and millions of other Americans are counting on us. As Bishoy stated in his letter, "our hopes and