

number of troops necessary to carry out those missions.

Madam Speaker, we have sacrificed the lives of more than 3,609 soldiers and 26,695 wounded Americans, many with injuries from which they will never recover. We have a moral obligation to start the process of bringing our troops home, on our watch. A troop reduction will set our country in the right direction.

After more than 4 years of fighting, \$442 billion spent, and thousands of American and Iraqi lives lost in this war, the war in Iraq has evolved into a conundrum of massive proportions. American money, in the amount of almost \$330 million per day, is being spent on the war. Distinguished colleagues, this adds up to more than \$10 billion per month.

I believe history will regard the decision to go to war in Iraq as a tragic mistake, especially when we realize the cost of this war. The House of Representatives has authorized \$39.8 billion for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2008. The United States government will approximately spend that same amount in Iraq within a span of only 120 days.

The Administration's decision to increase the number of troops in Iraq has added to the already tremendous strain on our military personnel and their families. Both President Bush and General David H. Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, have repeatedly said that there is no military solution to Iraq and that the sectarian strife and the insurgency can be resolved only by the Iraqi government. Simultaneously, the personal lives of our troops have been devastated by unexpected early deployments or unexpected delays in their homecomings. Consequently, we have a moral obligation to get our troops out of Iraq with the same determination that got them into Iraq in the first place.

While our Administration's attention has been on Iraq, 6 years after the Bush administration declared war on al Qaeda, the terrorist network is gaining strength and has established a safe haven in remote tribal areas of western Pakistan for training and planning attacks. The most recent National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) concludes that al Qaeda is growing stronger. The report states that al Qaeda may now be a stronger terrorist organization now than it was just a year ago, and may be back to its pre-9/11 strength and reach. Meanwhile, as Osama bin Laden operates freely along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, the Administration wants to keep our troops in an open-ended Iraqi civil war. The same administration report concludes that the terrorist group has significantly rebuilt itself despite concerted U.S. attempts to smash the network. Interestingly, while the Administration has escalated our involvement in Iraq, al Qaeda has gained more training, more money, and enhanced their communications.

In addition, according to the Bush Administration's own assessment, the Iraqi government achieved only eight of 18 political and security benchmarks, a mixed rating on two and an unsatisfactory rating on eight benchmarks in a White House report prepared for Congress. The Administration has borne witness to the fact that we cannot continue to support the Iraqi government while the Iraqi government fails to achieve even moderate success. Therefore, it is time for them to determine their own destiny. We can continue to

extend the hand of friendship, but we have to handover the country to them. Iraqis must take control of their streets, their towns, and their country so we can bring our troops home.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time to require the President and the Secretary of Defense to commence the reduction of the number of United States Armed Forces in Iraq to a limited presence and begin to bring our troops home. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2956, the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.

---

### FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the one year anniversary of the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers Eldad Regev and Udi Goldwasser by Hezbollah, in a brazen and unprovoked cross-border attack that also resulted in the deaths of three other members of the Israel Defense Forces.

Only weeks earlier, Hamas abducted another Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, and killed two others in an attack carried out on Israeli territory adjacent to the Gaza Strip.

These three brave soldiers—kidnapped by terrorists while conducting routine duties inside Israel—have endured over a year of captivity.

They have endured a year without proper medical care.

They have endured a year without their loved ones.

I rise today to let the Shalit, Goldwasser and Regev families know that we stand with them in this very difficult time, and that we are all praying for the safe and timely release of their courageous sons.

---

### 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLEGAL TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. I have commemorated this day each year since I became a Member of Congress.

PSEKA (The International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus"), The Cyprus Federation of America, SAE (World Council of Hellenes Abroad), and The Federation of Hellenic Societies are primarily located in the 14th Congressional District of New York, which I am fortunate to represent.

These organizations have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus.

For the past several years, the Hellenic Caucus has been very engaged on the issues facing Cyprus. Many members of the Caucus remain concerned about the continued occu-

pation and division of the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey illegally invaded Cyprus in 1974. As a result of the Turkish invasion and occupation, 160,000 Greek Cypriots, amounting to 70 percent of the population of the occupied area and over a quarter of the total population, were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed. More than 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot descent, remain missing and unaccounted for since the Turkish invasion. Today, 33 years later, Turkey continues forcibly to occupy more than one-third of Cyprus with more than 43,000 Turkish troops. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is an encouraging sign for the successful reunification of Cyprus. However, it is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation.

As a full-fledged member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. It has joined with us on issues important to our own security, including the fight against terrorism and other forms of international crimes. Cyprus was the first EU member to join the ship boarding protocol of President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, particularly important because Cyprus has one of the world's largest commercial shipping registries. As Cyprus developed into a regional financial center, the government moved aggressively and put in place strong anti-money laundering legislation.

On July 8, 2006, the President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed to immediately begin a process of establishing bi-communal technical committees and working groups. This UN-brokered agreement also emphasized the need for confidence-building measures to make this process successful. Unfortunately, the Turkish Cypriot side has not reciprocated the positive approach taken by the Cyprus Government. President Papadopoulos proposed a meeting with the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Talat to jumpstart the process and move forward with the agreement. Mr. Talat initially accepted this invitation but on July 12th decided to cancel. I hope that the Turkish side will reconsider this decision so that the July 8th agreement can proceed.

On March 8, 2007, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus demolished a wall at Ledra Street in Nicosia, a key thoroughfare through the divided capital, as a gesture to facilitate the opening of Ledra Street as a crossing point. I have introduced H. Res. 407, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions by the Republic of Cyprus aimed at opening additional crossing points along the cease-fire line, thereby contributing to efforts for the reunification of the island. Once Turkey removes its occupation forces from the adjacent area and other issues of safety and security have been addressed, the citizens of Cyprus will be free to travel Ledra Street as they had generations ago.

I also strongly support legislation introduced by my colleagues including H.R. 1456, introduced by Representative PALLONE, which would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish-occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to seek financial remedies with