

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) who's been a long-time leader in world human rights issues over his career.

Mr. SHAYS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues for introducing this resolution.

It is a pretty stunning to think that the United States, with all its obligations around the world, has to step into the void and provide 70 percent of all the funding, in spite of the fact that Europe has a gross domestic product basically equal to the United States and a population greater than the United States.

Given that Europe isn't doing the heavy lifting it needs to do in Afghanistan and wants nothing to do with Iraq, you would think at least in Darfur Europe would say we should provide far more assistance.

And what about wealthy Middle East countries that would have the capacity in a heartbeat to provide all the money necessary, why aren't they stepping in as well?

In my only visit to Darfur, I get down on my knees in gratitude to the non-government organizations that are there to distribute the food, paid for in large measure by the United States; providing education to young people so when they can eventually go back to their homes they will not have lost 3, 4, or 5 years.

This is genocide in Darfur. Europe doesn't want to acknowledge it. The United Nations wants to be silent about it, but this is the wiping out of people.

We need to be there providing the assistance for domestic help, the financial aid that needs to be provided for not just food and education but for the troops who are trying to maintain security. I appreciate that Africa is waking up to this need, willing to send more troops, but they need the equipment to make sure that they can do the job they have to do.

This is a human tragedy of gigantic proportions. I appreciate those in the United States, particularly in our universities, that have been pushing this issue, and frankly, many in the Jewish community who have stepped up and said "never again" applies to what happens in Africa.

The world community needs to wake up and do more. The United States can't do everything.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1351, a resolution expressing support for the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur, UNAMID, and calling upon United Nations Member States and the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of UNAMID.

The attack on the UNAMID peacekeepers is deplorable and I want to express my condolences to the family and friends of those killed and wounded.

Resolving the crisis in Darfur must be one of our Nation's highest priorities.

The world collectively agreed to "never again" allow genocide after the 1994 mass murders in Rwanda.

Tragically, genocide is again taking place.

I believe the United States must take all reasonable steps to end the killing, including pressuring others in the international community to do more.

The security, human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur has continued to deteriorate since the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed in May 2006.

We must do a better job supporting the mission of the UNAMID who, despite being critically under-funded and under-equipped, are serving an important role in protecting.

It is also hugely important we continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the Darfuri people.

I will continue to advocate for tough sanctions, humanitarian aid, and for an international peacekeeping force that can effectively stop the violence.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to wrap up. I will be brief.

One of the previous resolutions that we had talked about China and the human rights abuses that have occurred, and they're just having the Olympics coming up. And the fact is, it hasn't been mentioned yet in this particular debate, but China has played a particularly unhelpful role, quite frankly, in Darfur and Sudan. They have been very much involved behind the scenes, particularly with respect to oil interests in Darfur and have made it possible for the government in Darfur to continue to flaunt world opinion, who basically has been indicating to the Sudanese Government you need to cooperate here. This is an embarrassment to the whole world, how people in Darfur are being treated. It makes you, the Sudanese Government, look bad; why don't you get with the program, reform, cooperate, and help these people.

Unfortunately, again, China who has considerable influence that it could act upon if it chose to do so, has, in some minor instances, been somewhat helpful but for the most part has failed to step up to the plate and actually put pressure on the Sudanese Government to do something finally about Darfur.

So I would strongly urge, once again, that China, in this particular instance, do the right thing, put pressure on the Sudanese Government to do something to relieve the terrible conditions that the people of Darfur have suffered under, whether it's genocide, whether it's literally starvation in some instances. China, do what's right and help the people of Darfur.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this measure, I rise in support of H. Res. 1351. In 2004, I led the first congressional delegation to Darfur with Senator SAM BROWNBACK, and witnessed the nightmare there first hand.

In July 2007 the United Nations' Security Council passed resolution 1769 which authorized a joint African Union/United Nations Hy-

brid operation in Darfur to take necessary actions to support the Darfur Peace Agreement and to protect its personnel and civilians. However, to date, only 10,000 of the 26,000 peacekeeping troops authorized by resolution 1769 have been deployed. They are in desperate need of proper equipment and air transportation and have increasingly become subject to attack by various rebel groups.

It has been widely acknowledged in the international community that these troops do not have the necessary resources to effectively carry out their mandate. On July 8, seven UNAMID peacekeepers were killed and 22 were wounded in a rebel ambush in the northern region of Darfur. The peacekeepers on the ground in Darfur have become demoralized by the impossible conditions on the ground.

I am pleased to support H. Res. 1351 and reaffirm the commitment of the United States of America to the people of Darfur and the peacekeepers who are putting their lives on the line to protect them.

Mr. CHABOT. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1351, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution expressing support for the United Nations/African Union Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and calling upon United Nations Member States and the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of UNAMID, including troops and essential tactical and utility helicopters."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE PERSECUTION OF BAHÁ'IS IN IRAN

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1008) condemning the persecution of Baha'is in Iran, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1008

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, and 2006, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Bahá'í community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Bahá'í faith;

Whereas on March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Asma Jahangir, revealed the existence of a confidential letter dated October 29, 2005, from the chairman of the command headquarters of Iran's Armed Forces

to the Ministry of Information, the Revolutionary Guard, and the police force, stating the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, instructed the command headquarters to identify members of the Bahá'í faith in Iran and monitor their activities;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur expressed "grave concern and apprehension" about the implications of this letter for the safety of the Bahá'í community;

Whereas in May 2006, 54 Bahá'ís were arrested in Shiraz and held for several days without trial in the largest roundup of Bahá'ís since the 1980s;

Whereas in August 2006, the Iranian Ministry of the Interior ordered provincial officials to "cautiously and carefully monitor and manage" all Bahá'í social activities;

Whereas in 2006, the Central Security Office of Iran's Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology ordered 81 Iranian universities to expel any student discovered to be a Bahá'í;

Whereas in November 2006, a letter issued by Payame Noor University stated that it is Iranian policy to prevent Bahá'ís from enrolling in universities and to expel Bahá'í upon discovery;

Whereas in 2007, more than two-thirds of the Bahá'ís enrolled in universities were expelled upon identification as a Bahá'í;

Whereas in February 2007, police in Tehran and surrounding towns entered Bahá'í homes and businesses to collect details on family members;

Whereas in April 2007, the Iranian Public Intelligence and Security Force ordered 25 industries to deny business licences to Bahá'ís;

Whereas in 2006 and 2007, the Iranian Ministry of Information pressured employers to fire Bahá'í employees and instructed banks to refuse to provide loans to Bahá'í-owned businesses;

Whereas in July 2007, a Bahá'í cemetery was destroyed by earthmoving equipment in Yazd, and in September 2007, a Bahá'í cemetery was bulldozed outside of Najafabad, erasing the memory of those Iranian citizens;

Whereas in November 2007, the Iranian Ministry of Information in Shiraz detained Bahá'ís Ms. Raha Sabet, 33; Mr. Sasan Taqva, 32; and Ms. Haleh Roohi, 29, for educating underprivileged children;

Whereas Mr. Taqva reportedly was detained while suffering from an injured leg which required medical attention;

Whereas on January 23, 2008, the State Department released a statement urging the Iranian regime to release all individuals held without due process and a fair trial, including the 3 young Bahá'ís being held in an Iranian Ministry of Intelligence detention center in Shiraz;

Whereas in March and May of 2008, Iranian intelligence officials in Mashhad and Tehran arrested and imprisoned Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, the members of the coordinating group for the Bahá'í community in Iran;

Whereas those seven individuals remain imprisoned without charge;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights; and

Whereas in December 2007, the Iranian Parliament published a draft Islamic penal code, which violates Iran's commitment under the International Covenants on Human Rights by requiring the death penalty for "apostates", a term applied to Bahá'ís and any convert from Islam: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of Bahá'ís, calls on the Government of Iran to immediately cease activities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Bahá'í community, and continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its nationals, including members of the Bahá'í community;

(2) condemns the Government of Iran's continued imprisonment of individuals without due process and a fair trial;

(3) calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release 10 Bahá'ís: Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, Ms. Haleh Roohi, Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm; and

(4) calls on the Government of Iran and the Iranian Parliament to reject a draft Islamic penal code, which violates Iran's commitments under the International Covenants on Human Rights.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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Mr. BERMAN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first let me thank our colleague, MARK KIRK, for introducing this important resolution.

The Baha'í community in Iran certainly is no stranger to severe government persecution. But as a result of arrests in March and May of 2008, the entire national leadership of the Iranian Baha'í community is now being held incommunicado.

The May arrests are the most direct action taken against Baha'í leadership in Iran since the early 1980s, when the Iranian Government abducted and executed the entire leadership of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'ís. In 1983, all formal Baha'í administrative institutions were outlawed.

In the past 4 years, 166 Baha'ís have been arrested in Iran. Among the charges brought against them is "creating anxiety in the minds of the public and those of the Iranian officials."

Conditions for the Baha'í in Iran are deteriorating, including an upsurge in violent attacks, the destruction of property, the demolition of homes, and arson. Ministry of Intelligence officers and agents continue to summon, arbitrarily detain, and interrogate Baha'ís about all aspects of their lives and about any Muslims who may participate in Baha'í activities.

The resolution before the House calls on the Government of Iran to immediately and unconditionally release Baha'ís imprisoned as a result of their religion, and to cease its systematic persecution of the Baha'í community. It sends a strong signal that Congress will continue to watch closely the treatment of the Baha'í people in Iran.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1008, which condemns the Iranian Government's continuing persecution of members of the Baha'í faith, calls on Iran's Parliament to reject a proposed Islamic penal code, and calls on the Iranian regime to immediately release 10 imprisoned Baha'ís.

Mr. Speaker, Tehran's notoriously cruel regime, which denies religious freedoms to its citizens, has made a special example of the Iranian Baha'ís. In addition to seizing Baha'í communal property, the Iranian Government prohibits the community from officially assembling, bans them from practicing or teaching their religion, excludes them from the national pension system and from public universities, prevents them from inheriting property, and jails them on account of their faith or on trumped-up charges of espionage.

Recently, Iranian Baha'ís have also reported a string of arson attacks against their homes and vehicles. Disturbingly, this persecution continues to the grave. In 2007, two Baha'í cemeteries in Iran were destroyed or bulldozed, wiping away the memory of these innocent Iranians.

Mr. Speaker, oppression of Baha'ís comes from the very top of the Iranian regime. The U.N.'s Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief has revealed that in 2005, the chairman of the command headquarters of Iran's Armed Forces wrote a letter stating that Iran's so-called "supreme leader" had ordered the headquarters to identify and monitor Iranian members of the Baha'í faith.

This was no idle request. In March and May of 2008, the Government of Iran arrested and imprisoned seven senior leaders of the Baha'í community in Iran. And today, those leaders, along with three other Baha'ís, remain imprisoned without charge.

Now Iran's Parliament may aggravate repression of religious freedom by enacting a draft Islamic penal code that would punish so-called "apostates," including all Baha'ís and converts from Islam, with death. Iran's regime continues to demonstrate that it is ready and willing to execute innocent people.

Mr. Speaker, totalitarian regimes everywhere, hiding behind the false excuse of state sovereignty, are eager to combat any progress in human rights and freedoms and to expand their hegemony and repression as far as others allow them to do. Therefore, the United States must continue to make

clear, in both word and deed, that the spread of religious freedom and human rights worldwide is not merely an ideal, but an imperative.

I thank my distinguished colleague and friend from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for introducing this resolution.

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

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), who is the author of this resolution. He is also a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I co-authored this resolution with ROB ANDREWS as a call to action for the safety of the Baha'i faithful.

Never have followers of a more peaceful or gentle creed faced a more cruel and unjust tormenter. Founded in the mid-19th century in Persia, the Baha'i faith now extends to every country, including our own, but its faithful are most numerous in the place of its origin, now the modern day Iran.

The European Parliament has spoken out on this issue, and so we now add our voice as supporters of international human rights and the home of many Baha'i faithful here in America.

We have looked at a terrible situation unfolding in Iran. While Iranian Baha'is have suffered for many decades, their repression has grown significantly in the past few years. In 2006, Iran's Armed Forces Command headquarters ordered their Ministry of Information and the Revolutionary Guard and the police to identify all members of the Baha'i faith in Iran and to begin to monitor their activities.

In that same year, we saw the largest round-up of Baha'is. The Iranian Interior Ministry ordered provincial officials to cautiously and carefully monitor and then begin to manage all Baha'i activities. The Central Security Office of Iran's Ministry of Science, Research and Technology ordered 81 Iranian universities to expel any student discovered of being a Baha'i.

In 2007, the situation worsened. More than two-thirds of Baha'is enrolled in universities were expelled once they were identified. Police entered Baha'i homes and businesses to collect details on family members. Twenty-five industries were ordered to deny licenses to Baha'is, employers were pressured to fire Baha'i employees, and banks were told to refuse loans to Baha'i-owned businesses. As we heard before, Baha'i cemeteries were also destroyed.

In November of 2007, three Baha'i youths, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva and Ms. Haleh Roohi, were all detained for educating underprivileged children. They were later sentenced to 4 years in prison for this offense. The following month, the Iranian Parliament published a draft Islamic penal code requiring the death penalty for all apostates, a term that strictly applies

to Baha'is and anyone who converts away from rigid Islam.

On May 14, 2008, seven members of the National Baha'i Coordinating Group were arrested. This is reminiscent of a mass disappearance and assumed murder of all members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is in Iran back in August of 1980. The seven arrested in May are still being held without any charge or access to attorneys. And in just the last 2 weeks, a number of Baha'i families were targeted with acts of arson.

This is government-sponsored persecution. And we in the Congress should not be silent as Iran sets up the mechanism to ethnically cleanse its Baha'i minority, totaling over 250,000 human beings.

This bipartisan resolution, which I introduced with Congressman ANDREWS, condemns the Government of Iran for its persistent repression of Baha'is and lack of due process afforded to this minority. Our resolution calls upon Iran to immediately release three Baha'i youths and to reject the draft Islamic penal code requiring the death penalty for all apostates.

Mr. Speaker, my district is also home to the headquarters of the North American Assembly of Baha'is. The son of the faith's founder laid the cornerstone on the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette, Illinois—now basically a de facto symbol of the North Shore and our commitment to diversity and tolerance. Would that this view be shared by the Iranian Government.

For the life of me, I do not understand why they attack Baha'is. The Baha'i faith teaches that Moses and Jesus and Mohammed are all respected teachers who added to the faith of our times. The Baha'is embody acceptance and tolerance and accommodation. They have a faith which renders them incapable of being a threat to a government, so it is up to us to speak for them. It's up to us to hold up a mirror to the Iranian Government to show it as a vicious and cruel state.

We have seen this movie before, but they have worn other uniforms in other countries. It is my hope that we can make this call to action to join with the European Parliament. We can help change the ending of this flick so that hundreds of thousands of Baha'is may one day be able to sleep well in future days knowing that the great democracies from across the seas in Europe and America watch over them.

I urge the adoption of this Kirk-Andrews resolution and mightily thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. BERMAN, Ranking Member Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. CHABOT, for helping to bring this before America's Parliament and calling real attention to help avert what could be a new crime of the century.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1008, condemning the per-

secution of the Baha'is in Iran. The Baha'is are Iran's largest non-Muslim minority and have faced severe and often brutal persecution since the Iranian government banned all formal Baha'i activity in 1983. Incidents of violence and persecution targeting members of the Baha'i community have increased under the current regime of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

On July 18, the house of the Shaaker family in Kerman was torched only weeks after their car went up in flames. Officials investigating the scene attributed the incidents to electrical problems despite a series of threatening phone calls received by the family in the days leading up to the incident. This is one of over a dozen cases in a string of arson targeting Baha'is over the past 15 months.

These attacks follow the arrest and detention of the seven members of Iran's national Baha'i coordinating group in May. All of these individuals remain isolated in the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran without access to legal representation and are prohibited from contacting their families. At this time, no formal charges have been brought against these seven individuals.

I am pleased to join a bipartisan group of my colleagues as a cosponsor of this important resolution, and I hope its passage will send a strong message to the Iranian government that the United States Congress will always stand in solidarity with the persecuted people of the world.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1008, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KIRK. 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 motion will be postponed.

EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 3352) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 3352

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.—Section 2(a) of the Higher Education Extension Act of