

first imposed in 1997 during the Clinton administration, many say as a favor to the regime in Tehran. That obviously has not produced anything in response. And I do think that it is incumbent on this administration to make it clear if it has evidence to bring it forward and if it does not have evidence to remove the designation.

U.S. opposition to international terrorism is unwavering but it is an opposition that has to be based on facts and not ideology and that is what we need to see. In the short term I believe the United States has a responsibility for the safety of people at Camp Ashraf. At an absolute minimum, the US presence inside Ashraf has to be continued and perhaps expanded back to something like its previous level. I think the UN mission inside Ashraf has to be extended and I think we need to make it clear to the government of Iraq that we will not tolerate interference in the camp and certainly not the kind of assaults that have occurred on the inhabitants of the camp before. This is again something, I think, of a very high priority in the American Congress.

I think going beyond simply getting out of the way of legitimate democratic opposition to the regime in Tehran that the United States should be prepared to provide assistance to the opposition; resources and information continuing and expanding, for example, the work of Radio Farda, and other ways to get information to the people still inside Iran. I think the utility of this kind of support has been demonstrated throughout history, such as Solidarity in Poland. Obviously we do not want to do anything that would give the regime the ability to say that the opposition was anything other than fully independent. But, I think our support and the support of other western democracies should go beyond the merely rhetorical.

In recent weeks we have seen the UN Security Council impose the fourth set of sanctions against the regime because of its nuclear weapons program. Sanctions are useful to put pressure on the regime and will bring us closer to the day when the regime will fall and there will actually be a democratic Iran. But I do not think that the sanctions unfortunately will be enough to stop the regime's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons. And I worry very much that the Obama administration and our western European friends believe that there is now nothing more that can be done to prevent the regime and the Revolutionary Guards from obtaining nuclear weapons. Their fallback position is that the mullahs and the Revolutionary Guard can be contained and deterred once they achieve a nuclear weapons capability. I think this is a huge mistake for the region and the world but mostly for the people of Iran. The fact is that once this regime gets nuclear weapons it will be immeasurably strengthened and the power of Revolutionary Guards, already considerable, will be strengthened even further. This regime with nuclear weapons is not simply an external threat to its neighbors and stability in the region and the world as a whole, but an even greater threat to the people of Iran. It is the trump card for the regime to stay in power.

I think it is very significant here that the position of the democratic opposition is that it does not want an Iran with nuclear weapons. Commentators in the West are continuously telling us that opposition to the nuclear program helps bring the people of Iran into closer support for the regime in Tehran. We know that that is simply not true and I think it is very important that in Maryam Rajavi's platform for the future Iran it says in point 10 very explicitly, (let me quote it so that the media can hear it, this is Mrs. Rajavi's own platform), "We want the free Iran of tomorrow to be devoid of nuclear

weapons and weapons of mass destruction." Mrs. Rajavi's position is exactly the right position, because an Iran with nuclear weapons will be a less secure Iran. If this regime gets nuclear weapons, you can count on Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey and perhaps others getting nuclear weapons. So in a very brief period of time, five to ten years, you can have a multi-polar nuclear Middle East that will make everybody less secure and particularly Iran. This is why it is so important that we support the democratic opposition in Iran to see regime change at the earliest possible date.

Now, some people in the West, although they do not like to put it this explicitly, basically do not think Iran is ready for democracy. I think they are flatly wrong. Iran is more than ready for democracy. This is something that we feel very deeply about in the United States.

I would offer to all of you the great insight of our President Abraham Lincoln, who gave us the inspiration that I hope will be of assistance to you, that what we want for the people of Iran is what Lincoln wanted for the people of the United States: government of the people, by the people and for the people.

APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT (H.J. RES. 83)

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.J. Res. 83, a resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act (P.L. 108-61). I am proud to have once again introduced this legislation this year with the gentleman from New York, Mr. CROWLEY.

In 2003 Congress passed the Burmese Freedom & Democracy Act, legislation that I co-authored with my friend, the late Tom Lantos. President Bush signed this bill into law and we have reauthorized these import restrictions every year since. The legislation bans imports from Burma and the issuance of visas to those officials affiliated with the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the military junta that rules Burma and brutally represses its people. This law also bans U.S. financial transactions that involve individuals or entities connected with the SPDC.

These sanctions are critically important to keeping the pressure on the Burmese junta. The government continues to have one of the worst human rights record in the world and routinely violates the rights of Burmese citizens, including the systematic use of rape as a weapon of war, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, as well as slave and child labor. The Burmese regime has destroyed more than 3,500 ethnic villages, displaced approximately 2,000,000 Burmese people, more than 500,000 of which are internally displaced, and arrested approximately 2,100 individuals for expressing critical opinions of the government. And it continues to detain Aung San Suu Kyi, the head of the National League for Democracy and the democratically elected leader of Burma.

We must continue to stand with the Burmese people and expose the despicable and

reprehensible actions of the SPDC. Sanctions are critical to putting pressure on the junta. In 2008, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act (P.L. 110-286) which bans the importation of Burmese gems into the United States and freezes the assets of Burmese political and military leaders. But we still need others to follow ours and the EU's lead. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) must impose multilateral sanctions against Burma's military regime including a complete arms embargo.

Finally, it is my hope that the Obama Administration promptly implements all the provisions of the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act, appoints a Special Coordinator for Burma, and supports the establishment of UNSC Commission of Inquiry on Burma.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

CONGRATULATING DR. WILLIE WILSON ON 23 YEARS WITH SINGSATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Dr. Willie Wilson is a successful entrepreneur, philanthropist and national gospel recording artist. He was born in Gilbert, Louisiana and overcame significant challenges to become a successful businessman and humanitarian. Every Sunday he can be found singing at someone's church and donating thousands of dollars to assist the kingdom of God.

Dr. Wilson owned five McDonald's Restaurants and received numerous awards for his commitment to the community. In 1987, Dr. Wilson founded Willie Wilson Productions, a television production company where he produced the nationally syndicated Gospel Show Singsation. Dr. Wilson's television show Singsation is viewed by more than 40 million homes nationally. He is the first African American to have a nationally syndicated Gospel show.

Dr. Wilson produced five national recordings entitled: I'm So Grateful, Lord Don't Let Me Fail, I'll Fly Away, Just a Closer Walk With Thee, and Through it All. He recently penned a book about his life story entitled "What Shall I Do Next, When I Don't Know Next What To Do?"

Dr. Wilson holds several Honorary Doctorate Degrees including and Honorary Doctorate in Divinity from Mt. Carmel Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Humane letters from Chicago Baptist Institute, and an Honorary Doctorate in Humanitarianism from Swisher Bible College.

Dr. Wilson started Omar Inc., in 1997, a company that is the seventh largest black-owned company in Illinois and ranks 96 nationally on the list compiled by Black Enterprise Magazine. The company grossed more than \$50 million last year.

In 2009 Dr. Wilson acquired Oak Gloves Manufacturing Plant in Tullahoma, Tennessee making him the first and only African American manufacturer of medical grade gloves in North America. Dr. Wilson's story reflects the American Dream—that hard work and persistence wins every time.