

paragraph in a “news” story than one that was on the front page of yesterday’s Washington Post. Philip Rucker does not now deserve the title of journalist but, instead, should be referred to as a Democratic or leftwing hack.

He wrote that a traditional President would have reacted carefully “to the London attacks by instilling calm, being judicious . . . and appealing to the country’s better angels.” Instead, he accused President Trump of reacting “impulsively . . . stroking panic and fear, being indiscrete with details . . . and capitalizing on it to advocate for one of his more polarizing policies and to advance a personal feud.”

Apparently, Mr. Rucker is so blinded by hatred for the President he cannot see straight and has written one of the most unfair, one-sided articles I have ever read in a “news” story in what used to be a newspaper.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, on the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and on behalf of Hoosiers from Indiana’s Sixth Congressional District, I rise today to send my prayers and best wishes to the Jewish state.

It is our hope that the special relationship between America and Israel continues to be strengthened and to grow. Israel is our most important friend in that region of the world and among America’s strongest allies anywhere in the world. On this anniversary, let it be reaffirmed that Indiana and America stand with Israel.

The Holy City is a place of prayer for all people, and this day provides us with an opportunity to pray for the Jewish state. May it remain a beacon of light, representing democracy and freedom, and may peace and prosperity reign for its people.

The eternal capital of the State of Israel, Jerusalem, is also a seat of parliament; and from one representative body to another, we say “Shalom” and “God bless.” Our prayers are with Israel today, tomorrow, and always.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

JUNE 5, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Pursuant to Section 603 of the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Pub. L. 114-323), I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission:

Mr. Pete Gallego of Alpine, Texas

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLAR- SHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker’s reappointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mr. DEUTCH, Florida

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1633

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 4 o’clock and 33 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AGAINST PEACEFUL PROTESTERS OUT- SIDE THE TURKISH AMBAS- SADOR’S RESIDENCE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 354) condemning the violence against peaceful protesters outside the Turkish Ambassador’s residence on May 16, 2017, and calling for the perpetrators to be brought to justice and measures to be taken to prevent similar incidents in the future, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 354

Whereas, on May 16, 2017, President Donald J. Trump hosted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, a longstanding NATO ally, for an official meeting at the White House to discuss counterterrorism cooperation and bilateral issues;

Whereas, on the evening of May 16, 2017, over two dozen protesters gathered outside of the Turkish Ambassador’s residence in Washington, DC, to demonstrate opposition to Turkish government policies;

Whereas after hours of peaceful protest, violence erupted when pro-Erdogan supporters and individuals from the Turkish Embassy grounds pushed past District of Columbia police officers to brutally attack the demonstrators;

Whereas those Turkish officials blatantly suppressed the First Amendment rights of United States citizens, and multiple armed Turkish security officials beat, kicked, and choked unarmed demonstrators;

Whereas multiple video recordings of the violence and reports by the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia and the Department of State confirm that the demonstrators did not instigate the violence;

Whereas at least 11 individuals were seriously injured in the ensuing brawl, with two individuals requiring immediate hospitalization;

Whereas separately, two armed Turkish security officers attached to a security detail were detained for physically assaulting Federal agents;

Whereas those two Turkish security officers were later released and subsequently allowed to leave the United States because they held Derived Head of State immunity;

Whereas the Department of State did not request that Turkey waive the immunity for these two security officers in order to fully investigate the assault prior to their being released from custody;

Whereas a joint criminal investigation into the incident is ongoing with the combined efforts of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department, the United States Secret Service, and the Department of State Diplomatic Security Service;

Whereas at no point was President Erdogan in danger;

Whereas immunity for diplomatic personnel and certain other foreign officials is a core principle, as is the right to protest peacefully and freely in the United States;

Whereas this is the third instance of violence perpetrated by members of Turkish President Erdogan’s security detail in United States territory;

Whereas in 2011, a brawl erupted in the halls of the United Nations General Assembly between members of Turkish President Erdogan’s security detail and United Nations security officers, resulting in one United Nations security officer being hospitalized due to serious injuries;

Whereas in 2016, members of Turkish President Erdogan’s security detail engaged in unwarranted violence against journalists reporting on an event at the Brookings Institution;

Whereas Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on May 21, 2017, that the violence outside the Turkish Embassy was “outrageous” and “simply unacceptable”; and

Whereas the right to assembly, peaceful protest, and freedom of speech are essential and protected rights in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the rights to peacefully assemble and freely express one’s views are essential to the fabric of American democracy;

(2) the Turkish security forces acted in an unprofessional and brutal manner, reflecting poorly on President Erdogan and the Government of Turkey;

(3) any Turkish security officials who directed, oversaw, or participated in efforts by Turkish security forces to illegally suppress peaceful protests on May 16, 2017, should be

charged and prosecuted under United States law;

(4) the United States Secret Service and the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State should review this incident and confirm with the Turkish National Police the standards expected by visiting security details to prevent future violent incidents;

(5) the Department of State should immediately request the waiver of immunity of any Turkish security detail official engaged in assault in the United States prior to release of that individual from custody;

(6) the Department of State should conduct a review of its own security procedures to determine how to mitigate the likelihood of such an event in the future;

(7) the United States respect for free speech requires officials of the United States to speak out against such incidents; and

(8) the United States should take steps to strengthen freedoms for the press and civil society in countries such as Turkey, and combat efforts by foreign leaders to suppress free and peaceful protest in their own countries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, and also the gentleman from New York, the ranking member of this committee, Mr. ENGEL, for working with us on this clear condemnation of the violence against peaceful protesters outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence in Washington, D.C., on May 16.

That day, President Erdogan of Turkey, a longstanding NATO ally, met at the White House to discuss counterterrorism cooperation and to discuss bilateral issues. This was an important meeting. But that evening, armed members of the Turkish President's security detail brutally attacked demonstrators who had gathered outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence on Sheridan Circle in Washington, D.C. They were there to protest various policies of the Turkish Government.

In an unprovoked attack, armed Turkish personnel broke through D.C. Metropolitan Police lines and attacked the protesters. They choked, beat, and kicked the demonstrators until D.C. Metropolitan Police officers, and State Department Diplomatic Security were able to stop the melee and restore order.

One woman was beaten unconscious. She testified before the Foreign Affairs Committee that she sustained brain damage as a result. A protester near her was beaten to the ground and repeatedly kicked in the face. His front teeth were smashed.

Mr. Speaker, what was the reason these and other American citizens were harshly beaten?

They chose to exercise their constitutional right to free speech and assembly. They chose to criticize actions of President Erdogan's government. The protesters got under the Turkish delegation's skin.

Let us be clear: at no time was President Erdogan in danger. This was not an act of protection. It was an act of suppression on our American soil.

The actions of the Turkish security detail were unprofessional and dangerous. You had armed security personnel creating a melee. The actions were unjustified and, up to this point, have gone largely unchallenged.

H. Res. 354 puts Congress firmly on record in clear, unmistakable terms condemning the actions of the Turkish security guards last month. The resolution also demands that Turkey immediately lift diplomatic immunity for all those who assaulted U.S. citizens and law enforcement officers.

This resolution also calls for the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Secret Service to review their security procedures and for them to convey to Turkish officials in clear terms the expectations for the behavior of their security teams when they are operating in the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most disturbing aspects of last month's attack is that this assault by Turkish security officials was not an isolated incident. Rather, it was the third instance of violence they have engaged in while operating in the United States in recent years.

Passage of this resolution is an appropriate, strong response by this House to those brutal actions by Turkish forces.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I thank the Democratic and Republican leaders who introduced this resolution condemning the violence of the security detail at the Turkish Embassy here in the Nation's Capital.

I am not surprised at the bipartisan nature of this resolution coming from the top of Congress about the right to protest peacefully in our country. This was an assault, after all, not only on the protesters, but on one of our most important American values: the right to assemble and use the First Amendment to protest.

Mr. Speaker, we must persist because I do not recall a demonstration like this. It was witnessed by the chief of police himself, Peter Newsham, and he, himself, is an eyewitness who declared

that these protesters were all peaceful. There were also videos of the non-violent protesters being assaulted.

Now, the United States and the protesters deserve an appropriate response from the Turkish Government. Instead, we received a farfetched shifting of blame from Turkey. That makes it all the more important because the shifting of the blame will lead some to believe that we are responsible for what happened. Actually, we need to protest in the strongest terms because it turns out that this is part of a pattern.

A similar incident occurred about a half dozen years ago at the United Nations, same head of state, same thugs attacking peaceful protesters.

Last year—just this past year—there was an attack on journalists outside of The Brookings Institution.

So if we don't tell them it is time to stop when we have had the third attack, they will persist. That is for sure.

We know who these security details are. They couldn't have gotten into the country accompanying a head of state without telling us who they are. Moreover, two of them were arrested, so we have their names. I have written the Secretary of State, Mr. Tillerson, to ask him to bar the reentry of these security personnel; to hold them if they are still here; and to request information on whether they are entitled to immunity, and if they are, to have this immunity waived.

We will not let the Turkish thugs who took on our protesters unprovoked hide behind immunity. It can be waived if it is present. It should be waived. These security personnel should be charged and prosecuted under U.S. law. Imagine, we would have done precisely the same if some of our security had behaved in this fashion in Turkey.

There will be no justice to the citizens exercising their First Amendment rights who were stomped, kicked, and seriously injured until they and our country are vindicated with an appropriate response from the Turkish Government.

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

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), my good friend.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 354, which forcefully condemns the shocking assault carried out here on American soil, here in our Nation's Capital, by trained paramilitary agents of the Turkish Presidential security force against a peaceful assembly of protesters who were exercising their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech.

Video footage offers evidence that President Erdogan sanctioned the attack, and then calmly sat back to watch as his bodyguards carried it out.

□ 1645

Each of us in this Chamber must ask the question: What sort of foreign leader invited for an official visit by the President of the United States would conduct himself in such a reprehensible manner and would show such contempt for America's commitment to human rights and civil liberties?

Make no mistake. This is the same man who has ordered mass incarcerations in his own country, who persecutes dissenters and jails democratically elected officials, and who locks up journalists on a whim. In fact, he is the number one jailer of journalists in the world.

The assault on innocent protesters in the streets of Washington, D.C., is entirely consistent with the impulses of an autocratic Turkey. It has unmasked President Erdogan for the bully that he is and offers Americans a teachable moment on the character of official Turkey. It reflects a deeply imbedded reflex that, in the modern era, has brought the world, among other things, the unlawful invasion and occupation of Cyprus, the Armenian genocide, and the violent repression of the Kurdish people.

This incident demands more than just the prosecution of Erdogan's security personnel or the expulsion of the Turkish Ambassador or the strong condemnation of Erdogan himself, all of which should happen. It is time for a complete reevaluation of the U.S. relationship with Turkey. We cannot pretend that it is business as usual with a foreign leader that has attacked our Nation's most cherished democratic values on our very own soil.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this has been painful not only for the protesters, it is painful for our country because Turkey is an ally. We have our differences with Turkey, but we are dependent on Turkey for security matters. If this had never happened before, perhaps we could say that Turkey just doesn't understand how we operate in this country. The fact that it was the third incident makes it particularly bothersome.

Now, we are aware how sensitive this matter is. You cannot deal with a foreign adversary who happens to be an ally at the same time as if he were simply the enemy or our opponent. We have to understand the sensibilities of operating in the international sphere. But it is clear that Turkey doesn't understand that.

I was particularly concerned that Mr. Erdogan was in his car the entire time. He could have gotten out of his car and called attention to his security detail. He could have asked a staff member to do the very same thing. Instead, he stayed in his car, got out after the security detail from the D.C. police department had calmed things, stood there and had nothing to say. If we let this third incident go by with no re-

sponse or accept—or even seem to accept—the Turkish response, that will be a signal to keep it up.

So I am so pleased that my good friend on the other side and I are in unison on this. I am particularly pleased that this was not a resolution introduced by me or by my good friend, that this resolution was introduced by top leaders on the Republican and the Democratic side.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is the Democratic whip of the House.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Representative from the District of Columbia, Ms. NORTON, for yielding. I want to thank Mr. ROYCE for his continuing principled and focused leadership on issues that relate to foreign policy, that relate to human rights, and that relate to international law. I appreciate very much his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that I was able to join with the majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, my friend, in sponsoring this resolution. It is an appropriate response to the terrible actions that were taken by security officers protecting Mr. Erdogan on his visit here.

I rise in support of this resolution, which I am proud to have introduced along with the majority leader, Ranking Member ENGEL, and Chairman ROYCE.

The assault on nonviolent demonstrators here in our Nation's Capital on May 16 by Turkish security personnel was an outrage. Our resolution makes it clear: the United States will not tolerate violence against peaceful protesters on our shores, and those responsible must face justice.

Turkey remains a critical NATO ally, but I am, nevertheless, extremely concerned, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that this is the third such incident in recent years, marking a pattern of violence by Turkish security personnel in the United States—unacceptable.

Senator JOHN MCCAIN—I won't quote him, but his response was very direct and very basic. He, too, said this was unacceptable behavior, and he even suggested that perhaps the Turkish Ambassador ought to leave. I do not suggest that, but I do suggest the conduct must change. It is unacceptable.

Our resolution calls on the State Department to take appropriate actions to ensure that the Turkish Government understands that we will not allow this to happen again. There must be consequences to this unprovoked attack on peaceful American citizens in their own country, and those responsible should be charged and prosecuted by the United States.

It should be clear to Turkey and to all nations that we will oppose any attempt to suppress dissent or the freedom of speech. That is why that is in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States because our Founding Fathers and, frankly, those

who follow Western values—and, yes, some Eastern values—believe that free speech is absolutely the sine qua non—an absolute essential—for democracy to succeed and to flourish.

I want to thank Mr. ROYCE again for his principled leadership. I want to thank Ms. NORTON, and I want to thank the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their work on this resolution. I urge every Member of this House to join not only in passing it but sending this strong message not only to our Turkish allies but to all those who would come to these shores and understand that our citizens may well have something to say. They may say it with signs, they may say it with their voices, and they may say it by standing someplace in proximity; one of the facets of America is that they have the right to do that, and those who visit our shores must honor that right.

Support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the remaining time for the minority will be controlled by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of this measure. I want to thank Mr. HOYER, the gentleman from Maryland.

Let me start by thanking the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE of California, for authoring this legislation and working to bring it to this floor.

By now we have seen the footage. We went to the film and saw the footage of Turkish thugs attacking peaceful protesters during President Erdogan's visit to Washington a few weeks ago. It is bad enough when we see governments anywhere crack down on basic rights like the freedom of assembly or expression. It is bad enough to see that sort of oppression in the streets of Ankara or Istanbul, but it is becoming more and more common as Turkey slips towards authoritarianism.

But to see that on the streets of Washington, D.C., is absolutely unacceptable—especially at the hands of foreign government officials who are guests in our country. We cannot allow these actions to remain unnoticed and to trample on our constitutional rights.

We know that President Erdogan was never in danger. He simply decided to treat Americans the way he treats his own people. His guards even had the nerve to attack law enforcement officials who were protecting him and his delegation.

This behavior cannot stand, and the resolution before us sends a clear, decisive message that Congress won't tolerate it. The State Department must do whatever it takes to make sure that this does not happen again, and those responsible for these heinous acts must be held accountable. Charges must be filed and pursued.

I am glad to support this measure that puts the House on record saying that we won't stand for this type of bully who attacks American citizens and American democracy.

Mr. Speaker, free speech, free assembly, and free expression are at the core of any democracy across the world. Turkey is certainly a partner and an ally, and it is deeply concerning to see the steady erosion of democracy in that country.

But we cannot tolerate that sort of behavior here in our country. When you are in the United States, you play by our rules, and that means obeying our laws and respecting our values. Those responsible for violence against American citizens should face the consequences. Otherwise, what is to stop them from doing this once again?

Mr. Speaker, I support this measure, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The violent attacks, Mr. Speaker, by officers assigned to Turkish President Erdogan's security detail against peaceful protesters back on May 16 were designed to do one thing. They were designed to silence those protesters' criticism of the Turkish Government. That is why it is so important that we speak out.

We must speak loudly and clearly that we will protect our citizens and their fundamental rights to free speech and to assembly. Turkey is an important and longstanding NATO ally, but the Turkish Government can and should do better than this, and it can start by addressing the concerns of the House of Representatives and many Americans who were very angered by the video capturing this disgraceful attack on these citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 354, which condemns the violence, on American soil, against peaceful protesters outside the residence of the Turkish Ambassador to the United States and calls for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

On May 16, 2017, the President hosted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey for an official meeting at the White House to discuss counter-terrorism cooperation and bilateral issues.

That evening, over two dozen protesters peaceably assembled outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence in Washington, D.C., to voice their opposition to Turkish Government policies.

It was not long before unprovoked violence erupted, when pro-Erdogan supporters and individuals from the Turkish Embassy grounds pushed past District of Columbia police officers to brutally attack the peaceful demonstrators.

These Turkish officials violated the First Amendment rights of United States citizens,

and multiple armed Turkish officials beat, kicked, and choked unarmed demonstrators.

Multiple video recordings show the violence with which these demonstrators were attacked.

The Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia and the Department of State confirm that the demonstrators did not instigate the violence.

Two armed Turkish officers attached to a security detail were detained at the scene for physically assaulting Federal agents but were later released and allowed to leave the United States because they held diplomatic immunity.

Mr. Speaker, it is beyond dispute that the life of President Erdogan was never in any danger.

It must be noted that immunity for diplomatic personnel and certain other foreign officials is a core principal but so is the constitutionally protected right to protest peacefully and freely in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third instance of violence perpetrated by members of Turkish President Erdogan's security detail on United States soil.

In 2011, a brawl erupted in the halls of the United States Nations General Assembly between members of Turkish President Erdogan's security detail and United Nations security officers, resulting in one United Nations security officer being hospitalized due to serious injuries.

In 2016, members of Turkish President Erdogan's security detail engaged in unwarranted violence against journalist reporting on an event at the Brookings Institution.

On May 21, 2017, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson affirmed that violence outside the Turkish Embassy was "outrageous" and "simply unacceptable."

It is imperative that the right to assembly, peaceful protest, and freedom of speech are not abridged because they are the bedrock of democracy.

For this reason, the United States Secret Service and the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State should review this incident and confirm with the Turkish National Police the standards expected by visiting security details to prevent future violent incidents.

The Department of State should also conduct a review of its own security procedure to determine how to mitigate the likelihood of similar events in the future.

It is the duty of this House to stand for our ideals and take steps to strengthen freedoms for the press and civil society in countries such as Turkey, and oppose efforts by foreign leaders to suppress free and peaceful protest in their own countries.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H. Res. 354, I rise today in strong support passing this legislation to condemn the reprehensible attacks outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence on May 16.

I am a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans. New Jersey's Ninth District, and particularly my hometown of Paterson, has a large and thriving Turkish-American community and I cherish our close relationship. However, what happened last month was beyond the pale. The brutal attacks on peaceful protesters are an affront to our American values and core democratic freedoms of free speech and peaceful assembly.

One of the individuals attacked by President Erdogan's thugs was a constituent of mine from East Rutherford. As a college student, Ceren Borazan bravely joined her friends to peacefully protest President Erdogan's policies in Washington D.C.

Since President Erdogan has taken office, Turkey has cracked down on freedom of expression, raided media outlets, and jailed judges, journalists, and civil servants in violation of democratic norms.

Outside the embassy Ceren was thrown to the ground and kicked by the Turkish security guards. During the attack a blood vessel in her eye burst and weeks later she is still reminded of the trauma by nightmares and fears of retribution. While freedom of speech and freedom to protest may be prohibited in Turkey, they are bedrock U.S. principles that must be safeguarded. Violence is never an appropriate response to free speech.

To ensure such an incident never happens again on our soil, those involved in carrying out this attack must be brought to justice. They must be denied diplomatic immunity and prosecuted to the fullest extent of U.S. law. Mr. Speaker, we must pass H. Res. 354 today to call attention to these attacks and to ensure justice is carried out for people like Ceren.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an editorial from The Star-Ledger titled "Trump won't denounce American thuggery. Will he punish Turkey?"

TRUMP WON'T DENOUNCE AMERICAN THUGGERY. WILL HE PUNISH TURKEY?

(By Star-Ledger Editorial Board)

Time to take stock of our rights of free speech and peaceful protest in this country, and what—if anything—President Trump has done to protect them.

He's been noticeably silent on the brutal beating of peaceful protesters in Washington, D.C. by the Turkish President's thuggish bodyguards, on public property, right in front of our own police, fully caught on video.

The violence was completely unprovoked, and happened shortly after Trump welcomed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the Oval Office. Among others, a young woman from East Rutherford, Ceren Borazan, was put into a headlock and choked—popping a blood vessel in her eye—by a man who threatened to kill her.

This is common practice in Turkey—which is why Trump needs to make it clear that it isn't acceptable here.

But perhaps the real problem is that it is increasingly acceptable here. Not just verbal and physical attacks against peaceful protesters, but against journalists, whom Trump has called "the enemy of the people."

In the past month alone, reporters have been arrested, slapped, pinned against a wall and choked for trying to do their jobs; most recently by newly-elected Montana congressman Greg Gianforte, accused of body-slammng a journalist.

He's faced no real consequences. "Elections are about choices and Montanans made their choice," Speaker Paul Ryan said Friday. Trump, who had lavished praise on Gianforte—"a wonderful guy"—added: "Great win in Montana."

Perhaps this is why the former Breitbart News reporter Michelle Fields, who was grabbed roughly by Corey Lewandowski last year when she tried to ask Trump a question, said some Republicans "have put party over civility."

The casualty isn't just civility. Trump's hostility toward the press—like his attempt to use the FBI to muzzle journalists—has led

Reporters Without Borders to lower America's ranking on press freedom, measured by government restrictions and threats against the news media.

We're now ranked right below Burkina Faso, one of the world's poorest countries.

This failure to speak up for peaceful protesters and journalists began at Trump's rallies, where his supporters threatened and committed actual violence against them. Since then, the United Nations has warned that the basic principle of peaceful protest is under attack in the United States. At least 19 states have introduced measures that would criminalize such protests.

The very least the President can do is make some sort of distinction between what is tolerated here and in Turkey. Yes, it's a NATO ally, and we have a complex relationship. But this is about protecting the freedom of speech and assembly, and basic rules of law in our own country.

The New York Times has publicly identified the culprits, and New Jersey Rep. Bill Pascrell is among those leading the bipartisan charge to hold them accountable. If we can't get to the thugs in Turkey, then the Trump administration should hold the diplomats here to account.

Think about the message it sends if the Turkish government escapes this without so much as a slap on the wrist. A truly populist President, a defender of American freedoms, would stick up for the people—not the jack-booted thugs.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 354, condemning the violence perpetrated against peaceful protesters outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence during Turkish President Erdogan's visit last month. This timely and critically important measure was introduced by my good friend, and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman, ED ROYCE.

Mr. Speaker, as representatives of the American people, we take a solemn oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." This sworn commitment spurs us to speak out now after the violent attack last month on peaceful protesters in Washington, D.C. who were peacefully exercising their First Amendments rights.

On that day a group of peaceful demonstrators—including a resident from my home state of New Jersey, Ceren Borazan—gathered outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence to protest the policies of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Shortly after President Erdogan's arrival at the residence during his official visit to the United States, a contingent of his security guards, joined by some supporters, rushed across the street where the protesters were gathered. Before the demonstrators knew it, this group of thugs was upon them, throwing them to the ground and raining blows upon them.

By now we are all familiar with the shocking video images captured of men in dark suits, some with guns, and others in plainclothes mercilessly kicking protesters in their faces while they lie helplessly on the ground. Some demonstrators were outnumbered four to one by their assailants who punched and manhandled them until DC police intervened. When police stepped in, some attackers turned to assault our uniformed officers.

Among this group of protesters were Kurdish- and Armenian-Americans, members of minorities with a painful history of persecution and marginalization in their ancestral homelands. These individuals came to the

United States to seek the freedom and safety they were deprived in their lands of origin.

The United States and its Bill of Rights are a promise to these people that must not be broken. That members of the President's security detail and others felt they could attack these sacred rights with impunity should offend us all. That Erdogan would calmly watch the melee unfold—as video evidence shows—is as galling as it is unsurprising. Indeed, just a year ago his security detail was involved in an all-too-similar incident at a public event in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, the steps recommended by this measure should be urgently implemented. Among other things, the United States should charge and prosecute all those involved in the attack. The State Department should request a waiver of immunity for any Turkish officials charged and detained in connection with the incident. Finally, the United States should redouble its efforts to promote democracy and human rights in Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, this was a brutal physical assault on a group of peaceful demonstrators in our nation's capital and a brazen insult to all Americans. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join their voices and votes in strongly condemning this incident and calling for justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 354, 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. ROYCE of California. 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, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1700

IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 390) to provide for emergency relief to victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Iraq and Syria, to provide accountability for perpetrators of these crimes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 390

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria are persecuted groups, and the Secretary of State of State declared on March 17, 2016, that Daesh, also known as the

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), was responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocity crimes against several of these groups, including Christians and Yezidis.

(2) According to the Department of State's annual reports on international religious freedom, the number of Christians living in Iraq has dropped from an estimated 800,000 to 1,400,000 in 2002 to fewer than 250,000 in 2015, and the number of Yezidis living in Iraq has dropped from 500,000 in 2013 to 350,000 to 400,000 in 2015.

(3) The annual reports on international religious freedom further suggest that Christian communities living in Syria, which had accounted for between eight and ten percent of Syria's total population in 2010, are now "considerably" smaller as a result of the civil war, and that the population of approximately 80,000 Yezidis in 2010 may now be larger because of refugees from Iraq.

(4) Local communities and entities have sought to mitigate the impact of violence directed against religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria, including the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil (Kurdistan Region of Iraq), which has used private funds to provide assistance to internally displaced Christians, Yezidis, and Muslims throughout the greater Erbil region, while growing needs and diminishing resources have made it increasingly difficult to continue these efforts.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term "foreign terrorist organization" mean an organization designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)).

(3) HUMANITARIAN, STABILIZATION, AND RECOVERY NEEDS.—The term "humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs", with respect to an individual, includes water, sanitation, hygiene, food security and nutrition, shelter and housing, reconstruction, medical, education, and psychosocial needs.

(4) HYBRID COURT.—The term "hybrid court" means a court with a combination of domestic and international lawyers, judges, and personnel.

(5) INTERNATIONALIZED DOMESTIC COURT.—The term "internationalized domestic court" means a domestic court with the support of international advisers.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to ensure that assistance for humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs of individuals who are or were nationals and residents of Iraq or Syria, and of communities from those countries, is directed toward those individuals and communities with the greatest need, including those individuals from communities of religious and ethnic minorities, and communities of religious and ethnic minorities, that have been identified as being at risk of persecution, forced migration, acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes.