

scapegoating any people, which includes as well the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this is a right step. I wish we had had this document. I wish we had had a high-level delegation some years ago. And if I might quickly acknowledge Mary Robinson.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman from Texas has expired.

Mr. BERMAN. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I acknowledge the then Human Rights Commissioner, Mary Robinson, who was the architect somewhat of this idea. Her heart was in the right place. She was there. She wanted us to speak on the issues that this conference needed to grapple.

Racism, Madam Speaker, is intrinsic. It is deep. It is in the souls of many. It covers ethnicities and language. It is difficult to deal with. This is an important conference. This legislation should craft it, design it and stand for it in the right way.

Let me thank the NAACP for its support of this legislation. And I understand Wade Henderson, who was one of the architects of working with this, this is the right direction to go. I'm looking forward to a conference that speaks to the issues and embraces all of those who have been victims of racism and discrimination and to end it forever and ever.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 1361, a resolution that urges the U.S. government to prevent the upcoming U.N. World Conference on Racism from being hijacked by those seeking to spread anti-Semitism and hate. The theory behind a conference on racism, where members of all nations come together to fight hate and promote diversity, is an important goal. Unfortunately, just as they have in the past, the organizers of this U.N. conference on Racism seem to have buried the task at hand.

In 2001, the conference was held in Durban, South Africa, and was hijacked and transformed into an anti-Israel tirade. While racism and the promotion of hate are taught in many classrooms around the world, the organizers of this U.N. conference unfairly chose to single out Israel. This must stop.

The United States must take a leadership role now, while the conference is still in planning stages, to ensure that such a despicable charade will not be repeated. The administration must work with our allies and use its leverage to ensure that this conference lives up to its name. And, if it seems that the conference is going to mock the world's fight against racism and it becomes clear that the conference will become a forum to promote hate and anti-Israel sentiment, then I urge the administration to pull U.S. support and work with our allies to show the conference for what it is: a sham.

Finally, I join the sponsors of this legislation in commending the efforts of our allies, France, Canada, and Israel for declaring their intentions not to participate in Durban II if its agenda is diverted.

It is imperative that the United States not stand idly by while countries around the world

belittle the fight against racism. I look forward to working with my colleagues, the administration and countries around the world until we get this right.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield back our 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. 1361, 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 of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should lead a high-level diplomatic effort to ensure that the Durban Review Conference serves as a forum to review implementation of commitments made at the 2001 Durban Conference to combat all forms of racism by defeating the campaign by some members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to divert the United Nation's Durban Review Conference from a review of problems in their own and other countries by attacking Israel, promoting anti-Semitism, and undermining the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 643

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 643, a bill originally introduced by Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Ohio, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING NGO WORK ON ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1369) recognizing nongovernmental organizations working to bring just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1369

Whereas the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has cost many innocent lives and continues to bring terrible suffering to both peoples;

Whereas despite the ongoing conflict, Israeli and Palestinian individuals and nongovernmental organizations have been work-

ing for decades to build bridges between the two peoples, to address humanitarian concerns, and to further the cause of peace;

Whereas such individuals and nongovernmental organizations that are committed to nonviolence, recognize Israel's right to exist, and are dedicated to achieving a two-state solution deserve recognition and encouragement to continue their important work;

Whereas the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is currently at a critical juncture, and sustained progress towards peace depends on the commitment of individuals and organizations that choose dialogue, friendship, and openness;

Whereas the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-446) permits the provision of United States assistance to nongovernmental organizations to provide for basic human needs, the protection of basic human freedoms, and the promotion of human rights, nonviolence, and for a just and peaceful reconciliation, provided that such assistance does not knowingly and directly benefit any terrorist organization;

Whereas the initiatives of these individuals and nongovernmental organizations reflect the tenacity of those with a true commitment to peace, mutual respect, and coexistence, and demonstrate the real impact that such people can make on the lives of individuals and communities; and

Whereas such initiatives build hope and trust among both peoples and can help pave a path to peace; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the vital role of nongovernmental organizations in peace-building efforts between Israel and Palestinians, and encourages them to remain steadfast in their commitment to nonviolence, recognition of Israel's right to exist, dedication to achieving a two-state solution, and work toward building trust and cooperation between the two peoples;

(2) applauds the tireless work of these individuals and nongovernmental organizations, and urges them to continue their efforts;

(3) acknowledges and encourages the important efforts and support that these nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations, and individuals committed to peace and nonviolence contribute to these initiatives;

(4) affirms the importance of United States support to nongovernmental organizations that provide humanitarian aid and work for democracy, human rights, and peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians; and

(5) urges Israeli and Palestinian leaders to embrace the spirit of nongovernmental peace builders toward achieving a just and lasting peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam 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.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself 3 minutes.