

63.8 BAHAI'S PERSECUTION IN IRAN

Mr. HAMILTON moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 156); as amended:

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, and 1990, the Congress, by concurrent resolution, declared that it holds the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith, Iran's largest religious minority;

Whereas in such resolutions the Congress condemned the Iranian Government's persecution of the Baha'i community, including the execution of more than 200 Baha'is, the imprisonment of thousands of Baha'is, and other oppressive actions against Baha'is based solely upon their religious beliefs;

Whereas the Congress has urged the President to work with other governments and the United Nations in support of the rights of Iranian Baha'is;

Whereas recent reports indicate that most Iranian Baha'is imprisoned because of their religion have been released, and some confiscated business and personal properties of such Baha'is have been restored; and

Whereas despite such actions, the Government of Iran summarily executed a leading member of the Baha'i community in March 1992 and continues to deny the Baha'i community the right to organize, to elect its leaders, to hold community property for worship or assembly, to operate religious schools, and to conduct other normal religious community activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress—

(1) continues to hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all its nationals, including members of the Baha'i community, in a manner consistent with Iran's obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights;

(2) notes that the Government of Iran summarily executed a prominent Iranian Baha'i in March 1992, the first such execution in more than 3 years, and further notes that reports indicate that several Baha'is have been arrested during 1992;

(3) expresses concern that, despite some recent improvements in the treatment of individual Baha'is, the Baha'i community continues to be denied legal recognition, and the basic rights to organize, elect its leaders, educate its youth, and carry on the normal activities of law-abiding religious community;

(4) urges the Government of Iran to extend to the Baha'i community the rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights, including the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and equal protection of the law; and

(5) calls upon the President to continue—

(A) to urge the Government of Iran to emancipate the Baha'i community by granting those rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights;

(B) to emphasize that the United States regards the human rights practices of the Government of Iran, particularly its treatment of the Baha'i community and other religious minorities, as a significant element in the development of its relations with the Government of Iran; and

(C) to cooperate with other governments and international organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies, in efforts to protect the religious rights of the Baha'is and other minorities through joint appeals to the Government of Iran and through other appropriate actions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MONTGOMERY, recognized Mr. HAMILTON and Mr. BROOMFIELD, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MONTGOMERY, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered. That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

63.9 ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING IN BUENOS AIRES

Mr. HAMILTON moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 297); as amended:

Whereas a terrorist bomb destroyed the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on March 17, 1992;

Whereas at least 24 innocent individuals died and 250 innocent individuals were wounded as a result of the detonation of the bomb;

Whereas the terrorist organization Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the bombing; and

Whereas the bombing is an atrocity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate Concurring). That the Congress—

(1) condemns the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on March 17, 1992;

(2) mourns the victims of the bombing;

(3) extends its condolences to the families and friends of the victims; and

(4) declares that the Government of the United States should *continue to cooperate fully* with the Government of Argentina and the Government of Israel in identifying and bringing to justice all of the individuals responsible for the planning, preparation, and execution of the bombing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MONTGOMERY, recognized Mr. HAMILTON and Mr. BROOMFIELD, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and agree to said concurrent resolution, as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. MONTGOMERY, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

So, two-thirds of the Members present having voted in favor thereof, the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the rules were suspended and said concurrent resolution, as amend-

ed, was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered. That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

63.10 KURDISH REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Mr. HAMILTON moved to suspend the rules and agree to the following concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 299); as amended:

Whereas the Government of Iraq brutally suppressed a Kurdish uprising in February and March 1991, forcing hundreds of thousands of Kurds to flee across the border into Turkey;

Whereas this sudden, massive refugee flow into Turkey resulted in shortfalls of shelter, food, medicine, and potable water that placed thousands of Kurdish lives at risk;

Whereas the best solution to this humanitarian crisis was to encourage the Kurds to return to their homes in northern Iraq by creating a security zone in northern Iraq in which the United States guaranteed that they would not be attacked by Iraqi aircraft or other forces;

Whereas in response to the extraordinary humanitarian need of the Kurds, the United States took the lead in organizing Operation Provide Comfort, in which the United States and other forces undertook a major relief effort for the Kurds both within Turkey and in the designated security zone in northern Iraq;

Whereas in June 1991 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees took over the prime responsibility for all relief operations in northern Iraq;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees still maintains a large presence in northern Iraq, including over a thousand civilians involved in relief activities as well as hundreds of United Nations guards;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is currently negotiating with the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations to take over the functions being performed in northern Iraq by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

Whereas the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations which authorizes the United Nations presence expires in June 1992;

Whereas the severe shortages of food within the security zone as a result of the Iraqi blockade of northern Iraq make a continued international relief effort essential in order to prevent famine among the Kurdish population;

Whereas the courageous decision of the Government of Turkey to permit the stationing of United States military forces in southern Turkey, despite the possibility of Iraqi retaliation against Turkey, was essential to the success of Operation Provide Comfort;

Whereas Operation Provide Comfort is still necessary in order to deter Iraqi attacks against the Kurdish population in the security zone in northern Iraq;

Whereas the agreement between the United States and Turkey that permits the stationing of United States military forces in southern Turkey expires in June 1992; and

Whereas if this agreement is not extended and if Operation Provide Comfort is terminated, it is extremely likely that Iraqi forces will attack the security zone, resulting in substantial loss of lives and possibly generating another massive wave of Kurdish refugees into Turkey: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That is the sense of the Congress that—