

particular course of action that we embark on here today will assist in ending the ongoing conflicts in Algeria, and I would urge the Chair and other Members, particularly of the Subcommittee on Africa, to consider visiting Algeria under appropriate circumstances so that we may firsthand work in cooperation with the necessary mediation that might come by way of international involvement.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa for the outstanding work that he has done, and I rise in support of H. Res. 374.

I am disappointed that, after gaining independence from France many years ago, Algeria is again plagued with some of the same old travesty. After colonialism ended in 1962, the French did little to prepare Algeria for independence. When the French left, mosques were reopened, people started learning Arabic again and feeling good about the religion of Islam.

While this past year marked the first legislative and local election since 1992, it also turned into the bloodiest year in the longstanding political strife of power. As we look back, the cancelling or annulling of the elections may not have seemed to be the right course of action. However, it should be noted that the desire to maintain Islamic domination and to radically change the food and clothing habits of the people was thwarted by most of Algerian citizens in 1992. Yet this explanation can be summed up by saying that the democracy cannot benefit if those that desire it want to end it once they are in power.

It is common knowledge that the first armed Islamic groups were organized by veterans of the war in Afghanistan and trained in Pakistan. Today, the GIA still receives weapons and money from outside sources including Pakistani Islamists, Iran and Sudan.

Let me just say that I was disturbed by the news of two mayors from neighboring towns being arrested for carrying out extrajudicial executions. This concerned me because it comes just after the meeting by the United Nations Human Rights Commission report that suggests that a special envoy should go to the region.

As we seek to formulate U.S. policy toward Algeria, we must remember that Algeria has helped with the Iran hostage crisis in 1982, continues to assist the resettlement of refugees and helped with the Iraqi problem in which absolutely no one in the Arab world would consent to, not even Saudi Arabia at the time.

□ 1515

In conclusion, we must not confuse the nonviolent Islamists with Islamic fundamentalism. I think that this political war to win at all costs has alienated the very people on whose behalf the struggle was designed to help.

Let me once again thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for trying to constructively deal with this crisis.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, since our committee marked up this resolution earlier this month, scores of Algerians, mostly civilians, have been killed in a barbaric civil war. Last night, Mr. Speaker, 40 Algerians had their throats cut by fundamentalist rebels. The massacre coincided with the feast of the Moslem New Year.

The horror of this violence is unimaginable. Since 1992, over 65,000 Algerians have been killed. It is vital that the Congress speak out on this issue. The resolution before us today I think sends the right message, Mr. Speaker. This resolution rightly calls on the Government of Algeria to allow neutral, independent international investigators to examine the violence that has racked Algeria since 1992. There should be no mistake, my colleagues, that the thrust of this resolution is to strongly condemn the Armed Islamic Group and the other terrorists inside Algeria who have slaughtered, in a barbaric fashion, tens of thousands of innocent Algerians. There is no place in this world for such atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for bringing the resolution before us today, and in addition, I want to thank the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) of the Subcommittee on Africa, who have done such an excellent job of finding consensus to what could have been very difficult issues. Again, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it.

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

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

This is a balanced statement of the U.S. House of Representatives' views of the troubling situation in Algeria. It takes into consideration the democratic progress being made by the Algerian Government, but does not ignore human rights concerns involving the government either. I call on my col-

leagues to make a positive statement on the crisis in Algeria at this crucial time in this country's history.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, violence has become an integral part of life in Algeria—it consumes the country and it has temporarily derailed the future of what should be a vibrant Nation, politically and economically. Since 1992, as many as 80,000 people have died and thousands of others have been injured.

While socio-economic development will help the people of Algeria rebuild their lives, the government must also commit itself to stopping the massacres. The recent arrests of local officials and commanders of pro-government militia groups in Algeria on charges of carrying out massacres of civilians gives cause to those of us who have called for independent rapporteur to address the situation in Algeria.

In March, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus sent a letter to Secretary Albright in which we asked that the United States introduce a resolution to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur for Algeria. Unfortunately, the United States decided against offering such a resolution. This resolution does call for such a rapporteur.

The United States and the international community have attempted to reach out to Algeria, to offer assistance and guidance, but they have been largely rebuked.

While the Algerian Government has made progress and increased transparency through the recent arrests, Algeria's efforts to handle this crisis have been largely ineffective. Progress will require Algeria opening up to the world. This means allowing the U.N. and other bodies to look at what is happening inside Algeria. Since the fundamentalists are accountable to no one, the onus for action, by necessity lies with the Algerian government.

Only the Algerian Government can start the process which will make 1998 the last year of bloodshed and the first year in many of peace, stability and reconciliation in Algeria.

I want to thank my colleagues for offering this resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this important resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). 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. 374, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF CONGRESS CONGRATULATING THE FORMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND VERIFICATION COMMISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 222) expressing the sense of Congress, congratulating the former International Support and Verification

Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS-CIAV) for successfully aiding in the transition of Nicaragua from a war-ridden state into a newly formed democracy and providing continued support through the recently created technical cooperation mission (OAS-TCM) which is responsible for helping to stabilize Nicaraguan democracy by supplementing institution building.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 222

Whereas the Organization of American States International Support and Verification Commission (OAS-CIAV) was established August 7, 1989, for the purpose of overseeing assisting in the repatriation, disarmament, resettlement, and protection of human rights of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV, successfully demobilized 22,500 members of the Nicaraguan resistance and distributed food and humanitarian assistance to more than 119,000 repatriated Nicaraguans prior to July 1991;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV successfully investigated and documented more than 1,800 human rights violations, including numerous murders and presented these cases to Nicaraguan authorities, following and advocating justice in each case;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV helped demobilize rearmed contras and Sandinistas, as well as apolitical criminal groups, and recently brokered and mediated the successful May 1997 negotiations between the Government of Nicaragua and the largest rearmed group;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV created 86 peace commissions and has provided assistance and extensive training in human rights and alternative dispute resolution for their members, who are currently mediating conflicts, including kidnaping and demobilization of rearmed groups, in every municipality of the zones of conflict;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV successfully provided critically needed infrastructure and humanitarian assistance including aid for Nicaraguan schools, roads, and health clinics; and

Whereas a new Organization of American States Technical Cooperation Mission (OAS-TCM) has been created to expand upon the mission of the OAS-CIAV by providing institution building resources in municipal government development, social work, and civic education in the twelve most conflictive municipalities in Nicaragua: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends and congratulates Santiago Murray, the first OAS-CIAV Director, and Sergio Caramagna, the current director of the OAS-TCM, and all members of the OAS-CIAV and OAS-TCM team for their tireless defense of human rights, promotion of peaceful conflict resolution, and contribution to the development of freedom and democracy in Nicaragua; and

(2) expresses its support for the continuation of the role of the OAS-TCM in Nicaragua.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LUTHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY).

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

(Mr. GALLEGLY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 222, which congratulates the OAS for its successful CIAV mission in Nicaragua and its ongoing technical assistance program in that country.

In 1989 at the conclusion of the devastating Civil War in Nicaragua, that Nation was confronted with the sensitive task of disarming, repatriating and resettling members of the former "contra" resistance movement back into the Nicaraguan society.

Recognizing the need for help in carrying out this effort, the Government of Nicaragua asked the OAS for help. On August 7, 1989, the International Support and Verification Commission, better known as CIAV, was created by the OAS General Assembly. Over the next 7 years, the OAS-CIAV mission, with financial support from the United States, helped demobilize over 22,000 members of the contra organization, distributed food and other humanitarian assistance to over 100,000 Nicaraguans, and helped establish some 86 "peace commissions" to provide human rights monitoring and conflict resolution training.

When the OAS-CIAV mission closed its doors last August, a new, smaller successor organization, the technical cooperation mission, known as TCM, was established. The OAS-TCM focused on 12 of Nicaragua's most conflictive rural municipalities and will provide civic education, human rights training, municipal government development, and conflict resolution assistance.

Mr. Speaker, by every account, the OAS-CIAV mission was a great success for both Nicaragua and the OAS itself, and this resolution congratulates the OAS-CIAV mission for a job well done.

This resolution we are considering was passed unanimously by both the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and the full Committee on International Relations, and is similar to a resolution introduced by the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations in the other body and passed by the full Senate last year.

I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the full committee for their support as well as the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and cosponsors, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and I urge passage of the concurrent resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, and I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) for introducing it.

Like the OAS verification mission before it, the technical cooperation

mission defends the human rights of the most vulnerable Nicaraguans and supports local communities in their efforts to build independent institutions. Independent institutions are the backbone of democracy, and we are right to support their development.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Nicaragua still has not appointed a human rights ombudsman, despite its announcement to do so. That ombudsman can play a critical role in institutionalizing respect for human rights in Nicaragua, and the appointment of such an ombudsman would send a clear signal that the government is committed to the protection of human rights. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, this resolution deserves our support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on this important measure.

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

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 222.

I want to thank the distinguished Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), and the ranking minority member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), for introducing H. Con. Res. 222, which will serve as a companion resolution to Senate Con. Res. 40 already passed by the Senate.

This resolution provides long overdue recognition to the OAS-CIAV mission which successfully demobilized 22,500 members of the Nicaraguan resistance after the democratic elections of 1990 ended the 10-year Marxist-Leninist-Sandinista regime. Led by Santiago Murray and Sergio Caramagna, the CIAV mission helped Nicaraguan peasants who had taken up arms against the Sandinistas' one-party dictatorship to reintegrate themselves into Nicaraguan civil society.

The CIAV mission always maintained the highest standards of professionalism in the conduct of investigations of human rights abuses against some of Nicaragua's poorest and least represented people. The CIAV mission members earned the respect of all of the resistance fighters, and when former resistance members took up arms to press demands with the Nicaraguan Government, the CIAV officials acted with great skill and bravery on numerous occasions to negotiate peaceful resolutions to highly explosive situations.

Mr. Speaker, it is notable that the CIAV mission, with limited resources, worked with church groups to create peace and justice commissions to carry on the conflict resolution and civil society building work which the CIAV

began. The follow-on OAS technical mission continues to nurture these important civil society groups in the most isolated and violent parts of Nicaragua.

Additionally, I want to take the opportunity to urge the Government of Nicaragua to move to name a professional, credible individual to serve as that country's human rights ombudsman. This is important, since the downsized successor to the OAS-CIAV has ceased providing independent human rights reporting.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 222 commends the Organization of American States for its role in successfully aiding the transition of Nicaragua from Civil War to democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the OAS role in Nicaragua has proven to be invaluable. The international support and verification commission has resettled former combatants; distributed food and humanitarian assistance; and investigated and documented human rights abuses. In addition, the OAS-CIAV brokered negotiations between the Government of Nicaragua and the re-armed groups; provided critically needed infrastructure; and established local peace commissions to provide an avenue for alternative dispute resolution.

Clearly, Santiago Murray and Sergio Caramagna are to be commended for their work as are all the members of the OAS-CIAV team and the follow-on OAS technical cooperation mission. These dedicated professionals have labored long and hard to ease the journey as Nicaragua consolidates its democracy.

I want to thank and commend the chairman for introducing the resolution and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. GALLEGLY. 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. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 222.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA FOR HOLDING MULTIPARTY ELECTIONS

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 215) congratulating the people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for holding multiparty elections, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 215

Whereas the people of Guyana voted on December 15, 1997, to re-elect the ruling party, the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/Civic);

Whereas the Guyanese people showed their strong belief in the democratic process by approximately an 88 percent voter turnout;

Whereas the main opposition party, the People's National Congress (PNC) has alleged that the elections were not free and fair; and

Whereas although international observers such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Commonwealth, and the International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES) have unanimously agreed, based on their observations on election day, that the polling process was free and fair, it has been alleged that violations occurred in the counting process, necessitating an audit of the elections by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) congratulates the people of Guyana for holding multiparty presidential elections by proportional representation;

(2) supports the audit of the elections by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), an organization deemed acceptable to all parties;

(3) calls on all parties and opposition leaders to respect the outcome of the audit as the final decision and make a vow to peace and stability in Guyana; and

(4) calls on the newly elected president of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to respect the rule of law and human rights.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LUTHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY).

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

(Mr. GALLEGLY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 215. During the congressional recess from October of last year until February 1998, several nations in the Western Hemisphere, including Honduras, Columbia, Jamaica, Costa Rica and Chile, held important Presidential, congressional, or municipal elections. These elections represented another important step in the consolidation of democracy in the Americas. All of these nations deserve our congratulations and support.

One of those elections and subject to this bill was held on December 15 of last year when the people of Guyana went to the polls and elected their new President. H. Con. Res. 215 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and congratulates the 88 percent of the voters of Guyana who participated in their elections.

By all accounts, these elections were judged to be free and fair by a team of international election observers. Despite the fact that some ballot counting problems did arise which necessitated an international audit, the overall election process was a great success.

□ 1530

Interestingly enough, the new president, Mrs. Janet Jagan, is a U.S.-born native of Chicago who succeeds her husband, the former president who passed away last year.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate all the peoples and the nations of the hemisphere who have held free and fair elections over the past few months, and commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) my good friend, for introducing this resolution, and I urge its adoption by the House.

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

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and I commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for introducing it. After the elections in December, the situation in Guyana looked grim. Many political actors threatened violence and threatened to ignore the outcome of the elections. The intervention of the Caribbean Community averted what could have been a very violent situation.

But, Mr. Speaker, democracy in Guyana has a long way to go and this resolution recognizes that. All parties in Guyana must recognize the rule of law and human rights if democracy is going to overcome years of ethnic and racially charged politics, and we are right to call on them to do that.

This resolution deserves our support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on this important measure.

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

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H. Con. Res. 215. First, I would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LUTHER) who is managing the bill for the minority on this measure today.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) for submitting H. Con. Res. 215.

On December 15, 1997, Guyana held elections that were judged by international monitors to be free and fair elections. However, opposition parties alleged some serious irregularities. This resolution points out that an audit of the elections was requested of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM. This resolution also lends support to CARICOM's efforts and urges the competing political parties in Guyana to respect the outcome of the CARICOM audit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to endorse, particularly, the resolution's call on the elected President of Guyana to respect the rule of law and human rights.