

In dozens of countries around the world, children have become direct participants in war. Denied a childhood and often subjected to horrific violence, some 300,00 children are serving as soldiers in current armed conflicts from Uganda to Colombia, from Sierra Leone to Lebanon. Hundreds of thousands more have been recruited into armed forces and could be sent into combat at any moment. Although most child soldiers are teenagers, some are as young as 7 years old.

Physically vulnerable and easily intimidated, children typically make obedient soldiers. Many are abducted or recruited by force, and often compelled to follow orders under threat of death.

The United States should support, and, where possible, lead efforts to establish and enforce international standards designed to end the use of child soldiers.

On January 21, 2000 in Geneva, a United Nations working group of the Commission on Human Rights reached agreement on the UN protocol on child soldiers. I commend President Clinton for signing this protocol and want to express my hope that the Senate will ratify it as soon as possible.

The House International Relations Committee approved H. Con. Res. 348 unanimously. As a cosponsor, I urge colleagues to give their full support to this important resolution.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 348, expressing the concern of Congress regarding the use of child soldiers around the world.

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus, which I co-chair, has held a number of briefings on the use of child soldiers around the world. Nothing can be more heartbreaking than listening to stories of childhoods cut short—children's descriptions of how they were abducted in the night, made to fight with rebel groups, forced to kill their parents or best friends and commit other unspeakable atrocities. These very children should be in school learning, playing and enjoying their youth not carrying guns and fighting for causes about which they know nothing.

Child soldiers are currently being used in more than thirty countries around the world, including Angola, Colombia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda. They serve in both government armies and in armed opposition groups. Some are forcibly recruited, other join hoping to support themselves or their families, or simply because they see it is their best chance for survival. Children sustain far higher casualty rates than their adult counterparts and those who survive often suffer trauma, injury, abuse, or psychological scarring.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for sponsoring this resolution and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) who has been a leader on this issue for many years. It is vital that the United States Congress speak out against these human rights abuses which occur around the world against our most precious citizens, the children. We must join with the international community in condemning the countries and non-government groups which use children as soldiers. Finally, it is important to recognize this Administration for its role in signing the United Nations international protocol last week which prohibits the use of children in armed conflict.

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 348, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today, and then on those motions postponed from Monday, July 10, in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Concurrent Resolution 253, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4442, de novo; and

House Resolution 415, de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

SENSE OF CONGRESS STRONGLY OBJECTING TO EFFORT TO EXPEL HOLY SEE FROM UNITED NATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 253.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 253, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 379]  
YEAS—416

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Andrews  
Archer  
Armey  
Baca  
Bachus

Baird  
Baker  
Baldacci  
Baldwin  
Ballenger  
Barcia  
Barr  
Barrett (NE)  
Barrett (WI)

Bartlett  
Barton  
Bass  
Bateman  
Bentsen  
Bereuter  
Berkley  
Berman  
Berry

Biggert  
Billbray  
Billirakis  
Bishop  
Blagojevich  
Bliley  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Boehlert  
Boehner  
Bonilla  
Bonior  
Bono  
Borski  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Brown (FL)  
Brown (OH)  
Bryant  
Burr  
Burton  
Buyer  
Callahan  
Calvert  
Camp  
Canady  
Cannon  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardin  
Carson  
Castle  
Chabot  
Chambliss  
Clay  
Clayton  
Clement  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Coburn  
Collins  
Combest  
Condit  
Conyers  
Cook  
Cooksey  
Costello  
Cox  
Coyne  
Cramer  
Crane  
Crowley  
Cubin  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Danner  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (VA)  
Deal  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
DeLay  
DeMint  
Deutsch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dickey  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Dixon  
Doggett  
Dooley  
Doolittle  
Doyle  
Dreier  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Ehrlich  
Emerson  
Engel  
English  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Everett  
Ewing  
Farr  
Fattah  
Filner  
Fletcher  
Foley  
Ford

Fossella  
Fowler  
Frank (MA)  
Franks (NJ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Frost  
Gallegly  
Ganske  
Gejdenson  
Gekas  
Gephardt  
Gibbons  
Gilchrest  
Gillmor  
Gilman  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Goodling  
Gordon  
Goss  
Graham  
Granger  
Green (TX)  
Green (WI)  
Greenwood  
Gutierrez  
Gutknecht  
Hall (OH)  
Hall (TX)  
Hansen  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Hayworth  
Hefley  
Herger  
Hill (IN)  
Hill (MT)  
Hilleary  
Hilliard  
Hinchey  
Hobson  
Hoeffel  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Hoolley  
Horn  
Hostettler  
Houghton  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Hutchinson  
Hyde  
Inslee  
Isakson  
Istook  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jenkins  
John  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kasich  
Kelly  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind (WI)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kleczka  
Klink  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
Kucinich  
Kuykendall  
LaFalce  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Lantos  
Largent  
Larson  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Lazio  
Leach  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder

Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Lofgren  
Lowey  
Lucas (KY)  
Lucas (OK)  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Martinez  
Mascara  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCrery  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHugh  
McInnis  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Menendez  
Metcalf  
Mica  
Millender-  
Hansen  
McDonald  
Miller (FL)  
Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Minge  
Mink  
Moakley  
Mollohan  
Moore  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Morella  
Murtha  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nethercutt  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nussle  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Olver  
Ortiz  
Ose  
Oxley  
Packard  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Pastor  
Paul  
Pease  
Pelosi  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Phelps  
Pickering  
Pickett  
Pitts  
Pombo  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Portman  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Quinn  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Rangel  
Regula  
Reyes  
Reynolds  
Riley  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rogan  
Rogers  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Rothman  
Roukema  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Rush

Ryan (WI) Smith (TX) Turner  
 Ryun (KS) Snyder Udall (CO)  
 Sabo Souder Udall (NM)  
 Salmon Spence Upton  
 Sanchez Spratt Velazquez  
 Sanders Stabenow Visclosky  
 Sandlin Stearns Vitter  
 Sanford Stenholm Walden  
 Sawyer Strickland Walsh  
 Saxton Stump Wamp  
 Scarborough Stupak Waters  
 Schaffer Sununu Watkins  
 Schakowsky Sweeney Watt (NC)  
 Scott Talent Watts (OK)  
 Sensenbrenner Tancredo Waxman  
 Serrano Tanner Weiner  
 Sessions Tauscher Weldon (FL)  
 Shadegg Tauzin Weldon (PA)  
 Shaw Taylor (MS) Weller  
 Shays Taylor (NC) Wexler  
 Sherman Terry Weygand  
 Sherwood Thomas Whitfield  
 Shimkus Thompson (CA) Wicker  
 Shows Thompson (MS) Wilson  
 Shuster Thornberry Wise  
 Simpson Thune Wolf  
 Sisisky Thurman Woolsey  
 Skeen Tiahrt Wu  
 Skelton Tierney Wynn  
 Slaughter Toomey Young (FL)  
 Smith (MI) Towns  
 Smith (NJ) Traficant

NAYS—1

Stark  
 NOT VOTING—17

Becerra Jefferson Owens  
 Campbell Johnson (CT) Payne  
 Chenoweth-Hage McCollum Smith (WA)  
 Forbes McIntosh Vento  
 Hinojosa McKinney Young (AK)  
 Hoyer McNulty

□ 1224

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on each additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CENTENNIAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4442, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4442, as amended.

The question was taken.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 403, noes 15, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 380]  
 AYES—403  
 Abercrombie Dixon  
 Ackerman Doggett  
 Aderholt Dooley  
 Allen Doolittle  
 Andrews Doyle  
 Archer Dreier  
 Arney Dunn  
 Baca Edwards  
 Bachus Ehlers  
 Baird Ehrlich  
 Baker Emerson  
 Waxman Engel  
 Baldacci Weldon (FL)  
 Baldwin English  
 Ballenger Eshoo  
 Bass Etheridge  
 Bateman Evans  
 Bentsen Everrett  
 Bereuter Foley  
 Berkley Ford  
 Berman Fossella  
 Berry Fowler  
 Biggart Frank (MA)  
 Bilbray Franks (NJ)  
 Bilirakis Frelinghuysen  
 Bishop Frost  
 Blagojevich Gallegly  
 Bliley Ganske  
 Blumenauer Gejdenson  
 Blunt Gekas  
 Gephardt Gephardt  
 Gibbons Gibbons  
 Bonior Gilchrist  
 Bono Gillmor  
 Borsari Gilman  
 Boswell Gonzalez  
 Boucher Goode  
 Boyd Goodlatte  
 Brady (PA) Goodling  
 Brady (TX) Gordon  
 Brown (FL) Goss  
 Brown (OH) Graham  
 Bryant Granger  
 Burr Green (TX)  
 Burton Green (WI)  
 Buyer Greenwood  
 Callahan Gutierrez  
 Calvert Gutknecht  
 Camp Hall (OH)  
 Canady Hall (TX)  
 Cannon Hansen  
 Capps Hastings (FL)  
 Capuano Hastings (WA)  
 Cardin Hayes  
 Carson Hayworth  
 Castle Hefley  
 Chabot Hill (IN)  
 Chambliss Hill (MT)  
 Clay Hilleary  
 Clayton Hilliard  
 Clement Hinchey  
 Clyburn Hobson  
 Collins Hoeffel  
 Combust Hoekstra  
 Condit Holden  
 Conyers Holt  
 Cook Hooley  
 Cooksey Horn  
 Costello Hostettler  
 Cox Houghton  
 Coyne Hulshof  
 Cramer Hunter  
 Crane Hyde  
 Crowley Inslee  
 Cubin Isakson  
 Cummings Istook  
 Cunningham Jackson (IL)  
 Danner Jackson-Lee  
 Davis (FL) (TX)  
 Davis (IL) Jefferson  
 Davis (VA) Jenkins  
 Deal John  
 DeFazio Johnson (CT)  
 DeGette Johnson, E. B.  
 Delahunt Jones (NC)  
 DeLauro Jones (OH)  
 DeMint Kanjorski  
 Deutsch Kaptur  
 Diaz-Balart Kasich  
 Dickey Kelly  
 Dicks Kennedy  
 Dingell Kildee

Pomeroy Serrano Thompson (CA)  
 Porter Sessions Thompson (MS)  
 Portman Shadegg Thune  
 Price (NC) Shaw Thurman  
 Pryce (OH) Shays Tiahrt  
 Quinn Sherman Tierney  
 Radanovich Sherwood Toomey  
 Rahall Shimkus Towns  
 Ramstad Shows Traficant  
 Rangel Shuster Turner  
 Regula Simpson Udall (CO)  
 Reyes Sisisky Udall (NM)  
 Reynolds Skeen Upton  
 Riley Skelton Velazquez  
 Rivers Slaughter Visclosky  
 Rodriguez Smith (MI)  
 Roemer Smith (NJ)  
 Rogan Smith (TX)  
 Rogers Snyder Wamp  
 Ros-Lehtinen Souder Waters  
 Rothman Spence Watkins  
 Roukema Spratt Watt (NC)  
 Roybal-Allard Stabenow Watts (OK)  
 Rush Stark Waxman  
 Ryan (WI) Stearns Weiner  
 Ryun (KS) Stenholm Weldon (FL)  
 Sabo Strickland Weldon (PA)  
 Salmon Stupak Weller  
 Sanchez Sununu Wexler  
 Sanders Sweeney Weygand  
 Sandlin Talent Whitfield  
 Sanford Tancredo Wicker  
 Sawyer Tanner Wilson  
 Saxton Tauscher Wise  
 Scarborough Tauzin Wolf  
 Schaffer Taylor (MS) Woolsey  
 Schakowsky Taylor (NC) Wu  
 Scott Terry Wynn  
 Sensenbrenner Thomas Young (FL)

NOES—15

Barr Duncan Pombo  
 Bonilla Herger Rohrbacher  
 Coble Johnson, Sam Royce  
 Coburn LaHood Stump  
 DeLay Paul Thornberry

NOT VOTING—16

Becerra Hutchinson Payne  
 Campbell McCollum Smith (WA)  
 Chenoweth-Hage McIntosh Vento  
 Forbes McKinney Young (AK)  
 Hinojosa McNulty  
 Hoyer Owens

□ 1232

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL OCEAN DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 415, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 415, as amended.

The question was taken.

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 387, noes 28,

Kilpatrick  
 Kind (WI)  
 King (NY)  
 Kingston  
 Kleczka  
 Klink  
 Knollenberg  
 Kolbe  
 Kucinich  
 Kuykendall  
 LaFalce  
 Lampson  
 Lantos  
 Largent  
 Larson  
 Latham  
 LaTourette  
 Lazio  
 Leach  
 Lee  
 Levin  
 Lewis (CA)  
 Lewis (GA)  
 Lewis (KY)  
 Linder  
 Lipinski  
 LoBiondo  
 Lofgren  
 Lowey  
 Lucas (KY)  
 Lucas (OK)  
 Luther  
 Maloney (CT)  
 Maloney (NY)  
 Manzullo  
 Markey  
 Martinez  
 Mascara  
 Matsui  
 McCarthy (MO)  
 McCarthy (NY)  
 McCrery  
 McDermott  
 McGovern  
 McHugh  
 McInnis  
 McIntyre  
 McKeon  
 Meehan  
 Meek (FL)  
 Meeks (NY)  
 Menendez  
 Metcalf  
 Mica  
 Millender-  
 McDonald  
 Miller (FL)  
 Miller, Gary  
 Miller, George  
 Minge  
 Mink  
 Moakley  
 Mollohan  
 Moore  
 Moran (KS)  
 Moran (VA)  
 Morella  
 Murtha  
 Myrick  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neal  
 Nethercutt  
 Ney  
 Northup  
 Norwood  
 Nussle  
 Oberstar  
 Obey  
 Olver  
 Ortiz  
 Ose  
 Oxley  
 Packard  
 Pallone  
 Pascrell  
 Pastor  
 Pease  
 Pelosi  
 Peterson (MN)  
 Peterson (PA)  
 Petri  
 Phelps  
 Pickering  
 Pickett  
 Pitts