

proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN DAHAB AND NORTHERN SINAI, EGYPT, ON APRIL 24 AND 26, 2006

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 795) condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt, on April 24 and 26, 2006.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 795

Whereas, on April 24 and 26, 2006, a series of explosions at Dahab and in Northern Sinai, Egypt, planned and carried out by terrorists, resulted in the deaths of scores of civilians and the injury of many others;

Whereas the people of Egypt have been subjected to several other deadly terrorist attacks over the past years; and

Whereas President George W. Bush called President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to extend condolences on behalf of the American people for the loss of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks on Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt and other terrorist attacks directed against Egypt;

(2) expresses its condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed in the attacks and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured;

(3) joins with President George W. Bush in expressing the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the people and Government of Egypt as they recover from these cowardly and inhuman attacks; and

(4) expresses its readiness to support the Egyptian authorities in their efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the recent attacks in Egypt and to pursue, disrupt, undermine, and dismantle the networks which plan and carry out such attacks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. 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 Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 795. With this resolution, the House reflects on the recent bombings in the Sinai which cut short dozens of lives. We take this opportunity to share with our friends, the people of Egypt, our sorrow, our sym-

pathy, and our determination to help Egypt defend itself against such attacks.

The Egyptian people have been subject to terrorist attacks for many years; they have responded strongly and generally effectively. While there were several successful attacks during 2005, there were also antiterrorism successes. According to the State Department's "Country Report on Terrorism," two attempts to target tourists in Cairo were thwarted by Egyptian authorities. Nevertheless, because the Egyptian economy relies so strongly on tourism, each incident has an effect that is magnified for the country and has an impact that goes beyond the personal tragedies of those who are killed and injured. Anyone who has had the opportunity to visit Egypt will have experienced the gracious hospitality for which Egyptians are famous. It is a terrible shame that the Egyptians in the tourism sector, many of whom are economically deprived, must bear the burden of the vicious terrorist strikes.

Mr. Speaker, Egypt and the United States have a good level of antiterrorism cooperation. I hope that the combined antiterrorism efforts of Egypt and the United States will continue to bear fruit. We must continue to work together.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by quoting the statement of the Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, on April 4, 2006: "The United States condemns the vicious terrorist bombings in Dahab, Egypt today. We extend our deepest sympathies to those injured by this attack and to the families and loved ones of those killed. There could be no justification for this barbaric act of terrorism. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Egypt at this time of grief. We have been in contact with the Egyptian Government to extend our condolences and to offer whatever assistance they may need. We will support our Egyptian friends in their commitment to fight terror and to bring justice to those who are responsible for this crime."

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

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 795 and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues Congressman DAVIS and Congressman ISSA for joining me in introducing this important resolution being considered on the floor today.

On April 24 and April 26, a series of attacks were carried out in the Sinai region of Egypt, claiming the lives of 23 innocent civilians and injuring more than 60 men, women, and children. These horrific acts further demonstrate that no nation is free from the scourge of terror that has targeted the United States and our allies in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. From Taba to Dahab to Sharm al-Shaykh, the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Islamic

extremists in Egypt are deplorable and should be condemned by every nation that shares a commitment to security and peace. It is in this regard that I call on leaders of the international community and especially the Arab world to join the United States in decrying these horrific acts, these action by terrorists, and exhaust every measure to work with Egypt in combating extremism and terror.

Today, Congress expresses its solidarity with the people of Egypt who have suffered greatly at the hands of terror. As allies in the war on terror, the United States and Egypt share a common commitment to security in the Middle East. As such, the people of America stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Egypt and renew our commitment to eradicating terror throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge our colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield so much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the sponsor of the resolution.

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Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 795, a resolution I introduced condemning the terrorist attacks in Dahab and northern Sinai in Egypt.

On April 24 and 26, 2006, a series of explosions at Dahab and in northern Sinai, Egypt, planned and carried out by terrorists, resulted in the deaths of scores of civilians and the injuries of many others.

Over the years, the relationship between the United States and Egypt has proven to be of critical importance to both countries. These relations have always been founded on mutual and deep understanding of each country's interests and role, both at the regional and international levels, in creating a world that is more safe and secure.

Like the United States, Egypt is a prime target of terrorism. President Sadat lost his life in 1981 as a price for signing the peace accords with Israel. Between 1990 and 1997, Egypt suffered from a series of terrorist attacks, mainly targeting the tourism sector that had long been the anchor of economic growth in the country.

Since September 11, Egypt has been a crucial ally to the United States in the global war on terror. Egypt, along with other Middle East allies such as Israel and Jordan, have paid a price for that too. Terrorist attacks rocked the Sinai Peninsula three times over 18 months. Moreover, last year, Egypt lost its Ambassador to Iraq.

The bloody attacks that took innocent lives in Dahab earlier this month indicate that terrorism does not discriminate by race, ethnicity, or region. Instead, terrorists target those seeking to live a peaceful and free life. We must hunt the terrorists down and bring them to justice. There is no other way

to respond to those so committed to the destruction of life. We must also stand with the Egyptian people in solidarity.

This resolution does just that, making it clear that Congress and the American people are behind them during this difficult period.

Mr. Speaker, let the House of Representatives speak in unison and with clarity on this issue: Terrorism has no place in this world and it will not be tolerated.

I want to thank my colleagues, DARELL ISSA, Mr. WEXLER and Ms. ROSLEHTINEN for their work on this resolution. It is only through their efforts that we were able to bring it to the floor so quickly. I also want to thank my colleague, Mr. MCCOTTER, for managing this so well. In addition, I thank the leadership on both sides for allowing this bill on the floor today, and I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 795. The cruel and deadly terrorist attacks last month in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula took place on the weekend of the Coptic Orthodox Easter and an Egyptian national holiday commemorating the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai. Its casualties included Egyptian Muslims and Egyptian Christians, as well as foreigners. In all, 18 people were murdered—12 of them Egyptian—and 85 wounded.

These attacks have proven once again that the extreme ideology of violent Islamic fundamentalism poses a danger not only to the Western World but to all peace-loving people on the globe. The terrorists do not distinguish between Christians, Jews, or Muslims—or between Arabs and non-Arabs—in their search to destroy the core values of civilization.

Mr. Speaker, at this difficult time we extend our deepest sympathies to the Egyptian people—and to the loved ones of all those of many nations who perished in the April 24 bombings. We also offer sincere expressions of concern to all those wounded in the bombings on April 24 and 26—in the latter of which only the would-be murderers themselves lost their lives.

The rise of terrorism in the once placid Sinai is a source of great concern to Egypt, its neighbors, and to all its friends. This was the third major bombing at Sinai resorts in the past 18 months, following attacks on Taba and its environs on October 7, 2004, which left 34 dead, and on Sharm el-Sheikh on July 23, 2005, which murdered 64. The April 26 attack to which I alluded a moment ago was directed at both Egyptian police and a contingent of the U.S.-led Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai, people who have no purpose other than preserving the peace between Israel and Egypt.

We want the Egyptian people to know they have our full support as they seek to hunt down those who planned and implemented all these heinous attacks and as they seek to eradicate the scourge of fundamentalist violence that has afflicted Egypt in ebbs and flows over the years—the same scourge that took the life of Anwar Sadat, one of the towering figures of the twentieth century, as well as the life of Farag Hoda, a brilliant author and highly principled secularist.

I believe the ultimate answer to this problem lies in education, economic development, and

political reform. But now is not the time to debate such issues.

For now, Mr. Speaker, let us stand as one with the Egyptian people and government in opposing and rejecting the violent ideology of hate, of which Egypt has been but the latest victim.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in doing likewise.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 795, condemning the terrorist bombings in Egypt on April 24 and 26, 2006. The deplorable and cowardly acts of violence perpetrated against civilians on those two days of terror are worthy of our condemnation, and illustrate the depths to which terrorists will sink to spread their hatred and violence. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution on its own merits, but also out of respect for four good people from my hometown of Casper, Wyoming, all of whom were severely injured in the April 24 blast in Dahab.

On the evening of April 24, 2006, Betsy Lamberson, Tom South, Bruce Lamberson and Cindy Parrish were attempting to enjoy a nice dinner together at this resort town on the Gulf of Aqaba. Their plans were suddenly and brutally cut short when a terrorist group affiliated with Al-Qaeda detonated three separate blasts, killing 24 people and injuring more than 80. These four Wyoming folks were among those seriously injured. We can thank God that all of them lived through the ordeal. However, with broken limbs and serious shrapnel injuries, each of them has a long road to recovery.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no greater reminder to us of what is at stake in our war against terrorism than four innocent people from my hometown nearly cut down by the senseless hatred of radical Islamists. Will cannot and will not live in the shadow of this violence, unable to visit family in far away places out of fear for our very lives. Our resolve is only hardened by these attacks on our countrymen, and our commitment to defeating terrorism across the globe is renewed today.

On behalf of Wyoming and her citizens, I pray that Betsy, Tom, Bruce, and Cindy will fully recover from their injuries and be able to enjoy all that life has yet to offer them. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, which sends a clear message to terrorists wherever they may be hiding: we will not stand idly by while you so callously attempt to harm innocent people, and destroy the freedoms they deserve.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remaining time.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 795.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MCCOTTER. 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 and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONDEMNING MURDER OF AMERICAN JOURNALIST PAUL KLEBNIKOV ON JULY 9, 2004, IN MOSCOW AND MURDERS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 499) condemning the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 499

Whereas on July 9, 2004, American journalist Paul Klebnikov was murdered by gunmen as he exited the Moscow offices of Forbes Magazine;

Whereas no person has been convicted of any offense in connection with the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

Whereas Mr. Klebnikov is survived by his wife Helen, and his three young children;

Whereas twelve journalists have been murdered in the Russian Federation since 2000 and Mr. Klebnikov was the first and only United States citizen among these journalists;

Whereas the Department of State's 2005 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices states government pressure in Russia continues to weaken freedom of expression and the independence and freedom of the media, particularly among the major national television networks and regional media outlets;

Whereas the Russian Prosecutor General's office arrested and tried Musa Vahaev and Kazbek Dukzov for the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

Whereas Musa Vahaev and Kazbek Dukzov were acquitted on May 5, 2006, of the charges of murdering Mr. Klebnikov;

Whereas the Government of Russia has stated that Mr. Klebnikov's murder was ordered by Khozh-Akhmed Nukhayevev, a fugitive Chechen criminal gang leader, but has not publicly released any evidence of Mr. Nukhayevev's complicity;

Whereas it remains unclear who ordered the murder of Mr. Klebnikov or if any party will be convicted of this crime; and

Whereas a group of United States investigative journalists has launched an independent inquiry into the death of Mr. Klebnikov: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation;

(2) commends the Russian Prosecutor General's office for its continuing investigation of the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

(3) urges the Government of Russia to continue its inquiries to determine and bring to justice all parties involved in the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

(4) urges the Government of Russia to accept offers of assistance with the investigation of Mr. Klebnikov's murder from the United States and other concerned governments;

(5) urges the Government of Russia to take appropriate action to protect the independence and freedom of the Russian media and all visiting members of the media; and