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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

REQUESTING REPORT ON ANTI-AMERICAN INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2278) to direct the President to transmit to Congress a report on anti-American incitement to violence in the Middle East, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2278

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ANTI-AMERICAN INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Freedom of the press and freedom of expression are the foundations of free and prosperous societies worldwide, and with the freedom of the press and freedom of expression comes the responsibility to repudiate purveyors of incitement to violence.

(2) For years, certain media outlets in the Middle East, particularly those associated with terrorist groups, have repeatedly published or broadcast incitements to violence against the United States and Americans.

(3) Television channels that broadcast incitement to violence against Americans, the United States, and others have demonstrated the ability to shift their operations to different countries and their transmissions to different satellite providers in order to continue broadcasting and to evade accountability.

(4) Television channels such as al-Manar, al-Aqsa, al-Zawra, and others that broadcast incitement to violence against the United States and Americans aid Foreign Terrorist Organizations in the key functions of recruitment, fundraising, and propaganda.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to—

(1) designate as Specially Designated Global Terrorists satellite providers that knowingly and willingly contract with entities designated as Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order 13224, to broadcast their channels, or to consider implementing other punitive measures against satellite providers that transmit al-Aqsa TV, al-Manar TV, al-Rafidayn TV, or any other terrorist owned and operated station;

(2) consider state-sponsorship of anti-American incitement to violence when determining the level of assistance to, and frequency and nature of relations with, all states; and

(3) urge all governments and private investors who own shares in satellite companies or otherwise influence decisions about satellite transmissions to oppose transmissions of telecasts by al-Aqsa TV, al-Manar TV, al-

Rafidayn TV, or any other Specially Designated Global Terrorist owned and operated stations that openly incite their audiences to commit acts of terrorism or violence against the United States and its citizens.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORTS.—Beginning 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on anti-American incitement to violence in the Middle East.

(2) CONTENT.—The reports required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a country-by-country list and description of media outlets that engage in anti-American incitement to violence; and

(B) a list of satellite companies that carry mediums described in subparagraph (A) or designated under Executive Order 13224.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ANTI-AMERICAN INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE.—The term “anti-American incitement to violence” means the act of persuading, encouraging, instigating, advocating, pressuring, or threatening so as to cause another to commit a violent act against any person, agent, instrumentality, or official of, is affiliated with, or is serving as a representative of the United States.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(3) MIDDLE EAST.—The term “Middle East” means Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTA. I yield myself as much time as I may consume as I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend my friend from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for introducing this piece of legislation as well as my friend and colleague from New York, JOE CROWLEY, for his leadership on this issue.

This is an important matter. The Obama administration has brought a new, more positive tone to American foreign policy in the Middle East. Yet, despite the President's desire to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, there still lies fanatical anti-American and anti-Semitic efforts which continue to incite people around the world through broadcasts in the Middle East by television stations for those Muslim viewers.

Without a doubt, freedom of the press and freedom of expression are the foundations of free and prosperous societies throughout the world. Yet with this important freedom comes the great responsibility to reject and repudiate that incitement to violence. This resolution attempts to remind us of that fact.

For years, certain media outlets in the Middle East, particularly those associated with terrorist groups, have repeatedly published or have broadcast incitement to violence against the United States and our allies. Television stations, such as Hezbollah's al-Manar, Hamas' al-Aqsa, the Iraq-based Al-Zawra, and others that broadcast incitement to violence against the United States aid foreign terrorist organizations in their key functions to recruit, to fund-raise, and to incite further propaganda. This must not continue. Some of these stations are broadcast throughout the region by two prominent Arab world satellites—Egypt's Nilesat and the Arab League's Arabsat—in which both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are the leading shareholders. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have relations with our country.

This is unfortunate. This propaganda threatens long-term U.S. interests in the region, and it does a great deal of damage to the prospect of improving bilateral relations between America and our allies in the Arab world. In addition, it undermines the prospects for Arab-Israeli peace. Make no doubt about that.

Americans have witnessed the direct connection between the charged rhetoric of the jihadist narrative, as Tom Friedman called it in his recent column that many of us have read, and it incites actual violence. This incitement creates an environment conducive to and accepting of terrorism, terrorism that impacts all of us throughout the world. As the U.S. and other nations join in fighting this terrorism, there must be renewed vigilance against the purveyors of anti-American hatred abroad and of the consequences for inaction, inattention, or state sponsorship of this hatred.

This legislation requires the State Department to submit to Congress an annual report that details, country by country, Middle Eastern media outlets that engage in anti-American incitement to violence and of the satellite companies that transmit them. They are the enablers.

It also establishes as U.S. policy that satellite providers which knowingly and willingly contract with terrorist entities can be legally designated as “specially designated global terrorists,” under Executive Order 13224, for perpetrating this incitement. In addition, it calls upon our government to consider the state sponsorship of anti-American incitement to violence when determining the level of assistance to and the frequency and nature of relations with Middle Eastern states. We ought to reflect and make an analysis