

these billions of dollars, faith-based organizations receive only a small portion. In fact, many corporations specifically ban or restrict contributions to faith-based organizations.

This legislation encourages them to make greater contributions to faith-based organizations and recommends that they refrain from policies that prohibit corporations from donating to faith-based organizations. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 170.

Mr. WHITFIELD. 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 Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 170.

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. WHITFIELD. 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 motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 168) expressing the sense of Congress in support of victims of torture.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 168

Whereas the people of the United States abhor the use of torture by any government or person;

Whereas the existence of torture creates a climate of fear and international insecurity that affects all people;

Whereas torture results in mental and physical damage to an individual that destroys the individual's personality and terrorizes society and the effects of torture can last a lifetime for the individual and can also affect future generations;

Whereas repressive governments often use torture as a weapon against democracy by eliminating the leadership of their opposition and frightening the general public;

Whereas more than 500,000 survivors of torture live in the United States;

Whereas torture has devastating effects on the victim which often require extensive medical and psychological treatment;

Whereas both the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-320) and the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-87) authorize funding for rehabilitation services for victims of torture so that these individuals may become productive and contributing members of their communities;

Whereas the United States played a leading role in the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and

Whereas June 26th of each year is the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Congress pays tribute to all victims of torture in the United States and around the world who are struggling to overcome the physical scars and psychological effects of torture.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment underscores that freedom, justice, and peace rests on the recognition of the inalienable rights of all members of the human family.

It further states that these basic rights derive from the inherent dignity of the human person. Thus, when one individual suffers, all of humanity suffers. When one individual is tortured, the scars inflicted by such horrific treatment are not only found in the victim but in the global system, as the use of torture undermines, debilitates, and erodes the very essence of that system.

Torture not only terrorizes individuals but entire societies, the impact of which is felt in future generations as well. It is used as a weapon against democracy by eliminating the leadership of the opposition and by frightening the general population into submission.

As a Member of Congress who represents men, women, and children who have fled repressive regimes, I have witnessed firsthand the mental and physical damage that torture inflicts on the individual and on society as a whole. I have constituents who are Cuban refugees, for example, who have been subjected to electroshock treatment by Castro's authorities because of their pro-democracy activities.

I represent one of the largest Holocaust survivor communities in North America. My district includes victims of right-wing authoritative regimes as well as oppressive leftist totalitarian

dictators. I have seen the anguish in their eyes as well as the strength of their spirit, their courage, and their determination.

There are more than 500,000 survivors of torture in the United States; and this resolution, Mr. Speaker, seeks to honor them.

House Concurrent Resolution 168 uses the occasion of the United Nations Day in Support of Victims of Torture as an opportunity to remember and pay homage to the victims of torture and to underscore the commitment that the United States Congress has outlined in the last few years through passage of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 and the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999.

It is a message to the survivors in the U.S., and indeed throughout the world, that the U.S. has not forgotten their suffering nor its obligation as a global leader to help prevent such violations of the inherent dignity of human beings. I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 168. I want to commend my dear friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for introducing this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have the dubious distinction of being the only Member of Congress ever to have lived under and fought against both a Nazi and a communist dictatorship. So torture is something with which I am personally and intimately familiar with.

The resolution before this House today pays tribute to the millions of courageous men and women who have suffered truly terrible mental and physical damage perpetrated by other human beings. It is an unfortunate reality, Mr. Speaker, that around the globe on every continent men, women, and even children are abused by those who are in positions of authority and who abuse their power by inflicting harm on others.

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Mr. Speaker, every year our Department of State in its country reports on human rights practices, catalogs for us the numerous countries involved in this heinous practice. Torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment is a violation of international law, Mr. Speaker, as reflected in the Convention Against Torture to which I am proud to say the United States is a party. But more than that, it is an attack on the decency of every human being who lives in a world where such heinous practices exist.

Mr. Speaker, this House has been at the forefront of trying to ease the suffering of the many who have survived

these awful practices. We have initiated and passed legislation creating U.S. programs that address the psychological and physical needs of those who have survived brutal torture. These programs have helped thousands of such victims. It is only fitting that the House pay tribute to all of the victims of torture around the globe who are struggling to overcome the effects of torture.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 168.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, although the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) has been with us only a short time, she has made an excellent name for herself in her commitment to the finest causes that we deal with.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of a special organization located in Minnesota. It is The Center for Victims of Torture. The Center was established in 1985 to healed the emotional and physical scars of government-inflicted torture on individuals, their families, and our communities. Torture victims face debilitating and unimaginable social, physical, emotional and spiritual scarring.

Many survivors are challenged with daily constant anxiety, depression, and suffer from fear. Torture is a crime against humanity. It is a crime against all of us.

Today I stand here with my colleagues to ensure that the United States works in collaboration with all nations to end government-sponsored torture, to end policies and practices that violate human rights. Although the memories cannot be erased, the wounds can be healed.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 168, the resolution that expresses the sense of Congress in support of victims of torture. But first I wish to commend the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for introducing this important legislation. I also wish to express my gratitude to the honorable gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, for allowing me the opportunity to speak on this very important international issue. As both a former Ambassador and member of the Committee on International Relations, I stand before this esteemed body to

speak on the necessity of highlighting the plight of the many victims of torture around the world.

Today, there are over 500,000 survivors of torture who live in the United States as a result of fleeing from those repressive governments that use various tactics to torture to combat democracy.

This bill is very significant, for it pays tribute to all the victims in the United States and the world who are struggling to overcome the physical and mental scars of torture on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

Torture is a violation of international law as reflected in the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to which the United States is a party. Furthermore, such actions are an attack on the decency of every human being who lives in a world where such horrible practices exist.

In light of these atrocities, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 168, to express support for victims of torture, and I thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing this issue to the floor.

Although torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment is prohibited under international human rights law, state-officials in countries all over the world are responsible for the ill-treatment of individuals. Today, hundreds of thousands of victims of torture live in the United States. They are typically well-educated, well-trained people who were subjected to politically motivated torture by repressive regimes. They were tortured because of what they believe, what they said or did, or for what they represented.

Many torture survivors suffer in silence, enduring incessant physical and emotional anguish. These courageous individuals, who often suffered for speaking out for freedom and justice, deserve, our full and uncompromising support.

When Congress passed the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998, we agreed that victims should have access to rehabilitation services, enabling them to become productive members of our communities. I also encourage my colleagues to support the Torture Victim's Relief Re-authorization Act—H.R. 1405, to fund domestic torture treatment centers and the Human Rights Information Act—H.R. 1152, to facilitate the prosecution of torturers.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Human Rights, I join Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN and Congressman SMITH in this recognition of all victims of torture in the United States and around the world who are struggling to overcome their physical and psychological scars. I urge support of H. Con. Res. 168.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to thank the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on International Operation and Human Rights, the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for reminding us of the

role that the United States must take in combating the use of torture and other forms of degrading treatment or punishment throughout the world.

However, it is not enough to merely denounce torture without assisting the victims in their recovery from the physical and psychological effects that they suffer. People suffering from the effects of torture suffer from severe impediments, often requiring lengthy medical and psychological treatments. Torture victims are often ashamed or too traumatized to speak out against the practice, both in their countries of origin and abroad.

Because torture victims sometimes cannot speak for or help themselves, Americans want their government to speak for those victims, to provide assistance to stop human rights abuses, to investigate allegations of torture, and also to provide rehabilitation services for the victims of torture through the Torture Victims Protection Act. They also want us to press for universal protection against torture through the enforcement of the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention Against Torture, and the UN Charter. These are the themes of the worthy resolution now before us, and we should start with expressing our solidarity with the victims of torture in the United States and throughout the world.

Accordingly, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H. Con. Res. 168.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 168.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 motion will be postponed.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2131) to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2131

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

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.

Section 805(a)(2) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431c(a)(2)) is amended by striking "major".