

Very clearly, this resolution is simply intended to encourage the Government of the United States and other governments around world to continue pressing to make sure that the resolution that is on the ballot January 9 of next year for the people of south Sudan to decide for themselves whether they want to make their own country or be part of the Government of Sudan. That is all we want. It is an agreement that was made in 2005 by warring parties.

I want to be clear. Before I got elected to Congress 12 years ago, I might have known where Sudan was, not sure. I would not have known where Darfur was. I would not have known that there was a problem in south Sudan. This is not a problem that I have been studying for a while. It is a problem that started to come to my attention after 9/11 when I realized, like many Americans, you trace back who is this bin Laden guy, where is he from. He spent years in Sudan training, recruiting, preparing for attacks like 9/11. That was just the beginning of it.

South Sudan decided that it wanted some freedom. They had a revolution of their own. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed. Millions were displaced. That same government in Khartoum also, soon thereafter, started a genocide on their own people in Darfur.

All we are asking, in a very difficult situation, with multi-facets that are beyond comprehension, to simply have the United States Government continue what they are doing. The President of the United States went to New York City last week to meet on Sudan at the U.N. The United States has a Special Envoy there. We are paying special attention.

And by the way, it is not just because I have a bleeding heart for people who have been massacred. It is not just that people should have their own right of self-determination. It is also because this particular country, this particular section of the country is in a critically important region in Africa.

I think most everybody in this country have now heard of the Pilots of Somalia. That is right next door. Eritrea, right next door, Ethiopia, right next door. All around them is instability, danger and potential violence that could draw in the entire region. That is what this peace agreement is all about. That is why I am here, for January 9 of next year, to encourage the world to pay attention to this for their own sake, if not for the sake of the people in Sudan and south Sudan.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Res. 1588, which calls attention to the upcoming referenda in Sudan and the need to ensure full implementation of that country's Comprehensive Peace Agreement, CPA. I want to commend my fellow co-chairs of the Sudan Caucus, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. MCCAUL, for their bipartisan leadership on this issue. Mr. CAPUANO, our Republican co-chairs, and I have worked hard to bring this resolution to the floor because time is short. I support this resolution and say we must sound the alarm for what is going on

in Sudan. The people of Sudan deserve our support for timely, free and fair referenda on the independence of Southern Sudan and Abyei. The National Congress Party, headed by President Omar el Bashir, must not be allowed to derail the referenda.

The referenda are part of the peace dividend promised to the people of South Sudan and Abyei following the 21-year war civil war between North and South Sudan. During the war, which claimed the lives of 2 million Southerners and displaced 4 million, the Bashir regime used aerial bombings against innocent, defenseless children, women, men, elderly, and disabled. Indeed, the war nearly destroyed an entire region—South Sudan, but it could not destroy the spirit of its people.

On January 9, 2005 members of the U.S. Government, including myself, witnessed the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, CPA, which ended the war and outlined the path to secure lasting peace in Sudan. The signing of the agreement launched a 6-year Interim Period during which Khartoum would have the opportunity to show the people of the South that it was capable of change. At the end of the 6 year period—on January 9, 2011—the CPA promised an opportunity for the people of the South to determine whether the regime in Khartoum had changed enough that they want to remain a part of Sudan or whether they want to secede. The people in the marginal area of Abyei—the region that holds in its soil Sudan's oil wealth—would decide if they would retain their special administrative status in the North or to become part of the South.

Today, with less than four months until the referenda, Sudan is dismally behind on implementing the CPA. Bashir's regime has refused to cooperate on key measures that must be put in place. Khartoum has repeatedly played games, stalled, held up, and obstructed so many critical steps in the fulfillment of the CPA that as of today, it is unclear whether the referenda in January can actually be held freely and fairly. Sudan also faces a number of challenges as it struggles to emerge as a democracy from decades of civil war. The conflict and violence in Darfur still rage even as the international community hopes for peace.

Indeed, Sudan could erupt into conflict once again if the referenda are not held freely and fairly. We support House Resolution 1588 to call on the Administration and the international community to fully employ all of our diplomatic tools, as well as significant international technical assistance, to ensure that the referenda are timely, free, peaceful, and fair to the people of Sudan. The consequences of failed referenda are too great.

The United States has served as a guarantor of the CPA, helping to negotiate the agreement and facilitate its implementation by both signatories—the National Congress Party, NCP, and Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, SPLM/A. We have invested considerable time and resources in helping the people of Sudan, and we must ensure that this level of commitment is maintained through this critical time and beyond. Now is the time to refocus attention on Sudan.

H. Res. 1588 sends a clear message to Khartoum that a dismissal of the CPA will not be tolerated. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for

time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1588, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING AID WORKERS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1661) honoring the lives of the brave and selfless humanitarian aid workers, doctors, and nurses who died in the tragic attack of August 5, 2010, in northern Afghanistan.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1661

Whereas 10 unarmed civilians were brutally killed in Badakhshan province, Afghanistan, on August 5, 2010;

Whereas those killed were humanitarian aid workers, operating a mobile health clinic for people with little access to medical care;

Whereas the humanitarian assistance team included a surgeon, an optometrist, a dentist, a nurse, a photographer, translators, a cook, and a guard;

Whereas among the murdered humanitarian aid workers were 6 United States citizens, including Cheryl Beckett, Brian Carderelli, Thomas Grams, Glen Lapp, Tom Little, and Dan Terry;

Whereas Cheryl Beckett, who grew up near Cincinnati, Ohio, had spent 6 years in Afghanistan, helping mothers to provide adequate nutrition for themselves and their children, and organizing relief efforts for more than 200 Afghan families struggling to survive the winter without heat or electricity;

Whereas Brian Carderelli, a recent graduate of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, joined the medical team as a photographer and videographer, documenting the Afghan communities to which the team provided assistance and the successes they together achieved;

Whereas Dr. Thomas Grams, a dentist from Durango, Colorado, gave up his practice 4 years ago to devote his life to providing free dental care to those in need, especially children throughout Asia and Latin American, with a focus on Nepal and Afghanistan;

Whereas Glen Lapp, a nurse from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, came to Afghanistan in 2008 in order to serve as manager of a much-needed provincial eye care program in Afghanistan;

Whereas the humanitarian assistance team was led by Tom Little, an optometrist from New York, who raised 3 daughters while living in Afghanistan and was deeply dedicated to serving the health needs of Afghans, particularly those in remote areas without access to medical care;

Whereas Dan Terry, originally from Sequim, Washington, was fluent in multiple

languages and had lived in Afghanistan since 1971, working tirelessly on behalf of the country's most impoverished and marginalized populations and helping international humanitarian aid workers to understand and respect the local culture;

Whereas the organization that sponsored these humanitarian aid workers was a signatory to the "Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent for NGOs and Disaster Response Programmes", which states that "aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint";

Whereas international humanitarian aid workers have played a vital role in saving lives and meeting basic human needs in Afghanistan over the last 3 decades;

Whereas violent extremists have committed many ruthless and brutal attacks against the people of Afghanistan, starting in the 1990s with public executions in soccer stadiums, attacks against girls attending school, and many other terrible measures;

Whereas these violent extremists have directed wanton acts of cruelty against Afghanistan's poorest and most vulnerable populations, as well as against humanitarian aid workers; and

Whereas these senseless killings will have a tragic impact for decades to come, both on the families of the victims and on the people of Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the lives of the brave and selfless humanitarian aid workers, doctors, and nurses who died in the tragic attack of August 5, 2010, in northern Afghanistan;

(2) extends its deepest condolences to the families of the victims;

(3) strongly condemns those who committed these brutal murders;

(4) urges the Afghan authorities to do their utmost to bring the perpetrators of this heinous act to justice;

(5) encourages all parties to respect the neutral status of humanitarian aid workers; and

(6) commends international humanitarian aid workers for their courageous efforts to save lives and alleviate suffering by providing important services to the Afghan people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Madam 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 Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. TANNER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on August 5, 2010, 10 unarmed humanitarian aid workers affiliated with the International Assistance Mission, a nongovernmental organization operating a mobile health clinic for Afghans with little access to medical care, were brutally killed in Badakhshan province, Afghanistan.

There were six Americans among the murdered aid workers. These brave and

selfless individuals, Cheryl Beckett, Brian Carderelli, Thomas Grams, Glen Lapp, Tom Little and Dan Terry, dedicated their lives to serving the people of Afghanistan.

Despite the grave danger that many humanitarian aid workers face, including from the Taliban, aid workers continue to operate in Afghanistan on behalf of the country's most impoverished and marginalized populations.

We urge all parties involved in the conflict in Afghanistan to respect the neutral status of humanitarian aid workers and urge the Afghan authorities to do their utmost to bring the perpetrators of this heinous act to justice.

The resolution before us today honors the sacrifice and the service of the brave and caring aid workers, doctors, and nurses who died in the tragic attack, and extends our condolences to the families of the victims.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the resolution, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. I want to first thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. BERMAN, and Ranking Member ROSLEHTINEN for moving this resolution so promptly.

It is a privilege for me to sponsor this resolution. The six Americans had their lives brutally taken from them as they served the people of Afghanistan, and they deserve our deepest respect.

From my district, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Glen Lapp came to Afghanistan in 2008, leaving his life in Pennsylvania behind in order to serve as the manager of a much-needed provincial eye care program in Afghanistan. Glen wrote that his hope was to treat the Afghan people with respect and with love as he served them throughout their country.

The others who were killed were just as dedicated to providing humanitarian aid to the Afghans in remote areas.

Aid workers have played a vital role in serving the Afghan public over the last three decades, due to the country's instability. While many aid workers in the past were given safe passage in conflict areas, sadly, in recent months, attacks against them have escalated. The perpetrators are breaking longstanding customs and have resorted to targeting the very people who are trying to supply the people of Afghanistan with the resources necessary to meet their most basic needs.

It is obvious that those who killed these aid workers oppose economic and social progress in Afghanistan, including access to medical care, education, and shelter. These perpetrators must be brought to justice. These terrorists who killed these six Americans and four others are no different from the terrorists who throw acid in girls' faces when they try to go to school. They are the same terrorists who use children as human shields against American troops.

Do we understand that these senseless killings are another terrible re-

minder of the brutality of the Taliban and al Qaeda foreign fighters? Do we understand that these murderers must be brought to justice no matter where they originated, either in Afghanistan or Pakistan?

The people of Afghanistan suffer every day from the cruelty of the Taliban. Along with the families who lost loved ones, the Afghans suffer from the loss of these dedicated and courageous aid workers. As a result of this brutal attack, critical medical care will no longer be available to many of the Afghans who were served by these humanitarian workers. We in the United States need to understand that, and we need to call for justice. The Afghan authorities must conduct an investigation and find these murderers, no matter where they might be hiding or receiving sanctuary.

From various reports, there are strong indications that the attackers were not local and some were speaking non-Afghan languages. Given the location of the attack, the proximity to Taliban strongholds in Nuristan, a province that borders volatile areas of Pakistan, and given the cross-border nature of the Afghan insurgency, I strongly urge the Government of Pakistan to do its utmost to cooperate in rooting out extremism on its soil, in particular, the safe havens that exist on the Pakistani side that have been the source of many acts of violence in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The safe havens for the Taliban, the al Qaeda, and the Haqqani network must be eradicated.

This attack has been called by some the worst attack on humanitarian aid workers in three decades of conflict in Afghanistan. Justice must be served so that it never happens again.

To this end, I hope the U.S. Government is seeking to enhance and dedicate greater resources to establishing law and order and strengthening Afghan institutions to better protect the Afghan people and their partners.

In closing, today we honor the brave and selfless humanitarian aid workers, doctors, nurses who died on August 5. Their efforts to bring healing and care to the Afghans were noble and good.

My thoughts and prayers are with the families of these heroes and quiet leaders, as well as with the Afghan people who have suffered so many decades of conflict and loss.

Mr. TANNER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

First, I want to thank Mr. PITTS for offering this important resolution to remember the aid workers who died in Afghanistan. These aid workers were killed because of their humanitarian efforts, because they were trying to provide the Afghan people with important services so they could live in freedom, opportunity, and prosperity.

For undertaking these noble efforts, the aid workers lost their lives at the hands of murderous extremists who

seek an Afghanistan in the dark ages, an Afghanistan where people are debilitated by poverty and illiteracy, where democratic elections are unthinkable, where women and girls are murdered simply for trying to go to school, where freedom is a forbidden idea. Such an Afghanistan would again be a safe haven for violent extremist groups like the Taliban and al Qaeda who seek to destroy our Nation and our allies and to plunge civilization itself into darkness. So, Madam Speaker, we continue to strive to prevent such a threatening scenario from becoming a dangerous reality.

In that respect, we owe a great deal of gratitude to the many Americans who have done their part and sacrificed so very much, particularly our men and women in uniform, to build a safe, secure, and free Afghanistan. And we owe gratitude to the courageous humanitarian aid workers who risk their lives as well to save lives and to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people.

In particular, we owe our thanks to the American aid workers who gave their lives almost 2 months ago—Cheryl Beckett; Brian Carderelli; Thomas Grams; Glen Lapp, who was Congressman PITTS' constituent and friend; Tom Little; and Dan Terry. We mourn their loss, and we send our condolences to their families.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1661, to honor the lives of the brave and selfless humanitarian aid workers, doctors, and nurses who died in the tragic attack of August 5, 2010, in northern Afghanistan, one of whom was my constituent, Dr. Thomas Grams.

Dr. Grams practiced dentistry in Durango, Colorado, for many years.

Several years ago, he retired from private practice so that he could dedicate his life fulltime to the assistance of residents in developing countries.

Dr. Grams took countless trips to India, Nepal, and Afghanistan to provide care for the indigent residents of these countries.

The focus of Dr. Grams' life was to provide service to others and his mission was to provide access to dental and health care in some of the most remote corners of the world.

Dr. Grams represented Western Colorado and his entire nation with honor.

He exemplified what is best in our country, a strong sense of compassion paired with the will and ability to help those in need.

Dr. Grams' passion for service will be sincerely missed in both Durango and around the world by those he helped.

Our Nation and our world have lost a strong voice for compassion and healing.

In honor of Dr. Grams' legacy, as well as those who were lost with him, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1661.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1661.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR TRAPPED CHILEAN MINERS

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1662) expressing support for the 33 trapped Chilean miners following the Copiapo mining disaster and the Government of Chile as it works to rescue the miners and reunite them with their families.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1662

Whereas, on August, 5, 2010, the San José copper-gold mine in Copiapó, Chile, collapsed, leaving 33 miners trapped underground;

Whereas Chilean President Sebastián Piñera has made it a national priority to rescue the stranded miners and reunite them with their families;

Whereas the Chilean Ministry of Minerals and Ministry of Health are working tirelessly to rescue the 33 miners and make the necessary preparations to ease them back into society after they are rescued;

Whereas the United States continues to assist in the rescue effort, through the efforts of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, private United States companies, and others who shared expertise on rescue missions and the psychological impact of isolation; and

Whereas, on September 17, 2010, a rescue drill completed a bore hole ahead of schedule raising hopes that the miners may be pulled out earlier than the previous forecasts for early November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the bravery of the 33 miners trapped in the San José mine in Copiapó, Chile;

(2) expresses solidarity with the stranded miners and their families;

(3) commends the efforts of President Sebastián Piñera and the Government of Chile in their tireless rescue efforts;

(4) commends the efforts by United States Federal agencies and private individuals and entities in responding directly and promptly to Chile's request for advice and expertise to assist in this humanitarian endeavor; and

(5) expresses continued support for the successful rescue, recovery, and reintegration of the 33 miners into Chilean society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Madam 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 Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

On August 5, 2010, the San Jose copper-gold mine in Copiapo, Chile collapsed, leaving 33 miners trapped 2,300 feet underground. As of today, they have been there for 55 days.

The Chilean President has made the rescue of these stranded miners a national priority. This resolution addresses that deplorable event.

While initial estimates suggested that a complete rescue will take as long as 4 months, recent developments give hope that relief could come for the miners and their families much sooner.

Chilean officials are working tirelessly to rescue the 33 miners, and are making the necessary preparations to ease them back into society post-rescue. In this context, NASA has provided its unique expertise on rescue missions and the psychological impact of isolation. Private U.S. companies such as UPS have also contributed.

Madam Speaker, this resolution expresses solidarity with the stranded miners and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend Congressman MACK, the ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Committee, for offering this resolution.

H. Res. 1662 commends the bravery of the 33 trapped miners in Chile who have endured nearly 2 months of unimaginable mental and physical strain following the August 5 collapse of the San Jose copper-gold mine which trapped them one-half mile below ground.

It was believed that these men did not survive the original collapse, but 17 days after the disaster the miners were miraculously discovered to be alive and in fair condition. Quick-thinking and decisive action led the men to take refuge in a shelter where they have been surviving for the last 7 weeks.

The Chilean Government has been working tirelessly to secure the safety of the miners as quickly as possible and to secure their release. In addition, scientists and doctors from NASA, as well as private U.S. engineers and companies, have been instrumental throughout the rescue process and continue to aid in the drilling efforts.

Various supply holes have reached the group to provide them with food, water, health supplies, air, and games to keep the 33 individuals safe and stable.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1662, which commends the bravery of the 33 trapped miners in Chile who have endured nearly 2 months of unimaginable mental and physical strain following the August 5th collapse of the San José copper-gold mine which trapped them half a mile below ground.

It was believed that the men did not survive the original collapse, but 17 days after the disaster the miners were miraculously discovered to be alive and in fair condition.