

ease, but others including climate change and growing demand for food will only accelerate. Congress must recognize that the nature of international hunger has changed due to changes in the global economy and environment. We must agree a new approach is needed from our government and international partners. And we must commit to a long-term strategy that prioritizes new and substantial funding to improve agricultural productivity in developing countries.

America's investments in global agriculture declined for years while other program budgets soared. In 1985, 12 percent of all U.S. official development assistance went toward agriculture. Thirty years later in 2005, agriculture's share was only 3 percent. This shift in resources is difficult to justify since the poorest countries have rural economies. When American aid is based on the recipient country's priorities, countries ask for agricultural support. More than half of all the funds committed by the Millennium Challenge Corporation to date are targeted toward agriculture and rural infrastructure.

American foreign assistance requires a more balanced approach that recognizes food security as a necessary precondition for all successful development efforts. This is the moment when our country should reclaim its traditional leadership role in fighting global hunger. The stakes are too high for half-measures. There will be no peace, no justice, no progress in a hungry world.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res 344, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. 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.

□ 1245

#### SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RED CROSS TO THE MILITARY

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 937) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross are vital resources for military servicemembers and their families, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 937

Whereas the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross

are free for military families experiencing a crisis;

Whereas the Red Cross can provide notification of emergencies and other important events to over 1,400,000 active duty personnel, and 1,200,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves, on behalf of their family members;

Whereas in an emergency, the Red Cross reaches out to verify the emergency and provides third-party objective information to commanding officers;

Whereas the Red Cross provides timely and accurate information 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and such information can assist a commander's decision whether to release a service member from duty in order to join with his or her family in a time of hardship;

Whereas whether that service member is a reservist in 2 weeks of Arctic training in Alaska, a sailor on a ship in the Indian Ocean, or a member of an advanced team on patrol in Iraq, the Red Cross messaging system can communicate messages between family members when and where other civilian services cannot;

Whereas whether it is a birth or death notification, the Red Cross bears the emotional mission to deliver accurate and timely messages between family members;

Whereas the Red Cross ensures the delivery of the message and provides the family with the needed support until the service member returns home; and

Whereas the Red Cross provides services through 756 chapters in the United States and on 58 military installations around the world to United States Armed Forces personnel, including our troops in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives appreciates the vital emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross between military service members and their families during emergencies or other important events.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. 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 gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

First let me commend my colleague from Texas, Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS, for introducing this important resolution and for his work in support of the American Red Cross. All of us have watched the American Red Cross reform itself, but we have also known that its brand name has represented the aid to help, the anchor in the time of storm.

In times of emergency and other important events, the American Red Cross has the important and at times difficult duty of notifying military

servicemembers on behalf of their families about such events. The Red Cross provides critical information to commanding officers to help them decide whether to release a servicemember from duty in order to join with his or her family in time of crisis.

Regardless of whether it is a birth notice or a tragedy, such as the devastating floods in the Midwest, the Red Cross ensures the timely delivery of vitally important messages and ably provides the families of military servicemembers with the support and assistance they need until the servicemember returns home. This resolution recognizes the critical mission that the American Red Cross undertakes in providing information about these events to military servicemembers. We are all thankful to the Red Cross for carrying out this important work.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of House Resolution 937. This measure recognizes the vital communication services provided by the American Red Cross to U.S. servicemen and servicewomen serving overseas. Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the American Red Cross provides notification of family emergencies and other important events as to birth and death notices to our forces that are in the field in lands far away.

Whether it be in Iraq or Afghanistan or aboard a ship in the Indian Ocean, the Red Cross messaging system can communicate between members of military families where other civilian means of communication cannot. American Red Cross officials are able to verify emergencies and relay information that is critical to a commander's decision whether to release a servicemember to allow him or her to return home during a time of family hardship. In addition to providing notification, the Red Cross often provides families in crisis with support until a servicemember can return home.

I want to thank the author of this resolution, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), for giving us this opportunity to commend the American Red Cross for its outstanding service to our country's troops and their families. The people of the United States are grateful for the dependable support that the American Red Cross has provide us in times of crisis for the past 127 years.

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 937.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), the author of this resolution.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I appreciate the efforts of both of my colleagues from Texas on the Foreign Relations Committee for helping bring this resolution to the floor today so that it could be done in the time we have remaining in the United States Congress this year.

I do ask my colleagues to support House Resolution 937. This resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the emergency communications services provided by the American Red Cross are vital resources for military and servicemembers and their families.

For more than a century, the American Red Cross has provided an emergency messaging system free of charge to all military servicemembers and to their families. Through 756 chapters in the United States and on 58 military installations around the world, the American Red Cross serves over 1.4 million active duty personnel and 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserves with emergency communication.

Twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, American Red Cross volunteers transmit emergency messages between military servicemembers and their families. This resource provides not only a notification system for the servicemember, but it also offers third-party verification of the emergency. In an emergency, commanders in the field rely on this unbiased third-party verification when deciding whether to release a military servicemember from their duties.

In addition to keeping more than 1,000 military families connected each day, the Red Cross delivers emergency messages regarding serious illness of a loved one or the good news on the birth of a servicemember's child or grandchild. I know this because I had personal service during my career as an obstetrician back in Texas, and I cannot tell you the number of times where the Red Cross provided this vital function.

The Red Cross emergency communications services are also available to the families of civilian personnel working overseas under contract to the Department of Defense. This service to the Armed Forces assists an active duty servicemember or veteran every 3 minutes, receives a call from someone in need every 1½ minutes, and assists those in need with one phone call placed or received every minute of every day of every year.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the volunteers, the supporters, the military servicemembers and their families who rely on the American Red Cross to communicate messages in a family emergency. This vital service could not happen without the sincere support of the Red Cross and the dedication to our troops and families. I ask you to commend them by voting in support of House Resolution 937.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me say that the Red Cross has often been the comforting arm for the United States military families. I want to thank Dr. BURGESS and his cosponsors for the great work he has done on this legislation. I would like to also thank the staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the chairman, Mr. BERMAN, and the ranking member, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

I would also like to add on H. Con. Res. 334, the global food crisis legislation, that I would also like to thank the staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee and my staff, Johannes Tsehai, for their hard work on that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to ask for strong support on the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 937 as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. 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.

#### CONDEMNING MIDEAST TV PROGRAMMING THAT INCITES VIOLENCE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1069) condemning the use of television programming by Hamas to indoctrinate hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism toward Israel in young Palestinian children, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1069

Whereas freedom of the press and freedom of expression are the foundations of free and prosperous societies worldwide and are among America's most cherished values;

Whereas with freedom of the press and freedom of expression comes the responsibility to refrain from incitement to violence and to repudiate purveyors of such incitement;

Whereas for years, media outlets in the Middle East have repeatedly published or broadcasted incitement to violence against the United States and its citizens;

Whereas Hamas is designated as a terrorist organization by both the United States and the European Union;

Whereas Hamas owns and operates al-Aqsa TV;

Whereas Hamas uses al-Aqsa TV to promote the organization's extremist and violent ideas by, inter alia, airing children's shows such as "Tomorrow's Pioneers" and "Those who Excel", the primary goal of which is to breed new anti-Israeli and anti-Western terrorists;

Whereas in April 2008 Hamas gruesomely depicted the murder of the President of the United States through the use of puppets on a children's show;

Whereas al-Aqsa TV has used popular cartoon figures to indoctrinate children and incite them toward hatred and violence, in one instance depicting a Bugs Bunny-like character declaring that he "will finish off the Jews and eat them";

Whereas al-Aqsa TV is currently being transmitted by satellites owned by the France-based, privately owned Eutelsat and by the Saudi Arabia-based, Arab League-owned Arabsat;

Whereas Hamas' al-Aqsa TV follows the model of Lebanese Hezbollah's al-Manar TV, which also promotes terrorism and incitement to violence against the United States and its citizens and is widely telecast throughout the Arab world via Arabsat and the Egypt-based, state-owned NileSat;

Whereas Hezbollah launched the television station al-Manar in 1991 and has since funded and operated it as a "station of resistance", intending to use it as a weapon to further its goals of promoting violence against the United States and Israel;

Whereas in 2000, al-Manar launched a satellite television channel that now has an estimated daily viewership of 10,000,000 people worldwide;

Whereas al-Manar regularly broadcasts video clips that glorify insurgent attacks against American and Coalition forces in Iraq;

Whereas the United States designated al-Manar TV a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) entity in 2006;

Whereas Press TV, Iran's English-language satellite television network, is transmitted via the satellite providers ArabSat, NileSat, AsiaSat, HotBird, HispaSat, Intelsat, and Galaxy, and is viewable in North America, South America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Africa;

Whereas al-Alam TV, Iran's Arabic-language satellite television network, is transmitted via the satellite providers ArabSat, NileSat, AsiaSat, HotBird, TelStar, and Galaxy, and is viewable in North America, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Africa;

Whereas many Iranian state-controlled television channels have broadcast incitement to violence against United States citizens, including coverage of rallies and speeches at which Iranian leaders, clerics, children, and mass audiences have declared "Death to America!";

Whereas on March 6, 2008, al-Alam broadcasted a warning from an Iraqi insurgent that if the USS *Cole* was not withdrawn from off the coast of Lebanon, his group would be "targeting all the United States interests, especially the warships [docked] in Umm Qasr beaches in southern Iraq";

Whereas al-Zawra is presently a non-operational Iraqi satellite television channel that broadcasted during 2006 and 2007;

Whereas the Government of Iraq banned al-Zawra in November of 2006 for inciting "violence and murder";

Whereas multiple reports indicate that after being banned in Iraq, al-Zawra broadcasted via a satellite uplink based in Syria until transmissions apparently ceased in July 2007;

Whereas al-Zawra broadcasted videos of violent attacks against American forces in Iraq depicting the destruction of humvees and armored vehicles, recruitment videos for