

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

the Abu Bakr al-Sadiq al-Salafi Battalion of al-Qaeda in Iraq, and videos that feature prominently "Juba", a sniper that allegedly targeted Coalition forces and called for viewers to engage in violence against Coalition forces in Iraq;

Whereas in 2007, al-Zawra aired a program widely known as "Hidden Camera Jihad", a compilation of attacks filmed and executed by insurgents against Coalition forces in Iraq and accompanied by sound effects, scornful English language captions, and a "laugh track";

Whereas al-Rafidayn, an Arabic-language satellite television channel based in Egypt with a focus on Iraq, is broadcast via NileSat to the Middle East and North Africa, and is affiliated with the Association of Muslim Scholars, an anti-American Islamist group based in Iraq;

Whereas al-Rafidayn has repeatedly broadcast video clips produced by Sunni insurgent and terrorist groups in Iraq, and the channel's news broadcasts have frequently broadcast videos, poems, and songs that praise those groups and their attacks on American forces in Iraq;

Whereas television channels that broadcast incitement to violence against United States citizens 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;

Whereas television channels such as al-Aqsa, al-Manar, and al-Zawra broadcast incitement to violence against Americans and Israelis, purvey hatred against the West, and aid Foreign Terrorist Organizations in recruitment, fundraising, and propaganda;

Whereas the use of media outlets by advocates of violence against Americans poses a clear and present danger to the security of United States service members and American civilians serving throughout the Middle East; and

Whereas it is imperative for the United States to use all possible legal and diplomatic tools to counter the threats to American service and civilian personnel that result from the control or use of media outlets by SDGTs and other entities that intend to inflict violence on Americans: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the broadcast of incitement to violence and hatred against Americans, Israelis, and the West by media based in the Middle East;

(2) urges governments throughout the Middle East, American allies, and other responsible Nations to officially and publicly repudiate purveyors of hatred and incitement to violence against Americans, Israelis, and others;

(3) calls on the President to designate al-Aqsa TV a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) entity;

(4) condemns Hamas for using children's television programming to incite hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism;

(5) demands Hamas recognize the State of Israel's right to exist, renounce the use of violence and terrorism as political goals, and accept all past peace agreements with the State of Israel;

(6) calls on Saudi Arabia, the primary shareholder in Arabsat, and on all other Arab States that own shares in Arabsat, to cease immediately the transmission of telecasts by al-Aqsa TV and al-Manar TV;

(7) calls on Egypt, which owns NileSat, to cease immediately the transmission of telecasts by al-Rafidayn TV and al-Manar TV;

(8) calls on the owners of Eutelsat and the Government of France, which legislates what

may be broadcast on satellites based in France, to cease immediately the transmission of telecasts by al-Aqsa TV;

(9) urges the President to consider designating as SDGTs satellite providers that knowingly and willingly contract with entities designated as SDGTs 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;

(10) calls on the President to take into consideration state sponsorship of anti-American incitement to violence when determining the level of assistance to, and frequency and nature of relations with, regional States; and

(11) urges 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 terrorist-owned and -operated stations that similarly purvey insidiously anti-American, anti-Western, anti-Israeli, and anti-Semitic messages and openly incite their audiences to commit acts of terrorism.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friend from New York, Joe Crowley, for introducing this timely and important resolution. Despite the shaky ceasefire reached between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Hamas has neither changed its explicitly stated aim to destroy the State of Israel nor given up the use of terrorism and violence as a means to achieve that end.

But while Hamas' use of terrorism to undermine peace and destroy Israel is well understood in the West, few are aware of its sophisticated use of broadcast media to spread hatred of the United States, Israel and Jews, and to incite Palestinian youth to violence.

Hamas has had its own television station, known as al-Aqsa TV, which is telecast throughout the Arab world. Among its many crude and contemptible practices, al-Aqsa TV utilizes cartoon characters and puppets, one resembling Disney's universally recognized Mickey Mouse, in programming that advocates terrorism, anti-Americanism and anti-Semitism.

On March 30, 2008, this TV station broadcast a puppet show depicting the stabbing and murder of the President

of the United States. This morally twisted type of children's programming violates all civilized norms, cynically undermines prospects for Israeli-Palestinian peace, and flagrantly violates phase I of the U.S.-backed roadmap for peace, calling for an end to incitement in Palestinian society. It even stigmatizes the Palestinian people who want peace, many of them fighting every day to ensure that there is an opportunity for collaboration and dialogue and peaceful discussion with Israel. In fact, I would imagine that children who are watching are certainly not children who are intending to grow up to be terrorists.

The resolution puts this body on record supporting the overdue designation of al-Aqsa television as a specially designated global terrorist entity. Such a designation would follow logically from the administration's designation of Hezbollah's al-Manar TV as a specially designated global terrorist entity 3 years ago. This designation proved useful in persuading a number of satellite companies around the world not to transmit al-Manar's hate-filled broadcasts. Designating Hamas' al-Aqsa TV would similarly send a strong message to satellite companies transmitting its vile programming, including one of Europe's largest satellite companies, the privately-owned, French-based Eutelsat.

In addition, this resolution calls on Saudi Arabia, the primary shareholder in the Arab League-owned satellite Arabsat, to take the lead in ending Arabsat's transmission of al-Aqsa TV, as well as Hezbollah's al-Manar TV. Thanks to Arabsat, both al-Aqsa TV and al-Manar TV are seen throughout the Middle East and beyond.

Unfortunately, our friend and ally Egypt is also involved in transmissions of hate media. Egypt's state-owned satellite, NileSat, broadcasts at least two terrorist mouthpieces, the Hezbollah station and the Iraq focused station and an Arabic language network affiliated with anti-American insurgent activity. This latter network consistently telecasts material glorifying insurgents and their attacks on American forces.

It would be especially important if our allies and friends would recognize that it is our intent to collaborate and work toward uplifting forthright, educational, politically sound conversation and dialogue. It is not our intent, of course, to control their own sovereignty, but it is important when that gets out into the world marketplace that it is civil, that it is strong, that it is democratic, that it is fair, and that it is reflective of the human dignity of all people.

It is deeply dismayed that one of our strongest allies in the region and one of the largest recipients of U.S. Foreign assistance tolerates the advocacy of attacks on Americans in Iraq on its state-controlled satellite provider.

I know that the terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah will not soon

abandon their mass-media means of hatred and violence, but it is long past the time for all state-owned and privately-owned satellite companies around the world to cease transmitting these destructive messages that encourage the murder of Americans and Israelis.

That is why I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in that support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I strongly support House Resolution 1069, which addresses and condemns the spread of encouragement to violence against America and Americans by Middle East-based media outlets. This is not a problem in theory, Mr. Speaker. When TV channels broadcast attacks by insurgents on U.S. soldiers in Iraq or newspapers publish repeated calls for the destruction of the United States, they further endanger the security of American civilians and military personnel in the Middle East. These channels are then broadcast on satellite providers that transmit not only to the region, but as far away as Europe, Asia, Africa and even North America.

□ 1300

We must do everything we can to prevent our enemies from recruiting potential insurgents and homicidal bombers. They must be prevented, from Beirut to London to New York, who seek to shed American blood wherever and whenever they wish.

Media outlets that provide financial, material, or technological support to violent Islamic groups should be held accountable for their hate speech that incites murder of American civilians and military. Given that recipients of U.S. aid, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, control many of the satellite providers that transmit such incitement, we should use our leverage to urge these nations to act responsibly and stop putting these calls for murder on the air of their television stations.

I again rise in very strong support of H. Res. 1069, and I urge my fellow members to do as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York, the author of the legislation, Mr. CROWLEY.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am sure I will not use all that time, and I thank the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, for giving me this time on the floor. I want to thank my friend and colleague from Florida, Congressman BILIRAKIS, for his working with me to further expand the resolution that we have on the floor today to include all media outlets that promote hate and intolerance in the Middle East. This is a bipartisan resolution, and I greatly appreciate his input and his support on this legislation today.

I initially introduced this legislation in response to reports that Hamas was

using and is using their television network, al-Aqsa TV, to depict violence and acts of hatred on a show called "Tomorrow's Pioneers." The show has Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny look-alikes telling their children viewers that they will "finish off the Jews and eat them." Another puppet show also on the network, as was mentioned earlier, acted out the murder of President Bush on that network.

The use of children's programming to send these kinds of messages is despicable and deplorable, and we cannot stand by and let this blatant propaganda continue because, at best, it perpetuates misinformation and, at its worst, it will serve to indoctrinate children, incite them towards hatred and violence against our ally Israel and possibly others, including the United States, and undermine efforts to firmly establish peace in the Middle East for generations to come.

Instead of promoting violence, our children should be taught to respect and accept all people, no matter their faith or their nationality.

If we are going to establish lasting peace in the Middle East, and it is all of our fervent hope that we do that, it will require far more than an end to military hostilities between warring factions. It will require the creation of an environment where people can live side by side in peace.

Today, we send a clear message to our friends and foes alike in the Middle East that we do not tolerate the indoctrination of hate in children. The next leaders of our world should not be brainwashed into hating the West and Israel.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for the time.

I rise in support of House Resolution 1069, and I urge swift passage.

Along with Mr. CROWLEY's original resolution, I introduced House Resolution 1308, condemning the broadcasting of incitement of violence against Americans and the United States in Middle Eastern-based media.

I am pleased to have worked with Mr. CROWLEY in combining our two resolutions to come up with the product we have today. I am grateful that my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, led by Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, in a display of bipartisanship, unanimously voted for my amendment in the nature of a substitute to House Resolution 1069.

Anti-American incitement of violence is escalating in quality and quantity, fueled by the rapid growth of satellite television throughout the Arab world. In 2008, al-Manar TV broadcast over two dozen video clips of insurgent bombings against U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq, while one of its cor-

respondents implicitly threatened the USS *Cole* with attack. Further, Iranian state-controlled TV channels repeatedly broadcast calls for "Death to America," and, we have already heard al-Aqsa TV broadcast a puppet show depicting an Arab child stabbing the President of the United States.

Instead of denouncing and addressing such incitement, many countries in the region effectively provide financial, material, or technological support to purveyors of incitement. Al-Manar and al-Aqsa, among others, are transmitting on the satellite providers Nile-Sat, controlled by the Egyptian government, and Arabsat, controlled by the Arab League. Given the dangers such incitement poses to American service and civilian personnel in the region, it is long past time for the U.S. and other responsible nations to stop this growing threat. Support of House Resolution 1069 is, therefore, critical.

Among other things, this resolution condemns the broadcast of anti-American incitement to violence and hatred against the Americans, Israelis, and the West by Middle East-based media. It urges Middle Eastern governments, U.S. allies, and other responsible nations to officially and publicly repudiate purveyors of such incitement to violence against Americans and Israelis. It calls on the President to designate al-Aqsa as a specially designated global terrorist entity, and to designate those satellite providers that contract with purveyors of incitement to violence as such. It demands that Hamas recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence and terrorism, and accept all past peace agreements with Israel. Most importantly, it takes into consideration state sponsorship of anti-American incitement to violence when determining our aid to and relations with regional governments.

We must stop Middle East-based media from inciting violence against us.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Mr. CROWLEY. I thank you for the time. This is an important resolution that will enhance our security and protect our soldiers and citizens overseas. I urge its passage.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to add for the RECORD that the author of the legislation, Congressman CROWLEY, is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

It now gives me great pleasure to yield 2 minutes to Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, who is a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, but a former member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlelady for yielding to me and for her leadership. And I thank my colleague from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his leadership on this and so many other issues, and my dear friend, Mr. BILIRAKIS, who has done such a remarkable job in the time that he has been in Congress.

I rise today as a proud cosponsor of this resolution, but I am deeply troubled that it even needs to exist.

It is often said that a society can be judged by the values that they teach their children. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say that there is no more fitting commentary on Hamas and its principles than the shocking hate-filled television programming they broadcast to indoctrinate their children. For those who still believe, contrary to everything else, that Hamas is merely a political organization or a social organization, they should look no further than their television sets to see a Mickey Mouse look-alike teaching children how to wear explosive belts, or Bugs Bunny teaching children to kill and even eat Jews. This is absolutely outrageous uncivilized behavior. And far from laying the groundwork for peace, Hamas is sowing the seeds of yet another generation of terrorists who value martyrdom and death above all else. Instead of protecting their children, they are putting them in harm's way.

Indeed, just this weekend during a cease-fire with Israel, Arab media reported that Hamas is continuing to conduct military exercises in residential areas. It is just further troubling evidence that they are all too eager to put their children in the line of fire. Instead of teaching their children mathematics and geography or really enjoying a Mickey Mouse and a Bugs Bunny character, they teach their children how to fire missiles and maximize casualties, and using cartoon figures to do it.

I submit to you today that true peace will only come to the Middle East when terrorist organizations like Hamas stop indoctrinating their children with hate, stop treating their children as cannon fodder, and start building a positive, stable future for their children.

I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1069, a resolution condemning Hamas for using a children's television program to incite hatred, violence, and anti-Semitism towards Israel and its citizens.

This hateful propaganda targeted at children by Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, cannot be tolerated and must be stopped.

Further, unless Hamas recognizes the State of Israel's right to exist, ceases incitement of hatred, and permanently disarms and dismantles its terrorist infrastructure, the United States will not work with it, nor can we expect Israel to.

Israel is our best ally, and our relationship is all the more important as our nations share a common interest in defeating the threat posed by radical Islamist terrorists, whether it is Hamas or Hezbollah.

Israel has stood bravely in the face of threats by Hamas and Hezbollah, and has the right and obligation to defend its citizens and its nation. Israel has the right to exist free from terror, and we will help defend this right.

The actions of Hamas and Hezbollah, or any other Islamist terrorist organization, to incite hatred and violence in the young will doom any real chance of peace, and it will doom citizens in the future to a continued life in hell. We have to recognize that if there is going to be peace in the Middle East, it is going to emanate from the young.

We allowed my daughter, Jeramy Alice, to watch TV only on a Saturday morning. When she watched cartoons, she was absolutely fixated on them. It is stunning to see the impact television has on the young. And to think that young children would be seeing cartoon figures that would teach anger, hate and anti-Semitism is astonishing.

It strikes me as strange that eventually Hamas and Hezbollah and the people that have supported it don't get it. If they want a better life, if they want a better future, if they love and care for their children, they will do everything to fill their children with images of love and peace, not hatred and anger.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Does the gentleman from Texas have any further speakers?

Mr. POE. We have no other speakers. I support the adoption of this immediately, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman. And let me, in supporting this legislation, indicate that there are friends that we have mentioned. And we hope that our allies such as Egypt will work with us to address what has been noted as particularly heinous comments and use of the airwaves.

Respecting our own viewpoints of protecting the first amendment, we do believe in that. But we also know that even though our law is not international law, that crying fire in a crowded theater certainly is not acceptable.

Teaching children to murder heads of states is not acceptable. Let us try to work and collaborate and point out these ills so that we can promote peace and democracy around the world. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, H. Res. 1069 condemns the use of television programming by Hamas to incite hatred in Palestinian youth and encourage violence. Violence and hatred will not bring a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians. I do not condone the use of television programming to promote such acts; rather I strongly object to it. Similarly, I condemn an ongoing policy that seeks to punish a civilian population in an effort to undermine its political leadership.

Hamas is designated a foreign terrorist organization by the United States because they engage in violence that undermines the Arab-Israeli peace process. Hamas is a sanctioned

terrorist entity by the U.S. and the international community. As such, our condemnation of all egregious and objectionable activities by Hamas is clear. Condemnation of their television programming does not make this more clear nor does it bring us closer to a viable peace.

U.S. foreign policy must promote viable solutions to the violence and hatred. It is obvious that the promotion of peaceful solutions begins with ensuring the security and basic human rights of all people. The ongoing atrocities caused by the suffering of 1.5 million people in Gaza who are subject to escalating poverty, inadequate health care and insufficient access to clean water is a clear violation of security and human rights.

The blockade of Gaza has resulted in a near total collapse of the private sector, causing an almost 80 percent unemployment rate. More than 80 percent of all Gazans now rely on emergency food aid provided by the United Nations as their primary food source. The lack of basic goods has severely deteriorated Gaza's health, economy, and social fabric.

Imposition of the blockade in response to Hamas's attacks has amounted to collective punishment. While the current crisis may be exacerbated, instigated, even perpetuated by Hamas, the responsibility for ending the humanitarian crisis does not rest solely with Hamas.

Israel has a legal duty to provide Gazans with food, clean water, electricity, and medical care. The United States enjoys a close relationship with Israel. They are one of our strongest allies. I urge this body to exert our diplomatic influence with Israel to end the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and ensure the health, safety, and security for Palestinians and Israelis. This new condition would obviate the perceived need for condemnation.

Mr. MAHONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my good friend and colleague, Representative CROWLEY, in supporting H. Res. 1069.

I have seen the workings of Hamas firsthand on a trip to Israel. Their rockets and attacks kill innocent Israelis. And now, by using of Al-Aqsa TV programming to promote hate and violence among Palestinian children, they are poisoning another generation.

There is no place for cartoon characters telling children they "will finish off the Jews and eat them" or depictions of President Bush being murdered. Children should be taught to respect and accept all people, no matter their faith.

This blatant propaganda aims to indoctrinate children, incite hatred and violence towards Israel, and undermine efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

At a time when the United States is working to bring peace to the region, it is incomprehensible and counterproductive to be filling Palestinian children with more hatred and fear.

If lasting peace is to be achieved, this type of anti-Semitic and anti-American propaganda must be stopped.

Today, we are sending a clear message to Hamas that this type of behavior must come to an end. I thank my colleagues for their support.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. 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 of Texas) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1069, 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.

# RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE USS "CONSTELLATION" IN THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1159), recognizing the historical significance of the United States sloop-of-war *Constellation* as a surviving witness to the horrors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and a leading participant in America's effort to end the practice.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

## H. RES. 1159

Whereas on September 17, 1787, the United States Constitution was adopted and article I, section 9 of the document declared that Congress could prohibit the importation of slaves into the United States in the year 1808;

Whereas on March 22, 1794, the United States Congress passed "An Act to prohibit the carrying on the Slave Trade from the United States to any foreign place or country", thus beginning American efforts to halt the slave trade;

Whereas on May 10, 1800, Congress enacted legislation that outlawed all American participation in the international trafficking of slaves and authorized the United States Navy to seize American vessels engaged in the slave trade;

Whereas on March 2, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed a bill that declared the importation of slaves into the United States illegal;

Whereas on January 1, 1808, the act "to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States" took effect;

Whereas on March 3, 1819, Congress authorized the Navy to cruise the African coast to suppress the slave trade. The Act declared that Africans on captured ships be placed under Federal jurisdiction and authorized the President to appoint an agent in Africa to facilitate their return to the continent;

Whereas in 1819, the Royal Navy of Great Britain established the West Coast of Africa as a separate naval station and actively plied the waters in pursuit of slave ships. Great Britain negotiated with many other nations to obtain the right to search their vessels if suspected of engaging in the slave trade;

Whereas on May 15, 1820, Congress declared the trading of slaves to be an act of piracy and those convicted subject to the death penalty;

Whereas in 1842, the Webster-Ashburton Treaty between Great Britain and the United States provided that both nations would

maintain separate naval squadrons on the coast of Africa to enforce their respective laws against the slave trade. The newly formed United States African Squadron sailed for Africa in 1843 and remained in operation until the Civil War erupted in 1861;

Whereas in 1859, USS *Constellation*, the last all-sail vessel designed and built by the U.S. Navy, sailed to West Africa as the flagship of the United States African Squadron, consisting of eight ships, including four steam-powered vessels suitable for chasing down and capturing slavers;

Whereas on December 21, 1859, USS *Constellation* captured the brig *Delicia* after a 10-hour chase. Although *Delicia* had no human cargo on board upon capture, her crew was preparing the ship to take on slaves;

Whereas on the night of September 25, 1860, USS *Constellation* sighted the barque *Cora* near the mouth of the Congo River and, after a dramatic moonlit chase, captured the slave ship with 705 Africans crammed into her "slave deck". A detachment of the *Constellation*'s crew sailed the surviving Africans to Monrovia, Liberia, a colony founded for the settlement of free African-Americans that became the destination for all Africans freed on slave ships captured by the Navy;

Whereas on May 21, 1861, USS *Constellation* captured the brig *Triton*. Though the ship did not have Africans captured for slavery on board when intercepted by the *Constellation*, a search confirmed its preparation to take on slaves. *Triton*, registered in Charleston, South Carolina, was one of the first Union naval captures of the American Civil War;

Whereas from 1859 to 1861, USS *Constellation* and the African Squadron captured 14 slave ships and liberated nearly 4,000 Africans destined for a life of servitude in the Americas, a record unsurpassed by the United States African Squadron under previous commanders; and

Whereas on September 25, 2008, the USS *Constellation* Museum will hold a ceremony to commemorate the bicentennial of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade aboard the same ship that, 149 years before, forced the capitulation of the slave ship *Cora* and freed the 705 Africans confined within: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the historical and educational significance of USS *Constellation*, a 153-year-old American warship, berthed in Baltimore, Maryland, as a reminder of both American participation in the slave trade and the efforts of the United States Government to suppress this inhumane practice;

(2) applauds the preservation of this historic vessel and the efforts of the USS *Constellation* Museum to engage people from all over the world with this vital part of our history; and

(3) supports USS *Constellation* as an appropriate site for the Nation to commemorate the bicentennial of the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

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 support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first thank Congressman Elijah Cummings for introducing this resolution honoring the USS *Constellation*, a 153-year-old American Warship that now is restored as a museum in the Baltimore Inner Harbor.

□ 1315

This historic ship serves as a reminder of the role that the United States Navy played in the abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade.

In 1787, our Nation began to adopt legislation to prohibit the importation of slaves to the United States and the transport of slaves from the U.S. to other parts of the Western Hemisphere. Over the next several decades, the U.S. Government joined with the British in deploying naval vessels along the African coastline to intercept slave ships, rescue kidnapped victims and place them under international jurisdiction, and return them to homelands in Africa.

Mr. Speaker, this is sometimes little known history, and I congratulate my colleague from Maryland of highlighting the fact that the good news is, even though it took long years to end slavery in the United States, they began to stop the transportation and importing of slaves, and they vigorously used the United States military in the name of the United States Navy.

The USS *Constellation* was the flagship of an eight-ship fleet that comprised the U.S. African Squadron. The *Constellation* captured 14 slave ships and rescued nearly 4,000 Africans from a life of forced servitude in the Americas.

Launched in 1854 from the Chesapeake Bay's Gosport Navy Yard at Portsmouth, Virginia, the USS *Constellation* served our country for 100 years before its final decommissioning in 1955, I would venture to say, a long, long time. Maybe its good work of preventing the importation of slaves allowed it to have a long life with good health.

After serving the anti-slavery effort, the USS *Constellation* was charged with chasing Confederate raiders during the Civil War, and served as a training ship for the midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis from 1871 to 1893. The ship was brought to Baltimore's Inner Harbor in 1955 and restored as the USS *Constellation* Museum.

This is a historic year, 2008, as we watch presidential politics. This legislation is an appropriate testament to the history of the United States and doing the right thing as it relates to slavery here in this country. It also incorporates our recognition of the United States Navy and the United