

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.

**URGING PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN NORTH KOREA AT 59TH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 109) urging passage of a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and calling on the Government of North Korea to respect and protect the human rights of its citizens, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

**H. RES. 109**

Whereas the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this preamble referred to as "North Korea") is, in the words of the United States Department of State, "a dictatorship under the absolute rule of the Korean Workers' Party" that "prohibits freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and association . . . [and] restricts freedom of religion, citizens' movements, and worker rights";

Whereas according to the State Department, "[t]he [North Korean] Penal Code is Draconian, stipulating capital punishment and confiscation of assets for a wide variety of 'crimes against the revolution,' including defection, attempted defection, slander of the policies of the party or State, listening to foreign broadcasts, writing 'reactionary' letters, and possessing reactionary printed matter";

Whereas, as noted in the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the North Korean regime executes political prisoners, opponents of the regime, some repatriated defectors, some members of underground churches, and others, sometimes at public meetings attended by workers, students, and school children;

Whereas the North Korean regime subjects all its citizens to systematic, intensive political and ideological indoctrination in support of the cult of personality glorifying Kim Jong Il and the late Kim Il Sung which, in the words of the State Department, "approaches the level of a state religion";

Whereas the North Korean regime divides its population into categories, based on perceived loyalty to the Party and the leadership, which determine access to employment, higher education, place of residence, medical facilities, and other resources;

Whereas the North Korean regime attempts to control all information, artistic expression, and academic works inside North Korea and strictly curtails freedom of speech;

Whereas the Government of North Korea holds an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 political prisoners in camps that its State Security Agency manages through the use of forced labor, beatings, torture, and executions, and in which many prisoners also die from disease, starvation, and exposure;

Whereas according to eyewitness testimony provided to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives by camp survivors, camp inmates have been used as sources of slave

labor for the production of export goods, as targets for martial arts practice, and as experimental victims in the testing of chemical and biological poisons;

Whereas according to eyewitness testimony provided to the Committee on International Relations by a camp survivor, female camp prisoners are not permitted to have children and their newborn babies are routinely and brutally killed by camp authorities;

Whereas according to the State Department "[g]enuine religious freedom does not exist" in North Korea and, in the words of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, "[t]he North Korean state severely represses public and private religious activities";

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has highlighted "reports that [North Korean] officials have arrested, imprisoned, tortured, and sometimes executed North Korean citizens who were found to have ties with overseas Christian evangelical groups operating across the border in China, as well as those who engaged in such unauthorized religious activities as public religious expression and persuasion";

Whereas according to eyewitness testimony provided to the Committee on International Relations in May 2002, a North Korean prison camp survivor witnessed a group of Christian prisoners being tortured to death in 1990 for refusing to repudiate their faith;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 North Koreans are estimated to have died of starvation since 1995 because of the failure of the centralized agricultural system operated by the Government of North Korea;

Whereas the risk of starvation and the threat of persecution in North Korea have caused many thousands of North Koreans to flee their homeland, primarily into the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Governments of the People's Republic of China and North Korea have been conducting aggressive campaigns to locate North Koreans who are in the People's Republic of China without permission and to forcibly return them to North Korea;

Whereas North Koreans who seek asylum while in the People's Republic of China are routinely imprisoned and tortured, and in some cases killed, after they are returned to North Korea; and

Whereas the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights is scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 17 to April 25, 2003; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Secretary of State to support efforts to draft, introduce, and pass a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

(2) urges all members of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to support a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; and

(3) calls on the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respect and protect the human rights of its citizens, such as those recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

I thank our cosponsors for being a part of this, including the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP), a good cross-section of Members, a bipartisan group, supporting House Resolution 109.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of North Korea is an historical anachronism, a totalitarianist Stalinist regime under the control of the Korean Workers Party, the so-called Dear Leader, or Kim Jong-Il, a man who demands god-like reverence and enjoys a decadent, opulent lifestyle while hundreds of thousands of children and their parents starve to death.

His regime, his dictatorship, Mr. Speaker, is one of the worst systematic abusers of human rights in the world today. Inside North Korea, there are no genuine freedoms of speech, religion, or assembly. The penal code imposes a penalty of death for a wide variety of crimes against the revolution, including defection, attempted defection, slander of party policy, listening to foreign broadcasts, and imagine that, one listens to a radio show and one can be charged with crimes against the revolution, and writing letters or possessing printed material that is considered reactionary.

The regime maintains an extensive system, Mr. Speaker, of political prison camps that hold an estimated 200,000 prisoners, including entire families of those suspected of disloyalty toward the dictatorship.

As confirmed by eyewitness testimony presented before the Committee on International Relations last year, camp conditions are horrific. Starvation, overwork, and disease kill most of the camp inmates. Others are used as targets for martial arts practice or as guinea pigs for lethal tests of chemical weapons.

Christians are tortured to death for refusing to renounce their faith in one who is greater than the Dear Leader. Female prisoners are not allowed to bear additional children, and their newborns are routinely and brutally killed before their eyes, usually by smothering or having their necks broken.

Based on reputable reporting, Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 109 recounts the abominable conditions inside North Korea and exhorts the dictatorship in Pyongyang to respect human rights for its citizenry. More immediately, it urges the Department of State to support the introduction and passage of a resolution on human rights abuses in North Korea at the current session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

At the State Department's suggestion, we included language that urges other members of the Commission to support that effort. While the Commission has censored numerous countries in recent years, North Korea has inexplicably escaped its notice. We hope that oversight will be corrected during this session.

I want to thank those 19 bipartisan cosponsors, particularly the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE); the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific; and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member of the committee, for their support.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I would like to commend my good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the vice-chairman of our committee, for his continued and steadfast leadership on all issues relating to human rights.

The political, human rights and security situation in North Korea is deteriorating rapidly, Mr. Speaker. It is critically important that our Nation have a strategy for addressing the whole host of our concerns with North Korea. We indeed have a crisis on the Korean Peninsula, and the sooner the executive branch engages at the highest levels to deal with that crisis, the better.

When policymakers, journalists, academics, and Members of Congress discuss the North Korean situation, the natural focus of attention is on North Korea's dangerous and destabilizing nuclear and missile programs. North Korea's nuclear program poses a clear and present danger to all civilized nations, particularly with North Korea's increasingly advanced medium- and long-range missile program. But this legitimate focus on North Korean security issues often obscures the horrendous human rights situation in that country.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must develop a comprehensive approach to North Korea, one that allows us to tackle North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and the destruction that North Korea's leaders are imposing on their own people by their human rights policies.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that the world has no greater abuser of inter-

nationally recognized human rights than the Government of North Korea. Over the past 8 years, North Korea's leaders allowed more than 1 million citizens to starve to death rather than to implement economic and agricultural reforms. The children who survive starvation face a life marred by permanent physical and mental disabilities caused by their severe and long-term malnutrition. Meanwhile, the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-Il, imports the finest foods and luxury items for himself and his entourage, living in the lap of luxury in Pyongyang.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, death and destruction are only part of North Korea's pattern of gross violations of human rights. Those citizens who make even the mildest criticisms of the government are immediately imprisoned, tortured, or killed. There is no freedom of assembly, no freedom of worship, no freedom of speech, no political freedom.

In short, Mr. Speaker, North Korea is the worst kind of totalitarian police state. The United States and other civilized nations must make it clear that vast improvements in North Korea's human rights situation must be part of a dialogue with North Korea, and normalization of relations will not occur under current circumstances.

The best way to send that signal from the international community is for the United States to pursue a resolution critical of North Korea's human rights record at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Our resolution urges the administration to undertake this initiative, and I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Africa and a leader on issues of human rights relevant to North Korea.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. I rise in support of this resolution urging the United States to work towards passage of a resolution on North Korean human rights abuses at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

I am a cosponsor of this resolution, and I commend the Committee on International Relations vice-chairman, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for his attention to this issue. I also want to commend the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for his attention. Both of these gentlemen have spent much time, have spent much of their careers, trying to focus this body on human rights and to address human rights concerns around this world.

Last year, this House passed legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 213, recognizing the horrific plight of North Korean refugees who risk their lives to

escape into China. That legislation at the time included language encouraging the Secretary of State to work to pass a resolution regarding human rights in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. That session began yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, North Korea is one of the worst systemic abusers of human rights in the world today. North Koreans are held hostage to their so-called Dear Leader, Kim Jong-Il. North Koreans are put to death for a very wide variety of crimes against the revolution, as he calls it, including listening to foreign broadcasts or possessing printed material that is considered reactionary by that regime.

The prison camps in that regime hold an estimated 200,000 prisoners. Last year, the Subcommittee on Asia held a hearing to look at the nightmarish conditions in these North Korean prison camps. We heard testimony from North Koreans who had escaped the camps, and these were North Koreans in disfavor with that Stalinist regime, those who had been convicted of "anticriminal acts." They were basically political prisoners.

As we heard their testimony, they reported to us that the inmates in those camps were being slowly worked to death. These were work camps. We heard from North Koreans who witnessed prisoners being gassed as part of a chemical weapons experiment. We also heard testimony from Dr. Norbert Vollersten, a German physician and one of the few Westerners to spend extended time in North Korea. Dr. Vollersten has launched a worldwide campaign to tell anyone who will listen what he witnessed in North Korea. Dr. Vollersten has asked why the world does not hear more and does not know more about what he describes as Nazi-type atrocities that are occurring to North Korean people.

As we know, the North Korean regime uses food as a weapon against its own people, apportioning and withholding resources based on citizens' perceived loyalty to the regime. In many parts of that country, in many counties, whole counties, whole provinces, are perceived not to be loyal enough to receive food aid.

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It is largely an untold story that from 1994 to 1998 at least 2 million North Koreans perished from starvation and related diseases while nearly 50 percent of North Korean children are malnourished to the point that their physical and mental health is compromised. Responsibility for this unparalleled cruelty lies squarely with the regime of Kim Jong Il.

The upcoming session provides an opportunity, the session in the United Nations, for the administration and others throughout the world to focus on these horrific realities in North Korea which have unfortunately been overlooked. And I am convinced that a

concerted international focus on the North Korean regime's human rights abuses would advance stability in Northeast Asia. I am hard pressed to see how turning away from this ugly reality is in the interest of anyone but the North Korean regime.

Mr. Speaker, we face a critical challenge on the Korean peninsula. I urge the passage of this timely resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), my friend and our distinguished colleague, who in the short time she has been with us has already made significant contributions to the work of this body.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his very kind words and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for their leadership on human rights around the world and in particular for introducing this resolution for which I rise in strong support.

The Korean people are great friends of the United States and have a proud history and a vibrant culture. I, therefore, follow with great sadness the daily oppression suffered by the people of North Korea. Through meeting the many Koreans that come to Guam and by having personally traveled to Korea on many, many occasions, I have come to appreciate how difficult life is under Kim Jong Il's dictatorship.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has described the North Koreans as being amongst the least-free people on this Earth with no personal freedoms or protections for their rights. In their most recent report on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the commission said that North Koreans are barely surviving under a regime that denies basic human dignity and lets them starve while pursuing military might and weapons of mass destruction.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights opened its 59th session in Geneva. Human rights are perhaps the most important issue the international community can address. Human rights is the most important guiding principle underlying the work of the United Nations. The commission must and should address the human rights abuses in North Korea. It is my fervent hope that one day Koreans from both North and South will come to visit my island of Guam in unity and peace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of House Resolution 109. I strongly support it.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 H. Res. 109 the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) for her very eloquent remarks and my good friend from California (Mr. LANTOS). We need a very strong show of support by our colleagues today, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this resolution. The U.N. committee is meeting as we speak. This issue must be brought so the kind of scrutiny and, I would say, condemnation for these egregious abuses of human rights can be brought to the fore. North Korea has a horrific record on human rights; and it is about time the international community said so in one loud voice: no more.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 109 urging passage of a UN Resolution addressing human rights in North Korea, and to commend my colleague, the Honorable CHRIS SMITH, a true leader on the issue, for introducing this resolution.

The human rights abuses in North Korea are a human tragedy of the worst proportions. Kim Jong Il's prison camp system is a chilling reminder of the methods used by totalitarian dictators to suppress their people. Behind the veil of North Korea's closed society, countless citizens starve to death while the regime continues to spend its limited resources on building nuclear weapons. Public executions are common, newborn babies of prisoners are routinely killed by being smothered or by having their necks broken, and prisoners are used as guinea pigs for chemical weapon experiments.

A truly disturbing tactic of the North Korean regime seeks submission from dissidents by exacting retribution on family members. Persons who resist the regime are punished, but their parents, siblings, and other relatives may also be punished. Many fear for their families particularly if they flee as refugees. According to Human Rights Watch, one man who had suffered years in a political prison camp because of his father's supposed disloyalty and eventual defection feared trying to flee himself. He stated, "I thought it would be all right to lose my own life, but I hated to think that my act might harm my mother and brother."

According to the State Department there continue to be reports of extrajudicial killings and disappearances. The penal code is draconian, and stipulates capital punishment and confiscation of assets for a wide variety of "crimes against the revolution," including defection, attempted defection, slander of the policies of the party or State, listening to foreign broadcasts, writing "reactionary" letters, and possessing reactionary printed matter.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution which would urge the State Department to draft, introduce, and work toward the passage of a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The United Nations must highlight the atrocities of the North Korean regime.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, we 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 New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 109, as amended.

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. LANTOS. 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.

#### TED WEISS FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 145) to designate the Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York, New York, as the "Ted Weiss Federal Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 145

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Ted Weiss Federal Building".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ted Weiss Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 145 designates the Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York City as the Ted Weiss Federal Building. Ted Weiss was born in Gava, Hungary, in September of 1927. He and his family fled Eastern Europe to escape Nazi persecution on the last passenger ship to leave Hamburg, Germany, arriving in the United States in 1938.

Ted Weiss graduated from Hoffman High School in South Amboy, New Jersey, in 1946. He served for 1 year in the United States Army. He then went on to earn a bachelor's and a law degree from Syracuse University, graduating in 1952. Ted Weiss became a naturalized citizen in 1953, the same year that he was admitted to the practice of law in New York.

In 1955 Congressman Weiss became an assistant district attorney for New