

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2013; CONCERNING THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO; EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOMINATE A QUALIFIED AND INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUAL FOR THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS; AND RECOGNIZING THE LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 1897, H. Res. 131, H. Res. 273 and
H. Res. 222**

JUNE 27, 2013

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VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2013; CONCERNING THE ONGOING CONFLICT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO; EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOMINATE A QUALIFIED AND INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUAL FOR THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS; AND RECOGNIZING THE LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:10 a.m., in room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Edward Royce (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman ROYCE. The committee will come to order.

Pursuant to notice, we meet to mark up four bipartisan measures. As all members were notified earlier this week, to expedite our consideration of these non-controversial items, we will take up en bloc the text previously provided to your offices which all members have before them.

And so without objection, the following items are considered as read and will be considered en bloc: H.R. 1897, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013; House Resolution 131, concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo; the bipartisan amendment in the nature of a substitute to House Resolution 131 offered by Congresswoman Bass; House Resolution 273, expressing the sense of the House that the President should nominate an Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors; House Resolution 222, recognizing the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; and the bipartisan amendment in the nature of a substitute to House Resolution 222 offered by Mr. Meeks.

[The information referred to follows:]

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1897

To promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. WOLF, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. LOWENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purpose.
- Sec. 3. Prohibition on increased nonhumanitarian assistance to the Government of Vietnam.
- Sec. 4. United States public diplomacy.
- Sec. 5. United Nations Human Rights Council.
- Sec. 6. Annual report.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The relationship between the United States
4 and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has grown
5 substantially since the end of the trade embargo in
6 1994, with annual trade between the two countries
7 reaching nearly \$25,000,000,000 in 2012.

8 (2) The Government of Vietnam's transition to-
9 ward greater economic freedom and trade has not
10 been matched by greater political freedom and sub-
11 stantial improvements in basic human rights for Vi-
12 etnamese citizens, including freedom of religion, ex-
13 pression, association, and assembly.

14 (3) The United States Congress agreed to Viet-
15 nam becoming an official member of the World
16 Trade Organization in 2006, amidst assurances that
17 the Government of Vietnam was steadily improving
18 its human rights record and would continue to do so.

19 (4) Vietnam remains a one-party state, ruled
20 and controlled by the Communist Party of Vietnam
21 (CPV), which continues to deny the right of citizens
22 to change their Government.

23 (5) Although in recent years the National As-
24 sembly of Vietnam has played an increasingly active
25 role as a forum for highlighting local concerns, cor-
26 ruption, and inefficiency, the National Assembly re-

1 mains subject to the direction of the CPV and the
2 CPV maintains control over the selection of can-
3 didates in national and local elections.

4 (6) The Government of Vietnam forbids public
5 challenge to the legitimacy of the one-party state, re-
6 stricts freedoms of opinion, the press, and associa-
7 tion and tightly limits access to the Internet and
8 telecommunication.

9 (7) Since Vietnam's accession to the WTO on
10 January 11, 2007, the Government of Vietnam arbi-
11 trarily arrested and detained numerous individuals
12 for their peaceful advocacy of religious freedom, de-
13 mocracy, and human rights, including Father
14 Nguyen Van Ly, human rights lawyers Nguyen Van
15 Dai, Le Thi Cong Nhan, Cu Huy Ha Vu, and Le
16 Cong Dinh, and bloggers Nguyen Van Hai, Ta
17 Phong Tan, and Le Van Son.

18 (8) The Government of Vietnam continues to
19 detain, imprison, place under house arrest, convict,
20 or otherwise restrict persons for the peaceful expres-
21 sion of dissenting political or religious views.

22 (9) The Government of Vietnam continues to
23 detain labor leaders and restricts the right to orga-
24 nize independently.

1 (10) The Government of Vietnam continues to
2 limit the freedom of religion, restrict the operations
3 of independent religious organizations, and persecute
4 believers whose religious activities the Government
5 regards as a potential threat to its monopoly on
6 power.

7 (11) Despite reported progress in church open-
8 ings and legal registrations of religious venues, the
9 Government of Vietnam has halted most positive ac-
10 tions since the Department of State lifted the “coun-
11 try of particular concern” (CPC) designation for
12 Vietnam in November 2006.

13 (12) Unregistered ethnic minority Protestant
14 congregations, particularly Montagnards in the Cen-
15 tral and Northwest Highlands, suffer severe abuses
16 because of actions by the Government of Vietnam,
17 which have included forced renunciations of faith,
18 arrest and harassment, the withholding of social pro-
19 grams provided for the general population, confisca-
20 tion and destruction of property, subjection to severe
21 beatings, and reported deaths.

22 (13) There has been a pattern of violent re-
23 sponses by the Government to peaceful prayer vigils
24 and demonstrations by Catholics for the return of
25 Government-confiscated church properties. Pro-

1 testers have been harassed, beaten, and detained
2 and church properties have been destroyed. Catholics
3 also continue to face some restrictions on selection
4 of clergy, the establishment of seminaries and semi-
5 nary candidates, and individual cases of travel and
6 church registration.

7 (14) In May 2010 the village of Con Dau, a
8 Catholic parish in Da Nang, faced escalated violence
9 during a funeral procession as police attempted to
10 prohibit a religious burial in the village cemetery;
11 more than 100 villagers were injured, 62 were ar-
12 rested, five were tortured, and at least three died.

13 (15) The Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam
14 (UBCV) suffers persecution as the Government of
15 Vietnam continues to restrict contacts and move-
16 ment of senior UBCV clergy for refusing to join the
17 state-sponsored Buddhist organization, the Govern-
18 ment restricts expression and assembly, and the
19 Government continues to harass and threaten UBCV
20 monks, nuns, and youth leaders.

21 (16) The Government of Vietnam continues to
22 suppress the activities of other religious adherents,
23 including Cao Dai and Hoa Hao Buddhists who lack
24 official recognition or have chosen not to affiliate
25 with the state-sanctioned groups, including through

1 the use of detention, imprisonment, and strict Gov-
2 ernment oversight.

3 (17) Many Montagnards and others are still
4 serving long prison sentences for their involvement
5 in peaceful demonstrations in 2001, 2002, 2004,
6 and 2008. Montagnards continue to face threats, de-
7 tention, beatings, forced renunciation of faith, prop-
8 erty destruction, restricted movement, and reported
9 deaths at the hands of Government officials.

10 (18) Ethnic minority Hmong in Northern Viet-
11 nam, the Northwest Highlands, and the Central
12 Highlands of Vietnam also suffer restrictions, confis-
13 cation of property, abuses, and persecution by the
14 Government of Vietnam.

15 (19) The Government of Vietnam restricts
16 Khmer Krom expression, assembly, and association,
17 has confiscated nearly all the Theravada Buddhist
18 temples, controls all Khmer Kaon Buddhist religious
19 organizations and prohibits most peaceful protests.

20 (20) The Government of Vietnam controls near-
21 ly all print and electronic media, including access to
22 the Internet, jams the signals of some foreign radio
23 stations, including Radio Free Asia, and has de-
24 tained and imprisoned individuals who have posted,

1 published, sent, or otherwise distributed democracy-
2 related materials.

3 (21) People arrested in Vietnam because of
4 their political or religious affiliations and activities
5 often are not accorded due legal process as they lack
6 full access to lawyers of their choice, may experience
7 closed trials, have often been detained for years
8 without trial, and have been subjected to the use of
9 torture to admit crimes they did not commit or to
10 falsely denounce their own leaders.

11 (22) Vietnam continues to be a source country
12 for the commercial sexual exploitation and forced
13 labor of women and girls, as well as for men and
14 women legally entering into international labor con-
15 tracts who subsequently face conditions of debt
16 bondage or forced labor, and is a destination country
17 for child trafficking and continues to have internal
18 human trafficking.

19 (23) There are many reports of Vietnamese of-
20 ficials and employees participating in, facilitating,
21 condoning, or otherwise being complicit in severe
22 forms of human trafficking.

23 (24) United States refugee resettlement pro-
24 grams, including the Humanitarian Resettlement
25 (HR) Program, the Orderly Departure Program

1 (ODP), Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese
2 Returnees (ROVR) Program, general resettlement of
3 boat people from refugee camps throughout South-
4 east Asia, the Amerasian Homecoming Act of 1988,
5 and the Priority One Refugee resettlement category,
6 have helped rescue Vietnamese nationals who have
7 suffered persecution on account of their associations
8 with the United States or, in many cases, because of
9 such associations by their spouses, parents, or other
10 family members, as well as other Vietnamese nation-
11 als who have been persecuted because of race, reli-
12 gion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in
13 a particular social group.

14 (25) While previous programs have served their
15 purposes well, a significant number of eligible refu-
16 gees from Vietnam were unfairly denied or excluded,
17 including Amerasians, in some cases by vindictive or
18 corrupt Vietnamese officials who controlled access to
19 the programs, and in others by United States per-
20 sonnel who imposed unduly restrictive interpreta-
21 tions of program criteria. In addition, the Govern-
22 ment of Vietnam has denied passports to persons
23 who the United States has found eligible for refugee
24 admission.

1 (26) The Government of Vietnam reportedly is
2 detaining tens of thousands of people, with some as
3 young as 12 years old, in government-run drug de-
4 tention centers and treating them as slave laborers.

5 (27) In 2012, over 150,000 people signed an
6 online petition calling on the Administration to not
7 expand trade with communist Vietnam at the ex-
8 pense of human rights.

9 (28) Congress has passed numerous resolutions
10 condemning human rights abuses in Vietnam, indi-
11 cating that although there has been an expansion of
12 relations with the Government of Vietnam, it should
13 not be construed as approval of the ongoing and se-
14 rious violations of fundamental human rights in
15 Vietnam.

16 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to promote
17 the development of freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

18 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON INCREASED NONHUMANITARIAN**
19 **ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET-**
20 **NAM.**

21 (a) ASSISTANCE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
23 section (b), the Federal Government may not pro-
24 vide nonhumanitarian assistance to the Government
25 of Vietnam during any fiscal year in an amount that

1 exceeds the amount of such assistance provided for
2 fiscal year 2012 unless—

3 (A) with respect to the limitation for fiscal
4 year 2014, the President determines and cer-
5 tifies to Congress, not later than 30 days after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, that the
7 requirements of subparagraphs (A) through (G)
8 of paragraph (2) have been met during the 12-
9 month period ending on the date of the certifi-
10 cation; and

11 (B) with respect to the limitation for sub-
12 sequent fiscal years, the President determines
13 and certifies to Congress, in the most recent
14 annual report submitted pursuant to section 6,
15 that the requirements of subparagraphs (A)
16 through (G) of paragraph (2) have been met
17 during the 12-month period covered by the re-
18 port.

19 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of this
20 paragraph are the following:

21 (A) The Government of Vietnam has made
22 substantial progress toward releasing all polit-
23 ical and religious prisoners from imprisonment,
24 house arrest, and other forms of detention.

1 (B) The Government of Vietnam has made
2 substantial progress toward—

3 (i) respecting the right to freedom of
4 religion, including the right to participate
5 in religious activities and institutions with-
6 out interference, harassment, or involve-
7 ment of the Government, for all of Viet-
8 nam’s diverse religious communities; and

9 (ii) returning estates and properties
10 confiscated from the churches and religious
11 communities.

12 (C) The Government of Vietnam has made
13 substantial progress toward respecting the right
14 to freedom of expression, assembly, and associa-
15 tion, including the release of independent jour-
16 nalists, bloggers, and democracy and labor ac-
17 tivists.

18 (D) The Government of Vietnam has made
19 substantial progress toward repealing or revis-
20 ing laws that criminalize peaceful dissent, inde-
21 pendent media, unsanctioned religious activity,
22 and nonviolent demonstrations and rallies, in
23 accordance with international standards and
24 treaties to which Vietnam is a party.

1 (E) The Government of Vietnam has made
2 substantial progress toward allowing Viet-
3 namese nationals free and open access to
4 United States refugee programs.

5 (F) The Government of Vietnam has made
6 substantial progress toward respecting the
7 human rights of members of all ethnic and mi-
8 nority groups.

9 (G) Neither any official of the Government
10 of Vietnam nor any agency or entity wholly or
11 partly owned by the Government of Vietnam
12 was complicit in a severe form of trafficking in
13 persons, or the Government of Vietnam took all
14 appropriate steps to end any such complicity
15 and hold such official, agency, or entity fully
16 accountable for its conduct.

17 (b) EXCEPTION.—

18 (1) CONTINUATION OF ASSISTANCE IN THE NA-
19 TIONAL INTEREST.—Notwithstanding the failure of
20 the Government of Vietnam to meet the require-
21 ments of subsection (a)(2), the President may waive
22 the application of subsection (a) for any fiscal year
23 if—

24 (A) the President determines that the pro-
25 vision to the Government of Vietnam of in-

1 creased nonhumanitarian assistance would pro-
2 mote the purpose of this Act or is otherwise in
3 the national interest of the United States; and

4 (B) the Federal Government provides as-
5 sistance, at levels commensurate with, or ex-
6 ceeding, any increases in nonhumanitarian as-
7 sistance to Vietnam, that supports—

8 (i) training about the obligation of the
9 Government of Vietnam to respect the
10 rights enumerated in the International
11 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

12 (ii) noncommercial rule of law pro-
13 gramming; and

14 (iii) measures to overcome the jam-
15 ming of Radio Free Asia by the Govern-
16 ment of Vietnam.

17 (2) EXERCISE OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The
18 President may exercise the authority under para-
19 graph (1) with respect to—

20 (A) all United States nonhumanitarian as-
21 sistance to Vietnam; or

22 (B) one or more programs, projects, or ac-
23 tivities of such assistance.

24 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) NONHUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—The
2 term “nonhumanitarian assistance” means—

3 (A) any assistance under the Foreign As-
4 sistance Act of 1961 (including programs under
5 title IV of chapter 2 of part I of that Act, relat-
6 ing to the Overseas Private Investment Cor-
7 poration), other than—

8 (i) disaster relief assistance, including
9 any assistance under chapter 9 of part I of
10 that Act;

11 (ii) assistance which involves the pro-
12 vision of food (including monetization of
13 food) or medicine;

14 (iii) assistance for environmental re-
15 mediation of dioxin-contaminated sites and
16 related health activities;

17 (iv) assistance to combat severe forms
18 of trafficking in persons;

19 (v) assistance to combat pandemic
20 diseases;

21 (vi) assistance for refugees; and

22 (vii) assistance to combat HIV/AIDS,
23 including any assistance under section
24 104A of that Act; and

1 (B) sales, or financing on any terms, under
2 the Arms Export Control Act.

3 (2) SEVERE FORM OF TRAFFICKING IN PER-
4 SONS.—The term “severe form of trafficking in per-
5 sons” means any activity described in section 103(8)
6 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
7 (Public Law 106–386 (114 Stat. 1470); 22 U.S.C.
8 7102(8)).

9 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
10 on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply
11 with respect to the provision of nonhumanitarian assist-
12 ance to the Government of Vietnam for fiscal year 2014
13 and subsequent fiscal years.

14 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

15 (a) RADIO FREE ASIA TRANSMISSIONS TO VIET-
16 NAM.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States
17 should take measures to overcome the jamming of Radio
18 Free Asia by the Government of Vietnam and that the
19 Broadcasting Board of Governors should not cut staffing,
20 funding, or broadcast hours for the Vietnamese language
21 services of the Voice of America and Radio Free Asia,
22 which shall be done without reducing any other broadcast
23 language services.

24 (b) UNITED STATES EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
25 EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH VIETNAM.—It is the sense

1 of Congress that any programs of educational and cultural
2 exchange between the United States and Vietnam should
3 actively promote progress toward freedom and democracy
4 in Vietnam by providing opportunities to Vietnamese na-
5 tionals from a wide range of occupations and perspectives
6 to see freedom and democracy in action and, also, by en-
7 suring that Vietnamese nationals who have already dem-
8 onstrated a commitment to these values are included in
9 such programs.

10 (c) UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.—
11 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State
12 should strongly oppose, and encourage other members of
13 the United Nations to oppose, the candidacy of Vietnam
14 for membership on the United Nations Human Rights
15 Council for the term beginning in 2014.

16 **SEC. 5. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

17 (a) COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.—It is the
18 sense of Congress that Vietnam should be designated as
19 a country of particular concern for religious freedom pur-
20 suant to section 402(b) of the International Religious
21 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)).

22 (b) MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF
23 HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—It is the sense of Congress that
24 the Government of Vietnam does not fully comply with the
25 minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and

1 is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compli-
2 ance, and this determination should be reflected in the an-
3 nual report to Congress required pursuant to section
4 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
5 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)).

6 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act and every 12 months
9 thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress
10 a report on the following:

11 (1) The determination and certification of the
12 President that the requirements of subparagraphs
13 (A) through (G) of section 3(a)(2) have been met,
14 if applicable.

15 (2) If the President has waived the application
16 of section 3(a) pursuant to section 3(b) during the
17 reporting period—

18 (A) the national interest with respect to
19 which such a waiver was based;

20 (B) the amount of increased nonhumani-
21 tarian assistance provided to the Government of
22 Vietnam; and

23 (C) a description of the type and amount
24 of commensurate assistance provided pursuant
25 to section 3(b)(1)(B).

1 (3) Efforts by the United States Government to
2 promote access by the Vietnamese people to Radio
3 Free Asia transmissions.

4 (4) Efforts to ensure that programs with Viet-
5 nam promote the policy set forth in section 102 of
6 the Human Rights, Refugee, and Other Foreign Pol-
7 icy Provisions Act of 1996 regarding participation in
8 programs of educational and cultural exchange.

9 (5) Lists of persons believed to be imprisoned,
10 detained, or placed under house arrest, tortured, or
11 otherwise persecuted by the Government of Vietnam
12 due to their pursuit of internationally recognized
13 human rights. In compiling such lists, the Secretary
14 shall exercise appropriate discretion, including con-
15 cerns regarding the safety and security of, and ben-
16 efit to, the persons who may be included on the lists
17 and their families. In addition, the Secretary shall
18 include a list of such persons and their families who
19 may qualify for protections under United States ref-
20 ugee programs.

21 (6) A description of the development of the rule
22 of law in Vietnam, including—

23 (A) progress toward the development of in-
24 stitutions of democratic governance;

1 (B) processes by which statutes, regula-
2 tions, rules, and other legal acts of the Govern-
3 ment of Vietnam are developed and become
4 binding within Vietnam;

5 (C) the extent to which statutes, regula-
6 tions, rules, administrative and judicial deci-
7 sions, and other legal acts of the Government of
8 Vietnam are published and are made accessible
9 to the public;

10 (D) the extent to which administrative and
11 judicial decisions are supported by statements
12 of reasons that are based upon written statutes,
13 regulations, rules, and other legal acts of the
14 Government of Vietnam;

15 (E) the extent to which individuals are
16 treated equally under the laws of Vietnam with-
17 out regard to citizenship, race, religion, political
18 opinion, or current or former associations;

19 (F) the extent to which administrative and
20 judicial decisions are independent of political
21 pressure or governmental interference and are
22 reviewed by entities of appellate jurisdiction;
23 and

24 (G) the extent to which laws in Vietnam
25 are written and administered in ways that are

1 consistent with international human rights
2 standards, including the rights enumerated in
3 the International Covenant on Civil and Polit-
4 ical Rights.

5 (b) CONTACTS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.—In
6 preparing the report under subsection (a), the Secretary
7 shall, as appropriate, seek out and maintain contacts with
8 nongovernmental organizations and human rights advo-
9 cates (including Vietnamese-Americans and human rights
10 advocates in Vietnam), including receiving reports and up-
11 dates from such organizations and evaluating such re-
12 ports. The Secretary shall also seek to consult with the
13 United States Commission on International Religious
14 Freedom for appropriate sections of the report.

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 131

Concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts toward long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2013

Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MORAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HONDA, Ms. EDWARDS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WATT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. HAHN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts toward long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights.

Whereas since the 1990s, an estimated 5,000,000 people have died and more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced

due to repeated cycles of conflict and atrocities, particularly those in North and South Kivu provinces;

Whereas the United Nations and humanitarian groups have reported staggering rates of sexual violence indicating tens of thousands of cases perpetrated by the Congolese army and armed groups, including the M23 and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, which continue to operate with nearly total impunity;

Whereas human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been subject to intimidation and attack;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo's wealth of natural resources, including minerals and high-value wildlife products such as elephant ivory, have been a key driver of insurrection and violence, and the discovery and exploitation of oil could motivate further conflict;

Whereas the deeply flawed November 2011 elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo laid bare significant political, economic, and social challenges;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to one of the world's longest enduring and most expensive international peacekeeping operations;

Whereas the November 20, 2012, seizure of the city of Goma by the M23 rebel group, despite bilateral and multilateral efforts to address longstanding humanitarian crises, forge lasting peace, and pursue security sector reform and accountability, demonstrates that the underlying causes of the recurring conflicts in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remain unresolved;

Whereas on November 15, 2012, the United Nations Group of Experts provided compelling evidence, in report find-

ings corroborated by the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in testimony before the United States House of Representatives on December 11, 2012, and December 19, 2012, that the M23 crisis is fueled and exacerbated by the Government of Rwanda, including through Rwandan Government provision of significant military and logistical assistance, and of operational and political guidance and support, to the M23; and

Whereas the United Nations and United States have imposed sanctions on the M23 and its leaders for human rights atrocities including rape, massacres, and the recruitment and physical and psychological torture of child soldiers: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) asserts that the region’s leaders and the
3 international community should break the cycle of
4 violence and impunity in the Democratic Republic of
5 the Congo and surrounding region and urgently ad-
6 dress the root causes of the M23 conflict and pre-
7 vious crises;

8 (2) calls on the signatories of the February 24,
9 2013, Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework
10 for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the
11 Region to abide by the provisions outlined in the
12 framework agreement in addition to ensuring that
13 those troops being re-integrated into the Congolese

1 army are not those accused of human rights viola-
2 tions;

3 (3) calls on governments of the Great Lakes re-
4 gion of Africa to respect the national security and
5 territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of
6 the Congo, and to immediately halt and prevent any
7 and all forms of support to the M23 and other non-
8 state armed groups, including any support provided
9 by individuals independently of government policy;

10 (4) recognizes the recent efforts by the Govern-
11 ment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to
12 end the recruitment of children into the armed
13 forces and demands the immediate cessation of the
14 recruitment and exploitation of children by militias,
15 and further calls on all armed groups to free chil-
16 dren and other civilians held against their will;

17 (5) calls on the Obama Administration, in close
18 coordination with international and regional part-
19 ners, to mobilize a comprehensive response to pre-
20 vent further deterioration of regional peace and sta-
21 bility and to ensure that life-saving humanitarian as-
22 sistance be unhindered and provided to populations
23 in need, particularly displaced persons and conflict-
24 affected communities;

1 (6) acknowledges the good work of the United
2 States Special Advisor on the Great Lakes and the
3 Democratic Republic of the Congo, and finds that
4 the challenges of helping to resolve the cycle of vio-
5 lence and impunity in the Democratic Republic of
6 the Congo requires higher-level United States diplo-
7 matic and political engagement;

8 (7) requests that Secretary of State John Kerry
9 demonstrate the high-level concern that the United
10 States attaches to ensuring stability and security in
11 the Democratic Republic of the Congo by appointing
12 a Special Envoy who will help lead the United States
13 and international efforts to end the M23 conflict and
14 secure permanent peace, stability, and safety for the
15 people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

16 (8) calls on all nations to increase cooperation
17 in order to cease the trade of illegal goods, including
18 poached ivory and conflict minerals, that continues
19 to fuel violence in the Democratic Republic of the
20 Congo;

21 (9) calls on the Obama Administration, includ-
22 ing the Atrocities Prevention Board, in close coordi-
23 nation with international and regional partners, to
24 develop and make actionable recommendations to
25 address, prevent, and ensure accountability for seri-

1 ous violations of international humanitarian law and
2 human rights abuses by all actors in the Democratic
3 Republic of the Congo, including by fully imple-
4 menting sanctions outlined in section 1284 of the
5 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
6 2013, notwithstanding transactions that are cus-
7 tomary, necessary, and incidental to the provision of
8 critical, life-saving aid to civilian populations, and
9 the policy goals set out under the Democratic Re-
10 public of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy
11 Promotion Act of 2006, introduced by then-Senator
12 Barack Obama;

13 (10) urges the Government of the Democratic
14 Republic of the Congo, with close support from the
15 international community, to investigate and pros-
16 ecute those who have committed war crimes, crimes
17 against humanity, and violations of international hu-
18 manitarian law and human rights, including those
19 against women and children;

20 (11) calls on the Government of the Democratic
21 Republic of the Congo to meaningfully engage in
22 electoral reforms, in addition to security sector re-
23 forms to prevent militia combatants, particularly
24 M23 members, accused of abuses from integrating
25 into the military, and to host inclusive inter-Congo-

1 lese dialogues to address critical internal political
2 issues and strengthen processes of state institution
3 building in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

4 (12) urges the Obama Administration to ad-
5 dress alleged support for militias operating in the
6 Democratic Republic of the Congo from foreign gov-
7 ernments or entities;

8 (13) acknowledges the United Nations' appoint-
9 ment of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes re-
10 gion of Africa; and

11 (14) urges the United Nations Security Council
12 to lead efforts to reinforce and strengthen the
13 United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission
14 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
15 (MONUSCO) and its capacity to protect civilians,
16 including preventing any future M23 advances on
17 Goma, as evidenced by the temporary seizure of
18 Goma and other areas, and to support measures to
19 strengthen the ability of MONUSCO to help ensure
20 peace and security in the future.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES 131
OFFERED BY MS. BASS OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas since the 1990s, an estimated 5,000,000 people have died and more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced due to repeated cycles of conflict and atrocities, particularly those in North and South Kivu provinces;

Whereas the United Nations and humanitarian groups have reported staggering rates of sexual violence indicating tens of thousands of cases perpetrated by the Congolese army and armed groups, including the M23, Mai Mai militias, the Lord's Resistance Army, and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, which continue to operate with nearly total impunity;

Whereas human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been subject to intimidation and attack;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo's wealth of natural resources, including minerals and high-value wildlife products such as elephant ivory, have been a driver of insurrection and violence, and the discovery and exploitation of oil could motivate further conflict;

Whereas the deeply flawed November 2011 elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo laid bare significant political, economic, and social challenges;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to one of the world's largest and most expensive international peacekeeping operations;

Whereas the "Peace Agreement Between The Government And Le Congres National Pour La Defense Du Peuple (CNDP)" signed in Goma on March 23, 2009, was not fully realized;

Whereas the November 20, 2012, seizure of the city of Goma by the M23 rebel group, despite bilateral and multilateral efforts to address longstanding humanitarian crises, forge lasting peace, and pursue security sector reform and accountability, demonstrates that the underlying causes of the recurring conflicts in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remain unresolved;

Whereas on November 15, 2012, the United Nations Group of Experts provided compelling evidence, in report findings corroborated by the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in testimony before the United States House of Representatives on December 11, 2012, and December 19, 2012, that the M23 crisis has been fueled and exacerbated by the Government of Rwanda, including through the provision of significant military and logistical assistance, and of operational and political guidance and support, to the M23;

Whereas the United Nations and United States have imposed sanctions on the M23 and its leaders for human rights atrocities including rape, massacres, and the recruitment and physical and psychological torture of child soldiers;

Whereas on March 18, 2013, International Criminal Court (ICC) indietee and leader of a faction of the M23 rebel group, Bosco Ntaganda, turned himself in to the United

States Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, and asked to be and was transferred to the ICC in The Hague, where he voluntary surrendered on March 22, 2013;

Whereas the Lord's Resistance Army continues to perpetrate attacks against civilian populations in affected areas of northeastern Congo, creating widespread insecurity and displacement;

Whereas members of civil society and political parties from both the majority and the opposition created the National Preparatory Committee (Comité National Préparatoire or CNP) to lay the groundwork for convening a national forum and dialogue with the goal of putting an end to the multifaceted crisis that afflicts the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

Whereas on June 13, 2013, Secretary of State John Kerry appointed former United States Senator Russell Feingold as the new United States Special Envoy for the African Great Lakes region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, demonstrating the high priority that the United States attaches to ensuring an end to armed conflict and promoting stability and security in the region: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

- 1 That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) asserts that the region's leaders bear pri-
- 3 mary responsibility for the security of their territory
- 4 and citizens and, with support from the inter-
- 5 national community, must break the cycle of violence

1 and impunity in the Democratic Republic of the
2 Congo and surrounding region and urgently address
3 the root causes of conflict;

4 (2) asserts that previous agreements including
5 the “Peace Agreement Between The Government
6 And Le Congres National Pour La Defense Du
7 Peuple (CNDP)” have sought to bring stability to
8 the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the re-
9 gion, and now calls on the signatories of the Feb-
10 ruary 24, 2013, Peace, Security and Cooperation
11 Framework for the Democratic Republic of the
12 Congo and the Region to abide by the provisions
13 outlined in the framework agreement in addition to
14 ensuring that those troops being integrated into the
15 Congolese army are not those accused of human
16 rights violations;

17 (3) calls on governments of the Great Lakes re-
18 gion of Africa to respect the national security and
19 territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of
20 the Congo, and to immediately halt and prevent any
21 and all forms of support to the M23 and other
22 nonstate armed groups, including any support pro-
23 vided by individuals independently of government
24 policy;

1 (4) recognizes the recent efforts by the Govern-
2 ment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to
3 end the recruitment of children into the armed
4 forces and demands the immediate cessation of the
5 recruitment and exploitation of children by all armed
6 forces, and further calls on all armed groups to free
7 children and other civilians held against their will;

8 (5) calls on the Administration, in close coordi-
9 nation with international and regional partners and
10 consistent with Public Law 109–456, to support the
11 Government of the Democratic Republic of the
12 Congo in mobilizing a comprehensive response to
13 prevent further deterioration of regional peace and
14 stability and to ensure unhindered humanitarian ac-
15 cess;

16 (6) acknowledges the good work of the United
17 States Special Advisor on the Great Lakes and the
18 Democratic Republic of the Congo, and finds that
19 the challenges of helping to resolve the cycle of vio-
20 lence and impunity in the Democratic Republic of
21 the Congo requires higher-level United States diplo-
22 matic and political engagement;

23 (7) calls on all nations to increase cooperation
24 in order to cease the trade of illegal goods, including
25 poached ivory and conflict minerals, that continues

1 to fuel violence in the Democratic Republic of the
2 Congo;

3 (8) calls on the Administration, including the
4 Atrocities Prevention Board, in close coordination
5 with international and regional partners, to develop
6 and make actionable recommendations to address,
7 prevent, and ensure accountability for serious viola-
8 tions of international humanitarian law and human
9 rights abuses by all actors in the Democratic Repub-
10 lic of the Congo, including by fully implementing
11 sanctions outlined in section 1284 of the National
12 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013,
13 notwithstanding transactions that are customary,
14 necessary, and incidental to the provision of critical,
15 life-saving aid to civilian populations, and the policy
16 goals set out under Public Law 109–456;

17 (9) urges the Government of the Democratic
18 Republic of the Congo, with close support from the
19 international community, to investigate and pros-
20 ecute those who have committed war crimes, crimes
21 against humanity, and violations of international hu-
22 manitarian law and human rights, including those
23 against women and children;

24 (10) calls on the Government of the Democratic
25 Republic of the Congo to meaningfully engage in

1 electoral reforms, in addition to security sector re-
2 forms to prevent militia combatants, particularly
3 M23 members, accused of abuses from integrating
4 into the military, and to host inclusive inter-Congo-
5 lese dialogues to address critical internal political
6 issues and strengthen processes of state institution
7 building in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

8 (11) urges the Administration to address sup-
9 port provided to militias operating in the Democratic
10 Republic of the Congo by foreign governments and
11 entities;

12 (12) acknowledges the United Nations' appoint-
13 ment of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes re-
14 gion of Africa; and

15 (13) acknowledges the authorization by the
16 United Nations Security Council of the deployment
17 of an intervention brigade within the United Nations
18 Organization Stabilization Mission in the Demo-
19 cratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) with a
20 robust civilian protection mandate, and urges the
21 United Nations Security Council to continue to lead
22 efforts to reinforce and strengthen MONUSCO and
23 its capacity to protect civilians, deter violence, and
24 ensure peace and stability.



113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 273

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should nominate a qualified and independent individual for the position of Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors to be confirmed by the Senate without delay.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2013

Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should nominate a qualified and independent individual for the position of Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors to be confirmed by the Senate without delay.

Whereas the Inspector General Act of 1978 mandates that Inspectors General are to conduct independent and objective audits, investigations, and inspections, prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse, promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency, review pending legislation and regulations, and keep the agency heads and Congress fully and currently informed;

Whereas the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) detects, investigates, and prevents instances of fraud, waste, and mismanagement that may constitute either criminal wrongdoing or violation of Department of State or BBG regulations;

Whereas the OIG inspects United States diplomatic and consular posts and international broadcasting installations throughout the world to determine whether policy goals are being achieved and whether the interests of the United States are being represented and advanced effectively;

Whereas the OIG conducts specialized security inspections and audits in support of the Department of State's mission to provide effective protection to United States personnel, facilities, and sensitive information;

Whereas the Department of State employs a total of nearly 70,000 personnel, consisting of approximately 24,500 direct hire Foreign Service and Civil Service personnel, over 9,300 of whom are stationed overseas, and more than 45,000 locally employed staff, creating difficult accountability challenges;

Whereas a presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed Inspector General provides the leadership and accountability within an OIG necessary to oversee a cabinet-level agency and fulfill the duties described in this resolution, while instilling confidence in agency interlocutors and Congress;

Whereas the position of Inspector General for the Department of State and BBG has been vacant since January 16, 2008, a span of nearly 2,000 days, and is being filled by an interim appointment;

Whereas this vacancy is the longest of any OIG across the Federal Government; and

Whereas filling this vacancy will help ensure that the OIG provides the robust oversight necessary to keep Congress fully and currently informed, protect the United States taxpayer, and ensure good governance: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the President should nominate a quali-
3 fied and independent individual for the position of Inspec-
4 tor General for the Department of State and Broadcasting
5 Board of Governors to be confirmed by the Senate without
6 delay.

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 222

Recognizing the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2013

Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. WEBER of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East.

Whereas the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have maintained official diplomatic relations since 1949, and during this partnership spanning over 6 decades, the United States and Jordan have developed a close relationship in security, economic development, and counterterrorism cooperation;

Whereas a United States–Jordanian Joint Military Commission facilitates bilateral consultations between the United

States Department of Defense and Jordanian Armed Forces since 1974, and has led to increased cooperation in regional and global counterterrorism efforts;

Whereas Jordan has provided key security and humanitarian support in both Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas Jordan hosted a United States-developed training program for the Palestinian National Security Forces on human rights, proper use of force, and civil disturbances to further enhance peace and security in the West Bank;

Whereas in 1996, the United States designated Jordan as a major non-NATO ally, recognizing Jordan as a close ally with a strategic working relationship;

Whereas the Jordanian Armed Forces are a proven reliable contributor to the international community, particularly as a member of the United Nations, contributing 57,000 troops to 18 different United Nations peacekeeping missions, most notably in Haiti where Jordan endured multiple casualties during such missions;

Whereas Jordan signed the historic Jordan–Israel Peace Treaty on October 26, 1994, normalizing relations between Jordan and Israel by resolving territorial disputes and establishing a partnership towards peaceful relations;

Whereas King Abdullah II has been a key advocate of peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, often reiterating the urgent need for peaceful reconciliation and offering to serve as a mediator and host for peace negotiations;

Whereas Jordan is a leader for progress and tolerance in the Arab world and recently held parliamentary elections, as part of a political reform movement;

Whereas the economic partnership between the United States and Jordan was further strengthened through the signing

of the United States–Jordan Free Trade Agreement by President Bill Clinton and King Abdullah II on October 24, 2000, and fully implemented on January 1, 2010;

Whereas in 2008, the United States and Jordan signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding in the amount of \$360,000,000 in economic support funds and \$300,000,000 per year in foreign military financing to further bolster the United States–Jordan strategic relationship;

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to the continued development and progress of the Jordanian people, civil society, and political institutions, specifically in the areas of democracy assistance, water and energy preservation, education services, and economic development;

Whereas the al-Assad regime continues to fuel a humanitarian crisis within the region through attacks against innocent civilians, resulting in the loss of approximately 70,000 Syrian lives and the displacement of approximately 5,500,000 civilians and over 1,300,000 women, children, and men who have fled Syria;

Whereas the international community, led by the United Nations, has issued dire warnings regarding the severity of the growing humanitarian crisis, calling for the international community to use all available resources to end the crisis that is destroying families, homes, and cities;

Whereas the Government of Jordan has maintained open borders with Syria, despite a heavy burden of hosting and providing for the security and basic needs of approximately 500,000 refugees, with that number growing by 2,000 to 4,000 persons per day;

Whereas three-quarters of the refugees are women and children, and 1 in 5 refugees is under the age of 4; and

Whereas the Government of Jordan has worked in partnership with the international community, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide for the needs of vulnerable refugee populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health care, and education: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the people and Government of
3 the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their contin-
4 ued friendship with the United States and commit-
5 ment to peace, security, and stability in the Middle
6 East;

7 (2) commends the Government of Jordan for its
8 response to the Syrian humanitarian crisis by
9 hosting and caring for refugees fleeing violence from
10 the conflict with the al-Assad regime; and

11 (3) expresses a firm commitment to support the
12 Government of Jordan as it faces regional challenges
13 and works toward a more peaceful and stable Middle
14 East.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.RES. 222
OFFERED BY MR. MEEKS OF NEW YORK**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have maintained official diplomatic relations since 1949, and during this partnership spanning over 6 decades, the United States and Jordan have developed a close relationship in security, economic development, and counterterrorism cooperation;

Whereas a United States–Jordanian Joint Military Commission facilitates bilateral consultations between the United States Department of Defense and Jordanian Armed Forces since 1974, and has led to increased cooperation in regional and global counterterrorism efforts;

Whereas Jordan has provided key security and humanitarian support in both Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas Jordan hosted a United States-developed training program on human rights, proper use of force, and civil disturbances to further enhance peace and security in the West Bank;

Whereas in 1996, the United States designated Jordan as a major non-NATO ally, recognizing Jordan as a close ally with a strategic working relationship;

Whereas the Jordanian Armed Forces are a proven reliable contributor to the international community, particularly as a member of the United Nations, contributing 57,000

troops to 18 different United Nations peacekeeping missions, most notably in Haiti where Jordan endured multiple casualties during such missions;

Whereas Jordan signed the historic Jordan–Israel Peace Treaty on October 26, 1994, normalizing relations between Jordan and Israel by resolving territorial disputes and establishing a partnership towards peaceful relations;

Whereas King Abdullah II has been a key advocate of peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, often reiterating the urgent need for peaceful reconciliation and offering to serve as a mediator and host for peace negotiations;

Whereas Jordan is a leader for progress and tolerance in the Arab world and recently held parliamentary elections, as part of a political reform movement;

Whereas the economic partnership between the United States and Jordan was further strengthened through the signing of the United States–Jordan Free Trade Agreement by President Bill Clinton and King Abdullah II on October 24, 2000, and fully implemented on January 1, 2010;

Whereas in 2008, the United States and Jordan signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding in the amount of \$360,000,000 in economic support funds and \$300,000,000 per year in foreign military financing to further bolster the United States–Jordan strategic relationship;

Whereas the United States is strongly committed to the continued development and progress of the Jordanian people, civil society, and political institutions, specifically in the areas of democracy assistance, water and energy preservation, education services, and economic development;

Whereas the al-Assad regime continues to fuel a humanitarian crisis within the region through attacks against innocent civilians, resulting in the loss of approximately 70,000 Syrian lives and the displacement of approximately 5,500,000 civilians and over 1,300,000 women, children, and men who have fled Syria;

Whereas the international community, led by the United Nations, has issued dire warnings regarding the severity of the growing humanitarian crisis, calling for the international community to use all available resources to end the crisis that is destroying families, homes, and cities;

Whereas the Government of Jordan has maintained open borders with Syria, despite a heavy burden of hosting and providing for the security and basic needs of approximately 500,000 refugees, with that number growing by 2,000 to 4,000 persons per day;

Whereas three-quarters of the refugees are women and children, and 1 in 5 refugees is under the age of 4; and

Whereas the Government of Jordan has worked in partnership with the international community, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide for the needs of vulnerable refugee populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health care, and education: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

- 1 (1) commends the people and Government of
- 2 the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their contin-

1 ued friendship with the United States and commit-
2 ment to peace, security, and stability in the Middle
3 East;

4 (2) commends the Government of Jordan for its
5 response to the Syrian humanitarian crisis by
6 hosting and caring for refugees fleeing violence from
7 the conflict with the al-Assad regime; and

8 (3) expresses a firm commitment to support the
9 Government of Jordan as it faces regional challenges
10 and works toward a more peaceful and stable Middle
11 East.



Chairman ROYCE. All members may have 5 days to submit statements for the record on any of today's measures.

And after recognizing myself and the ranking member for brief opening remarks, I will be glad to recognize any committee members seeking recognition to speak on any of these measures.

I am a strong supporter of H.R. 1897, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013. Subcommittee Chairman Smith has worked hard on this bill. And over the years, this committee has held many hearings on Vietnam. If these hearings have had one consistent theme, it is the deterioration of human rights there in Vietnam. Government thugs brutalize peaceful dissidents. Anyone who dares to blog or publish material on democracy or anything critical of the Communist Party, faces years in jail and faces physical abuse. We need to send a message to the government, a message with teeth, and this bill does just that. And I strongly urge its passage.

With regard to House Resolution 131, Congresswoman Bass has been dogged in bringing attention to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. And just last week, the State Department announced former Senator Russ Feingold as Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, in part, at her urging. Too many people have died. Too many people continue to suffer. The conflict in the DRC has lasted decades. Patience with this peacekeeping operation is wearing thin. We expect all regional leaders to respect and abide by the negotiated frameworks.

House Resolution 273 expresses the sense of the House that the President should nominate a State Department Inspector General without delay. For months, on a bipartisan basis, the ranking member and I have called on the administration to fill the vacant Inspector General position for the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors. We have written to the President. We have written to Secretary Kerry, stressing the importance of appointing a permanent Inspector General. I raised it at our hearing with the Secretary. It has been 2,000 days since a permanent IG was last in place. It is time for this vacancy to be filled.

IG's are the government's internal watchdogs. They police agencies for waste, for fraud, and for abuse. The resolution is non-partisan for the simple reason that the concept of a Presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed, permanent IG is fundamental to the very notion of good government.

Lastly, House Resolution 222 recognizes the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Kingdom of Jordan. The committee recently hosted the King of Jordan who continues to be a critical voice of moderation in the region. It is a key partner for peace. Today, Jordan has worked to address the needs of 550,000 Syrian refugees which have poured across its borders in the last 2 years. This has resulted, by the way, in a 10-percent population increase for Jordan. This is seriously straining Jordan. And Mr. Meeks' resolution notes the mutual benefits of a strong U.S.-Jordan relationship.

I hope the committee will support all of these measures. And I now recognize my good friend, the ranking member, for his remarks.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for calling today's markup on these four bipartisan measures. This

goes in line with the way you and I have both tried to run this committee in the most bipartisan way possible.

I will just make some brief comments about each one of these. H.R. 1897, introduced by our colleague, Chris Smith, addresses the troubling human rights situation in Vietnam. Despite the country's increased economic freedom, religious and political freedoms for Vietnamese citizens remain severely limited. The bilateral relationship between Washington and Hanoi has improved since diplomatic relations were established over 15 years ago, but the lack of greater progress in protecting basic rights and civil liberties in Vietnam remains a barrier to closer cooperation in the future.

H. Res. 131, introduced by Karen Bass, draws critical attention to the ongoing situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. And I might say to the ranking member on the Africa Subcommittee, I appreciate her earnest involvement in all these very, very important issues. Violence continues to plague this region with thousands of people displaced, dying of disease, suffering from rampant sexual abuse, and living with constant uncertainty about their futures. This resolution calls for a comprehensive approach to the crisis that addresses the root causes of the conflict and it includes the active participation of all stakeholders, including the governments of countries in the Great Lakes region, the U.N. and the U.S.

Both the U.N. and the State Department have appointed Special Envoys for the region and the U.N. recently deployed additional peacekeepers with a mandate to be more aggressive in responding to armed rebel movements. I hope that some of these actions will change the dynamic in Eastern Congo and allow the people of the region to finally live in peace.

Mr. Chairman, I would especially like to thank you for your leadership in introducing H. Res. 273 which calls for the nomination of a permanent Inspector General of the State Department. I have been happy to work with you on this issue over the last several months and to be an original co-sponsor of this resolution. I know we share the view that having a permanent IG in place will help ensure independent and robust oversight at the State Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

I have now been informed that Secretary Kerry and President Obama identified a candidate for the State IG position back in April. The vetting process for that candidate is nearly complete and the Secretary expects the nomination to be finalized and made public in the very near future. I know we all look forward to that announcement and I am proud of the role that this committee has played in helping that get closer and closer.

Finally, H. Res. 222 introduced by my friend from New York, Mr. Meeks, highlights the long-term strategic relationship between the United States and Jordan which has been one of the few pillars of stability and peace in the Middle East. We all had the pleasure of meeting with King Abdullah of Jordan. This committee did, just several weeks ago, and I know that we listened to him intently. He is always such a breath of fresh air, but a breath of realistic air and tells us what we should be doing. And as far as I am concerned he is right on the money. Regional events such as transition in Egypt and war in Syria have put unprecedented stress on the Jor-

danian economy and society. Jordan is currently overflowing with refugees and its already limited resources are strained.

At this moment in time, Jordan needs support from the United States more than ever. This important resolution commends the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their continued friendship with the United States and commitment to peace, security, and stability. It also praises the Government of Jordan for its response to the Syrian humanitarian crisis by hosting and caring for refugees fleeing violence instigated by the Assad regime in Syria.

And finally, the resolution expresses a firm commitment to support the Government of Jordan as it faces regional challenges and works toward a more peaceful and stable Middle East.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you again for holding this markup. I look forward to supporting this package of measures. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Well, thank you. I want to thank Mr. Engel for his remarks and also his contributions to these measures here today. Do any members seek recognition to speak on the en bloc?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.

Chairman ROYCE. Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, and Mr. Chairman, first of all, thank you for your great leadership on this committee and thank you to Mr. Engel for forging this warm working relationship.

I am pleased to support these four bipartisan bills that are being marked up and considered en bloc by the committee today. I commend my good friend, Mr. Smith, for his unending support for human rights across the globe. I fully support his bill, H.R. 1897, the Vietnam Human Rights Act, a bill that promotes freedom and democracy in Vietnam. The United States is the world's leading expert when it comes to living up to these two ideals, yet, too often we find ourselves sending money to governments that deny their citizens even the most basic human rights without leveraging that assistance to push for change to the status quo.

One of the most important provisions of his bill would condition aid to Vietnam unless it meets certain specific requirements to improve its respect for human rights. This is an important way by which the United States can push for real reforms within countries like Vietnam. And I fully support this measure.

We also have before us another important resolution on human rights, the Humanitarian and Military Crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has been ongoing for far too long and has claimed the lives of over 5 million people while millions more have been displaced. The human rights violations that have occurred are unspeakable. I commend Ms. Bass and Mr. Smith for their Resolution 131 which is a step in the right direction of helping the people of the DRC by addressing several of the issues that must be resolved in order to help end this crisis. And I fully support this measure.

And we also have a resolution before us, Mr. Chairman, which you have authored with our friend, Ranking Member Engel, which urges the President to nominate a qualified and independent individual to fill the Inspector General slot at the State Department. I pressed this issue when I was chair, held a hearing focused di-

rectly on the need for the State Department to have an Inspector General that challenges the management of the State Department to function with transparency and accountability. I have been concerned as many of us here have been that this important watchdog position has been vacant for 5 years now and it is imperative that the President fill this slot post haste.

And finally, we have a resolution recognizing the partnership and friendship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Jordan is a great friend and an important ally to the United States. Our bilateral relationship is stronger now than it has ever been, but with the ongoing crisis in Syria and Jordan having to bear such a heavy burden as it takes hundreds of thousands of those who have fled Syria to seek refuge in a safer place, it is vital that we reaffirm our support for Jordan and we must do what we can do to help Jordan as it copes with the struggles that it is facing today. This resolution is an important way to announce to Jordan and to the world that we stand firmly and resolutely with our ally, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I fully support this and all of the measures before us today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, again for your leadership.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you. Congresswoman Bass is recognized.

Ms. BASS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to thank you, one, for all of the work that has happened on the committee so far and I wanted to speak in support of all four resolutions, but specifically H.R. 131. I wanted to thank the ranking member, and also Chairman Smith, for his long-standing leadership on this issue.

All of us know that the crisis in the Congo has gone unresolved for so many years. We have seen numerous declarations and agreements for peace, yet too little has been done to prevent the death of millions and the displacement of those forced to flee their homes and livelihood. I am pleased that this bipartisan bill has many, many co-sponsors who also registered their strong support to end the status quo. Over the last several months, I am pleased to report that we have seen the United Nations appoint a Special Envoy to the DRC, former Irish President Mary Robinson. And last week, Secretary Kerry appointed former Senator Russ Feingold as the U.N. Special Envoy to the DRC. And that is one of the things that the resolution was calling for was the appointment of that Special Envoy.

I had the opportunity to speak to Senator Feingold yesterday, and I am sure that the chair and ranking member have also, and I think it might be a great idea down the line after he has had a chance to settle in, if we would ask him to come and give us a report to the committee.

In February, the Congolese, joined by other Great Lakes nations, as well as the U.N. and African Union, committed to an agreement that with the strong support from the international community, hopefully will finally lead to peace and stability. This committee has the opportunity and responsibility to send a clear message that the ongoing crisis in the DRC has not been forgotten in this chamber or in the U.S. Congress. It is time for the crisis in the DRC to come to an end and I really appreciate my colleagues' support in our efforts to end this tragedy. I yield back my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Congresswoman Bass, and thank you for your efforts on this issue. And I do think you are right. I think we need to hear from Special Envoy Feingold. So we will ask him to meet with the committee and have a joint meeting with him. Thank you.

Mr. Meeks is recognized.

Mr. MEEKS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I, too, want to speak out for all four of the bills that are en bloc. I want to thank, of course, Chairman Smith, for his hard work and continuing to fight every day to try to make sure that human rights are seen all over the world. I think that really stands out very clearly that we are all related. We are all human. And you want to make sure that we all receive the same. And I want to thank you for your hard work on this.

And of course, my colleague, Karen Bass, for all that she is doing. Just whispering here with Mr. Connolly who is saying how very seriously that Ms. Bass has taken the responsibility as the ranking member on the Africa Subcommittee and making a real difference in doing it. So thank you, on your bill.

And of course, Mr. Chairman, what you and Ranking Member Engel are doing, not only in this bill, but the way that you have been conducting this committee in a bipartisan way and everyone having an opportunity to make real contributions and to feel that you really belong in being a part of this in a bipartisan way, you are really setting an example. And the way that you two work with one another is tremendously important. So I want to thank you in that regard.

And I want to just make my references specifically to H. Res. 222 and thank the committee and I appreciate the support of over 35 colleagues as co-signers of this resolution and of course, including you, Mr. Chairman, and Ranking Member Engel, and 16 members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This resolution recognizes the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, working together toward peace and security in the Middle East. This bipartisan resolution comes at a crucial time and a critical time of unrest and conflict in the region. This resolution is particularly timely today as Secretary of State John Kerry arrives in Oman to begin a new round of peace talks.

Jordan plays a critical role as a mediator of peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Jordan's normalized relations and historic 1994 peace treaty with Israel greatly contributes to stability in the region. And Jordan is an advocate for progress in the Middle East peace process and often offers to host peace negotiations as a mediator. The United States has a close relationship with Jordan spanning over 60 years and we work side by side with Jordanians in multiple areas, from security cooperation and counterterrorism to economic development and humanitarian assistance. This resolution is not simply recognition of that friendship, it is a reaffirmation of the importance of the United States and Jordan's partnership as a key element of U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East.

The horrific violence in neighboring Syria is threatening to destabilize an entire region. Jordan has worked closely with the United

Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees to host an increasing number of refugees. According to the UNHCR, Jordan is currently hosting approximately 500,000 refugees and the number increases with each passing day. The number of refugees in Jordan accounts for almost 8 percent of the Jordanian population. This is a heavy burden for Jordan that cannot be underestimated. And I am pleased to recognize the friendship between the American people and the people of Jordan working toward peace and security in the Middle East.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Would my colleague yield?

Mr. MEEKS. I yield.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank my colleague for yielding. I just want to add my voice to his and my other colleagues in supporting the legislation before us today. I am particularly proud of being an original co-sponsor of the Vietnam Human Rights Act where human rights violations continue. And I am pleased to support the legislation in front of us. And I want to thank the chairman and ranking member and echo your sentiments about the bipartisan manner in which they have conducted the business of this committee. And with that, I yield back to my colleague.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield back my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Connolly, and Mr. Meeks. We go to Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I, too, want to thank you and the ranking member, Eliot Engel, for the way you have conducted this committee and working in a very robust, bipartisan manner. And I support all four of the pieces of legislation that are under consideration. I want to thank you especially for bringing the Vietnam Human Rights Act before the committee. Previously we brought this to the floor of the House and it passed overwhelmingly. There were people who said things were improving in Vietnam, but of course, the record, as discussed at a hearing on June 4, clearly shows that there has been significant deterioration. Human Rights Watch testified on June 4th that in the first few months of 2013, more people have been convicted in political trials as in the whole of last year, in all of 2012. They pointed out how the trendlines have been worsening and that the governance by Vietnam is characterized by brutality and systematic suppression of freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. We heard at our hearing from a Vietnamese woman who was forced to work in a brothel in Russia with 14 other Vietnamese women. Last year, we heard at another hearing about a group of Vietnamese workers who were trafficked to Jordan. In each of these cases, and they are only the tip of the iceberg, officials from the Vietnamese Government not only failed to assist the victims, but instead were directly complicit in this egregious exploitation of women.

We also heard from a number of people, Christians and Khmer Krom Buddhist monks who testified before the committee and told how each of their belief groups were being systematically harassed, imprisoned, and even forced to renounce their faith, particularly the Montagnards.

It is imperative that the United States Government send an unequivocal message to the Vietnamese regime that it must end its escalating human rights abuses of its own citizens. This legislation seeks to do that by setting out very clear and very attainable benchmarks and calls for substantial progress in respecting freedom of religion, releasing all religious prisoners, respecting the rights of freedom of expression, assembly, and association, and releasing all political prisoners, independent journalists, and labor activists, repealing and revising laws that criminalize peaceful dissent, independent media, unsanctioned religious activity, so-called unsanctioned, and nonviolent demonstrations in accordance with human rights standards, and of course, respecting the human rights of all ethnic groups and taking all appropriate steps including prosecution of government officials and government complicity in human trafficking.

I would note parenthetically the first case that was brought against Vietnamese officials pursuant to legislation that I authored in 2000 known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was against Daewoosa which had a sweatshop in American Samoa and the Vietnamese Government to this day has not honored the findings of that court which held very high officials to account. As a matter of fact, they were promoted in Vietnam to higher positions. It is serious human rights situation and in a bipartisan way, we are trying to address it.

I also want to thank you for bringing to the committee Ranking Member Karen Bass' resolution, H. Res. 131, as amended by the amendment in the nature of a substitute. We have had several hearings on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I, like other members, have been there. I have been to Goma and seen how horrific the abuse there is and this calls upon not only the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but other border states to do far more than they have done to end the atrocities and the violence there. It also points out that the Atrocities Prevention Board, created in 2011, to coordinate U.S. policy to prevent mass atrocities and serious human rights violations should work with regional and international partners to help bring the tragedy in Eastern Congo to a definitive end. The Atrocities Prevention Board is directed to address, prevent, and ensure accountability for serious violations of humanitarian law and we are calling on them to do far more than we think that they have done so far. So very fine resolution and again, in a bipartisan way, I am glad to join Karen Bass as a co-sponsor of her bill.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Schneider is recognized.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and let me also say thank you to the chairman and the ranking member for the leadership on this committee and the bipartisan way we approach all of the issues we face. I am proud to fully support all four resolutions and I am grateful as well for the leadership of many on this committee in speaking out and acting on human rights on oversight and let me focus, in particular, on Jordan.

H. Res. 222, recognizing Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its long partnership with the United States, its commitment to peace and security in the region, its leadership and promotion of peace with its neighbor, Israel, and in particular at this moment, its con-

tribution toward dealing with both political and humanitarian crisis in Syria is crucial. Jordan has been a U.S. ally for over six decades. Nearly two decades ago, Jordan signed the historic peace treaty with Israel and in a sense under the leadership of King Abdullah II, actively and constructively sought progress toward peace, between Israelis and Palestinians. Jordan has been a reliable partner with U.S. providing intelligence and resources in the global war on terror, as well as security and humanitarian support of the United States' efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Of particular note, Jordan has been a refuge for people seeking security and sanctuary from sectarian violence in Iraq, Libya, and now most urgently, Syria. Already over 500,000 people have sought refuge in Jordan from the atrocities of the Al-Assad regime and some estimate that number may double before the end of the year.

Jordan presently faces significant challenges in dealing with this massive refugee crisis and its associated economic burden. The U.S. can and must do more to assist the people in the Government of Jordan as the conflict in Syria continues to threaten the stability of the entire region.

We must work in partnership with our allies in the region, including Jordan, to ensure the crisis in Syria does not break out into a broader regional disaster. The resolution we are considering today accurately identifies the tremendous assistance Jordan provides throughout the region and recognizes our partnership in promoting both security and peace. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Bera, do you seek recognition? Before we go to you, I think Mr. Rohrabacher just indicated he would like to seek recognition.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to congratulate you on doing the drudge work in making sure that legislation gets put together and brought before us and the compromises and the wordings and all of the things that go into your job, you are doing a good job for us and especially on important issues like we are discussing today and they are important. We are talking about human rights in Vietnam and in Africa and acknowledging Jordan as a very important player in the Middle East and an important friend of the United States.

I would like to call attention specifically to the legislation and add my name to it, if we could, that references human rights in Vietnam. The people of Vietnam deserve special attention. They deserve the special attention that this legislation gives them. We encouraged the Vietnamese people during the height of the Cold War to resist the expansion of communism. They did so. They did so bravely, courageously, and unfortunately, their efforts were futile. We also, of course, lost 50,000 American lives and hundreds of thousands of wounded during that conflict in the 1960s. Let us remember, however, that the Vietnamese paid a much heavier price for that conflict which was indeed one of the epic conflicts of the Cold War. And we, of course, left the Vietnamese to fight on by themselves. And a few years after we left, not long after we left, they were, of course, overrun when this Congress decided to cut all funds off to the Vietnamese Government that we left behind. We cut off all funds for any military support for a conflict that we had convinced them to get into in the first place.

With this history, Mr. Chairman, I think it behooves us to try our best to at least be on the record and to pressure the Government of Vietnam today to respect the human rights of its people to the degree that a government such as that government exists. It is hard to tell whether we can call them a Communist government as it is hard to tell whether or not the government in China is a Communist government, but we do know that the Government of China is the world's worst human rights abuser. And we do know that there are major human rights abuses going on in Vietnam.

With this special relationship that we paid for and they paid for in blood, we do need to go on record strongly when their rights are being violated. One of the groups of people here being mentioned are the Montagnards. And I will have to note that back in 1967 I spent some time in the Central Highlands with the Montagnard villagers and found them to be courageous and I will never forget. They give these little bracelets out that go around your arm that means you are a member of the tribe or their clan, I guess, and I remember when they gave me one and years later I determined that the war in Vietnam was not in our interest to stay and lose so many of our young lives. It was so divisive for our people.

And I remember the day I decided that I was in the shower actually taking a shower and that bracelet broke at exactly that moment. And I looked down and that bracelet was in the drain. I looked down and I said, "I wonder what happened to those Montagnard people who trusted me and gave me that bracelet. Maybe they are going down the drain, too." Well, today, and for the last few years, those of us who have tried to remain true to the principals of human rights that I think our country stands for, know that we need to pay, we have a debt to pay to those people to pay special attention to those human rights that were violated and are being violated today by that vicious government that still controls and holds power, although how they can claim they gave so many lives to create this Marxist dream and there is no way they can claim that their economic system as in China has anything to do with Karl Marx because it is now an ultra-profiteering capitalist system. But it is more like a fascist system we should say.

So thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for again all of the legislation that you have worked through, especially this legislation that gives a very special attention to the Vietnamese people to whom we owe a great debt. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher. We will go now to Dr. Bera, but before I do, I will remind the members we have competing markups and members may submit statements for the record and after we recognize our next few speakers, we are going to go to a voice vote as soon as all members seeking recognition, we have complied with that request. Dr. Bera, go ahead.

Mr. BERA. And I will keep my comments brief. First off, I will speak in favor of all four of the resolutions. I also want to commend the chairman and ranking member for the nature of this committee. Things in this town don't always work very well, but this committee can be an example of what does work well by working together.

I want to speak specifically to H. Res. 273, particularly in the timeliness of yesterday's hearing and the importance of getting the Broadcasting Board of Governors working. Anything we can do to move this process forward, it was disconcerting yesterday to hear how dysfunctional the Board is and that is an important piece of our strategic dialogue. It is an important piece of our diplomacy and again, I speak in support of helping us move this process forward. So with that, I will yield back. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Dr. Bera, thank you. We look forward to working with you on that question of reconstituting the Broadcasting Board of Governors so that it operates in an effective way.

I think Mr. Lowenthal was seeking recognition. Mr. Lowenthal.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I support all four measures before us today, but I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 1897, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013, an act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam. First, I would like to thank Congressman Smith for introducing this important legislation and for you, Mr. Chair, for bringing it to the full committee and I would also like to thank you, Mr. Chair, for conducting this committee in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1897, the Vietnam Human Rights Act could not have come at a more critical time for the United States-Vietnam relations. As we all know, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has benefitted substantially since the time that it normalized relations with the United States. Through its partnership with the United States, the Government of Vietnam has gained access to the WTO, has received permanent normal trade status with our country and has expanded into American markets which is now worth approximately \$25 billion a year.

Now the Government of Vietnam wants to be part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership without any commitment to respecting human rights, religious freedom, and political rights of its people. Despite the fact that Congress has passed numerous resolutions in the past calling on the United States Government to pressure Vietnam into improving its human rights record, we seem to be getting nowhere with progress on the ground. On the contrary, the Government of Vietnam has stepped its crackdown on activists, dissidents, and opposition voices in an unprecedented scale. This is due to the fact that increasingly intellectuals, former officials, and those who have worked for the ruling authorities are speaking out against the authoritarian regime and voicing their opinions for justice and for human rights.

As reported by the Human Rights Watch on June 19th, blogger Truong Duy Nhat, blogger Pham Viet Dao, who is a former government official, and internet activist Nguyen Chi Duc, a former member of the Communist Party, they have been recently arrested by the Ministry of Public Security just for exercising their rights. Moreover, bloggers such as Truong Duy Nhat, Pham Viet Dao have both been critical of the Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Vietnamese Communist Party Secretary General Nguyen Phu Trong, blaming them for mishandling the economy and calling for their resignation. It just goes on and on, Mr. Chair. Human rights abuses and crackdown on political dissents are on the rise in Vietnam.

While these activists represent the latest wave of crackdown on dissidents by the government, we should not also forget that many prisoners of conscience are still serving their long and unjust sentences from years ago and they remain today in jail. It is with this heavy background of human rights abuses that I implore this Congress to pass the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013 to send a strong signal to the Government of Vietnam to stand up for justice and human dignity.

Just recently on June 1st, I, along with Chairman Royce and Congresswomen Loretta Sanchez and others, hosted a community town hall for the United States Ambassador to Vietnam, David Shear, in my district which is the heart of Little Saigon in Orange County which is one of the largest concentration of Vietnamese outside of Vietnam. The overwhelming number of Vietnamese Americans and local, elected officials who attended the event called on Congress to pass the Vietnam Human Rights Act. Today, I am asking for the same.

Freedom, democracy, and human rights must be a part of any future partnership with Vietnam. Let us support the people of Vietnam by voting yes on H.R. 1897, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I yield back my time.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Lowenthal. Do any other members seek recognition before we vote?

Hearing no further requests for recognition, the question occurs on agreeing to the items being considered en bloc.

All those in favor say aye.

All opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the items considered en bloc are agreed to. Without objection, the measures agreed to en bloc: H.R. 1897; House Resolution 131, as amended; House Resolution 273; and House Resolution 222, as amended, are ordered favorably reported to the House and staff are directed to make technical and conforming changes. And I want to thank Ranking Member Engel and all of our colleagues for their contributions and assistance with today's markup. The committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:49 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X



MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD

**FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128**

Edward R. Royce (R-CA), Chairman

June 27, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Thursday, June 27, 2013

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

MARKUP OF: H.R. 1897, Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013;

H. Res. 131, Concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts toward long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights;

H. Res. 273, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should nominate a qualified and independent individual for the position of Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors to be confirmed by the Senate without delay; and

H. Res. 222, Recognizing the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.



COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

Day Thursday Date 06/27/13 Room 2172

Starting Time 10:10 Ending Time 10:49

Recesses 0 (to) (to) (to) (to) (to) (to)

Presiding Member(s)

Chairman Edward R. Royce

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session

Electronically Recorded (taped)

Executive (closed) Session

Stenographic Record

Televised

BILLS FOR MARKUP: (Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)

H.R. 1897 (Smith - NJ), "Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013."
H. Res. 151 (Bass), "Concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts toward long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights."
H. Res. 274 (Royce/Kangel), "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should nominate a qualified and independent individual for the position of Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadening Board of Insurers to be confirmed by the Senate without delay."
H. Res. 222 (Geebs), "Recognizing the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East."

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

See Attached Sheet

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: (List any statements submitted for the record.)

Rep. Stockman

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: (Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)


See Attached Summary

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): (Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)

Subject	Yeas	Nays	Present	Not Voting
N/A				

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or
TIME ADJOURNED 10:49


Doug Anderson, General Counsel

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
“Full Committee Markup”
 June 27, 2013

<i>Present</i>	<i>Member</i>
X	Edward R. Royce, CA
X	Christopher H. Smith, NJ
X	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, FL
X	Dana Rohrabacher, CA
	Steve Chabot, OH
	Joc Wilson, SC
	Michael T. McCaul, TX
	Ted Poe, TX
X	Matt Salmon, AZ
X	Tom Marino, PA
	Jeff Duncan, SC
	Adam Kinzinger, IL
X	Mo Brooks, AL
X	Tom Cotton, AR
	Paul Cook, CA
X	George Holding, NC
X	Randy K. Weber, Sr., TX
X	Scott Perry, PA
	Steve Stockman, TX
X	Ron DeSantis, FL
X	Trey Radef, FL
X	Doug Collins, GA
X	Mark Meadows, NC
	Ted S. Yoho, FL
X	Luke Messer, IN

<i>Present</i>	<i>Member</i>
	Eliot L. Engel, NY
X	Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, AS
	Brad Sherman, CA
	Gregory W. Meeks, NY
X	Albio Sires, NJ
	Gerald E. Connolly, VA
X	Theodore E. Deutch, FL
	Brian Higgins, NY
X	Karen Bass, CA
	William Keating, MA
X	David Cicilline, RI
X	Alan Grayson, FL
X	Juan Vargas, CA
X	Bradley S. Schneider, IL
X	Joseph P. Kennedy III, MA
X	Ami Bera, CA
X	Alan S. Lowenthal, CA
	Grace Meng, NY
	Lois Frankel, FL
X	Tulsi Gabbard, HI
X	Joaquin Castro, TX


6/27/13 Foreign Affairs Committee Markup Summary

The Chair called up the following measures for consideration by the Committee. By unanimous consent, the four measures and two amendments (previously provided to Members of the Committee) were considered *en bloc*:

1. H.R. 1897 (Smith - NJ), "Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013."
2. H. Res. 131 (Bass), "Concerning the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the need for international efforts toward long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights."
 - a. As amended by Bass 11 (amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Rep. Bass).
3. H. Res. 273 (Royce/Engel), "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should nominate a qualified and independent individual for the position of Inspector General of the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors to be confirmed by the Senate without delay."
4. H. Res. 222 (Meeks), "Recognizing the long-term partnership and friendship between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East."
 - a. As amended by Meeks 11 (amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Rep. Meeks).

The measures and respective amendments were adopted by voice vote. By unanimous consent, the measures (as amended) were ordered favorably reported to the House.

The Committee adjourned.



Statement for the Record

Submitted by the Honorable Steve Stockman

Thank you, Chairman Smith, for addressing these four bills: H. R. 1897, H. Res. 131, H. Res. 273, and H. Res. 222. The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations and the legislation we discuss here is one of my highest priorities. The testimonies we heard today give significant insight to confirm that the conditions in Vietnam, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Jordan are a grave and serious matter.

H.R. 1897, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013, addresses the conditions of oppression in Vietnam. The Government of Vietnam is single-party Communist and forbids any challenge to the government, restricts freedom of the press, religion, association, Internet, telecommunications, and the right to organize. My district, Texas 36, serves many of Houston's suburbs and stretches east to the Louisiana border. Houston, and its outer-suburbs have one of the largest populations of Vietnamese-Americans and Vietnamese immigrants in the United States. In consequence, I hear detailed descriptions of these issues and cries of concerns from my constituents daily. U.S.-Vietnam relations reap countless positive results. Annual U.S.-Vietnam trade reached \$25 billion in 2012.

H. Res. 131, the Democratic Republic of Congo for Peace, Stability, and Human Rights, addresses the terrifying conditions of death, poverty, and crime. Locally, civilian women are faced with the immediate danger of rape, children are faced with the immediate danger of child-soldier-slavery, and economically, the DRC is pursued aggressively by foreign nations who covet their natural resources, including elephant ivory going to extreme measures to take what they want. I have spent time in the DCR and have seen the suffering first hand. The basic rights to safety and the preservation of life should be fought for by neighbors and friends.

H. Res. 222, offered by Committee Member Gregory Meeks, recognizes the effort and growth of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and calls on the U.S. Government to continue to help alleviate the economic and social impact of the terrorized Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. We must consider the gravity and potential of H. Res. 222, and its ability to help a country facing severe threats of the basic principles of life. The al-Assad regime has killed and displaced millions of civilians in Syria and continues to terrorize.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for holding this important markup.