

H. Res. 811

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

November 14, 2007.

Whereas on November 6, 2007, a terrorist carried out a suicide bombing in the Baghlan province of Afghanistan that deliberately targeted a delegation of 18 members of the Wolesi Jirga, the directly elected chamber of the National Assembly of Afghanistan;

Whereas this horrific bombing was the deadliest suicide attack since the liberation of Afghanistan from the brutal Taliban regime in 2001, reportedly killing at least 50 Afghan citizens, including several schoolchildren, and wounding dozens of others;

Whereas at least six members of the Wolesi Jirga were killed in the attack, including Sayed Mustafa Kazemi, Chair of the Economic Commission of the Wolesi Jirga and former Minister of Commerce; Engineer Abdul Matin, a member from the province of Helmland; Sibgatullah Zaki, a member from the province of Takhar; Haji Sahib Rahman Hemat, a member from the province of Kunar; Nazik Mir Sarferaz, a member from the Kunduz province; and Mohammad Arif Zarif, a member from Kabul;

Whereas the legislative delegation transcended political, ethnic, and regional divisions and was targeted by this heinous act while carrying out its official duties in service to the Afghan people;

Whereas nearly six years after the liberation of Afghanistan from the Taliban, who provided al-Qaeda with a safe haven for planning the attacks of September 11, 2001, Afghanistan remains under siege, and the democratically elected Government of Afghanistan remains subject to attacks from remnants of the Taliban who have regrouped along with other insurgent groups, including al-Qaeda;

Whereas poppy cultivation and opium production, which directly support, sustain, and finance insurgents, militias, and terrorist organizations operating in Afghanistan, continue to dramatically increase;

Whereas the security of Afghanistan is closely intertwined with the security of its regional neighbors, and therefore cooperation and support from its neighbors in defeating insurgents and establishing security is urgently required;

Whereas the international community, including the Government of the United States, has expressed its ongoing commitment to supporting the efforts of the Government and people of Afghanistan to build a stable, secure, and democratic nation with the achievement of the Afghanistan Compact in 2006;

Whereas Afghanistan remains a critical front in the global struggle against terrorism, and supporting the development of democratic institutions in Afghanistan is critical to defeating this threat; and

Whereas the House Democracy Assistance Commission of the United States House of Representatives has worked in partnership with the Wolesi Jirga to strengthen its institutional capacity, and remains committed to a strong and mutually-beneficial partnership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the November 6, 2007, attack in the Baghlan province of Afghanistan and all other attacks against the democratic freedom and sovereignty of the Afghan people;

(2) expresses its condolences to the people of Afghanistan and the members of the Wolesi Jirga;

(3) supports the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to investigate the attack and bring the perpetrators to justice;

(4) reaffirms the long-term commitment of the United States to the establishment of security, the strengthening of democratic and civil institutions, and the promotion of economic opportunity as the basis for a stable, secure, and democratic Afghanistan; and

(5) calls upon the United States and other responsible nations to strengthen their efforts to further the goals and standards set forth in the Afghanistan Compact for improvements in security, governance, and economic development.

Attest:

Clerk.