

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 442
OFFERED BY MR. MALINOWSKI OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas on May 18, 2009, the 26-year armed conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) came to an end;

Whereas violence and counter-violence during and after the civil war affected all communities;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka expressed its commitment to addressing the needs of all ethnic groups and has recognized the necessity of a political settlement to build a peaceful, equitable, and democratic society;

Whereas, on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019, terrorists detonated bombs in the Sri Lankan cities of Batticaloa, Colombo, and Negombo, killing more than 250 people, including 45 children, and injuring at least 500 others;

Whereas the victims of the Easter Sunday attack came from more than a dozen countries and included people worshipping at Easter services at St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo, Sebastian's Church in Negombo, and Zion Church in Batticaloa, as well as the Cinnamon Grand, the Shangri-La, and the Kingsbury Hotels;

Whereas the Sri Lankan Government has blamed the group National Towheeth Jama'ath (NTJ) for the attacks;

Whereas following the attack, ISIS-affiliated social media accounts published a video depicting NTJ members believed

to be the attackers pledging allegiance to ISIS and said that the attackers targeted nationals of counter-ISIS coalition member nations and Christians in Sri Lanka;

Whereas people from all communities have been affected by the April 21, 2019, terrorist attack and continue to work to heal from the country's almost three-decade long civil war, the impact and aftermath of which has been felt especially by women, children, and families;

Whereas post-war reconciliation between Sri Lanka's diverse communities, particularly between the Sinhalese Buddhists who dominate the government and security forces, and other communities on this very diverse and cosmopolitan island is crucial to building a peaceful, equitable, and democratic society;

Whereas since the end of the war, the Government of Sri Lanka has resettled many internally displaced people, returned some of the private and state land held by the military, appointed civilian governors in the North and East, and rebuilt infrastructure destroyed by the war;

Whereas the United Nation's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report in 2015 (the OISL Report) which outlined the likely occurrence of war crimes and crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law during the war;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka must meet its commitments to political, legal and security sector reforms in order to assure non-recurrence of conflict;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka has not taken tangible steps toward security sector reform, including demilitarization of civilian functions, particularly in the North and East, or followed through on commitments to fully

return or provide full restitution for the continued military presence on private and leased state lands in the North and East, which continues to prevent the resettlement of internally displaced persons who desire a return to peaceful life;

Whereas there continued to be reports that Sri Lankan Government security forces acted with impunity against ethnic and religious minorities, using methods of abduction, torture, sexual violence and detention without trial;

Whereas little effort has been made to bring to justice those alleged to have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity and a sense of impunity remains in parts of the country;

Whereas the Prevention of Terrorism Act remains in force despite repeated assurances by the Sri Lankan Government for its repeal;

Whereas the government has not provided the families of individuals who disappeared during and immediately following the civil war adequate information regarding the whereabouts of their loved ones and has not published lists of those persons who surrendered to the Sri Lankan Government at the end of civil war in May 2009;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria, in her March 20, 2019, address to the Human Rights Council assessed that the Sri Lankan Government has made “minimal progress on accountability”, and insisted that Sri Lanka’s efforts in fulfilling all commitments made in Resolution 30/1 must be accelerated and implemented in a consistent and comprehensive manner; and

Whereas the constitutional crisis in October 2018, the terror attacks of April 21, 2019, the upcoming Presidential elections, and ongoing ethnic tension should not be allowed to prevent the implementation of consequential reform measures: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its deepest condolences to all
3 those affected by the almost 30 year conflict in Sri
4 Lanka, which ended approximately 10 years ago in
5 May 2009 and affirms its solidarity with all Sri
6 Lankans in their search for reconciliation, recon-
7 struction, and reform;

8 (2) condemns the April 21, 2019, Easter Sun-
9 day terrorist bombings in Sri Lanka that resulted in
10 the deaths of 256 people, including 5 Americans.

11 (3) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to fol-
12 low through on its commitments regarding transi-
13 tional justice, accountability and reconciliation with-
14 out delay and in an integrated manner by creating
15 a time-bound action plan in close consultation with
16 the Office of the High Commissioner for Human
17 Rights;

1 (4) acknowledges the importance for parties to
2 reach a political settlement on the meaningful decen-
3 tralization of power and power-sharing; and

4 (5) recognizes that security sector reform, and
5 the establishment of an effective mechanism for ac-
6 countability for the crimes committed during the war
7 in Sri Lanka remain a United States Government
8 priority.

Amend the title so as to read: “Observing ten years since the end of Sri Lanka’s almost 30 year civil, which ended on May 18, 2009, commemorating the lives lost, and expressing support for transitional justice, reconciliation, reconstruction, and reform in Sri Lanka which are necessary to ensure a lasting peace and a prosperous future for all Sri Lankans.”.

