I want to take this opportunity to commend our former colleague, Administrator Mark Green, for his hard work at USAID. I have had many constructive conversations with him since becoming the lead Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I look forward to many more. This bill is actually his idea.

While the primary goal of such assistance is to save the lives of people in desperate need, we also want to ensure the recipients know that it is a gift from the people of the United States of America.

We hear a lot about the need to maximize America’s “soft power.” There is no better way to win hearts and minds than by saving lives, feeding hungry children, and helping impoverished populations.

This is why I introduced the Branding Modernization Act, together with Chairman Engel. While this bill places no mandates on USAID and maintains the Administrator’s flexibility, it does empower him to brand all of our humanitarian assistance.

It also expands the tools and logos available to the Administrator for implementing a comprehensive branding strategy.

Finally, it requires an audit by the agency’s inspector general to ensure that our personnel are complying with branding regulations.

This bill represents smart diplomacy, good governance, and the true compassion of the American people. I believe it deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman Engel again for working with me, as usual, on this bill as well as many others, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank my friend, Ranking Member McCaul, for his leadership on this bill.

One of the things that makes American foreign policy unique is that when we are at our best, our values are at the center of everything we do. I think one of the most important American values is that we are a generous and big-hearted country. We invest in development because development and security go hand-in-hand, but also because doing the right thing to do. It allows more people to live fuller, healthier, more prosperous lives.

We should take credit for that. We should let people know it is the United States extending a hand of friendship and assistance. That is the goal that this bill is pursuing.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to support this bill. I encourage all Members to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. Engel) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2744.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONDEMNING ATTACK ON THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES IN JULY 1994

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 441) a resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994 and expressing the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, 25-year-long delay in the AMIA investigation and encouraging accountability for the attack.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 441

Whereas, in November 2006, an Argentine judge issued arrest warrants for Iranian nationals—Ali Fallahijan, Mohsen Rabbani, Ahmad Reza Asghari, Ahmad Vahidi, and Mohsen Razaei from Iran and Imad Fayez Moughnieh from Lebanon;

Whereas Interpol currently has 4 real alerts in place in relation to polling by the Iranian nuclear intelligence minister, Mohsen Rabbani, former Iranian cultural attache, Ahmad Reza Asghari, former Iranian diplomat, Ahmad Vahidi, former Iranian defense minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, former Iranian Foreign minister, Mohsen Razaee, former chief commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, former President of Iran, Hadi Soleimanpour (former Iranian Ambassador to Argentina), and then-Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner and then-Minister of Foreign Relations Hector Timerman conspired to cover up Iranian involvement in the 1994 terrorist bombing, and reportedly agreed to negotiate immunity for Iranian suspects and help get their names removed from the INTERPOL list;

Whereas prosecutor Alberto Nisman was scheduled to present his new findings to the Argentinean Congress on January 19, 2015; Whereas prosecutor Alberto Nisman was found shot in the head in his apartment in Buenos Aires on January 18, 2015; Whereas the investigation of the AMIA bombing has been marked by judicial misconduct;

Whereas, in March 2019, an Argentine court handed down convictions and sentences, finding that the judge, prosecutors, and head of the Argentine’s secret services—the individuals responsible for investigating the AMIA bombing, Argentina’s deadliest terrorist attack—had interfered with the inquiry, diverting the investigation away from the truth;

Whereas former Federal judge Juan José Galeano was handed a 6-year conviction in the case, which will not be enforced until the sentence is confirmed by a higher tribunal;

Whereas former State Intelligence Secretariat (SIDE) intelligence head Hugo Anzorreguy was handed a prison sentence of 54 months; Whereas Carlos Tellesfeld, a used car dealer who kept the van that the bomb used to attack AMIA and received a bribe to incriminate police officers falsely, was sentenced to 42 months in jail; and Whereas no Iranian suspects for the AMIA bombing have yet faced prosecution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives

(1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and honors the victims of this heinous act; (2) expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims, who have waited a quarter of a century without justice for the loss of their loved ones, and may have to wait even longer for justice to be served; (3) underscores the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, 25-year-long delay in the proper resolution of this case; and (4) expresses strong support for accountability for this attack, including against those Iranian and Hezbollah operatives who were responsible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. Engel) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Wilson) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 441, a resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, 25 years ago this month.

I have been to that community center. It is a vibrant community center.
It was a horrific bombing that happened 25 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank Mr. DEUTCH for authoring this resolution and for his years of leadership advocating for justice for the victims of the AMIA bombing.

In July of 1994, the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires was bombed. Eighty-five innocent people were killed and at least 300 people were injured. After this heartbreaking tragedy and vicious act of anti-Semitism still is an open wound. Justice has not been served.

This hits close to my heart. I have visited AMIA twice to meet with the community there and pay my respects to the victims and the Argentine Jewish community.

For 25 years, the Argentine people have been waiting for the perpetrators of this horrific act of violence and hate to be brought to justice.

The measure before us condemns the AMIA attack and expresses the United States’ condolences to the families of the 85 victims.

This resolution also makes it clear that those responsible for the murder of innocent civilians must be held accountable. Years of investigation have found that the perpetrators of this attack were Hezbollah operatives with strong links to Iranian Government officials.

Despite the international outcry and a stack of Interpol red notices demanding that these individuals be brought to justice, Iran refuses to hold the perpetrators accountable. Par for the course for the Government of Iran.

It is the duty of all of us here in Congress to stand with the Argentine people as they demand that those responsible face consequences for their crimes.

I hope our friends in the Argentine Government and justice system will do everything they can to finally provide closure for the victims’ families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 41. Condemning the attack on the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires in July 1994, authored by Mr. DEUTCH of Florida.

In July 1994, a terrorist tied to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah carried out a murderous bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85 innocent people and injuring hundreds more.

Unfortunately, 25 years later, the cowardly perpetrators of this attack have evaded justice due to a series of coverups and a botched investigation. This reminds us that terrorism is a continuing threat in our hemisphere and that we must always be vigilant.

This important resolution condemns the attack, expresses concern over the continued delay in the resolution of the case, and it encourages accountability for those responsible.

The resolution also recognizes a series of coverups and a botched investigation, including the mysterious death of the lead prosecutor, Alberto Nisman, who formally accused the Government of Iran and Hezbollah for their role and implicated the Fernandez Kirchner government in negotiating immunity for the Iranian suspects.

This resolution demonstrates our commitment to supporting the Government of Argentina, one of our great regional partners, in finding justice for the victims and their families, and combating the continued threat of terrorism in our hemisphere.

I was grateful to work with my colleague, Mr. DEUTCH, the chairman of the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism Subcommittee, on this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the victims of the 1994 terror attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires.

On July 18, 1994, terrorists detonated a car bomb in the AMIA building, a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, an important part, a central part of that community. It killed 85 innocent people and injured hundreds more.

This attack, which took place just 2 years after the bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, shook the Argentine Jewish community, the largest in Latin America.

In the 25 years since the attack, the investigations into the AMIA bombing have been marked by long delays and by judicial misconduct, failing thus far to bring justice for the victims, their families, and their community.

Considerable evidence has linked this heinous attack to the terrorist group Hezbollah and its sponsor, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Now, despite warrants issued by the Argentine Ministry of Justice, the government has refused to issue arrest warrants for the Iranian suspects.

We encourage all responsible nations to not allow the perpetrators of this attack to continue to escape justice.

After the previous President of Argentina worked to keep Iran from being held accountable, Prosecutor Alberto Nisman heroically proceeded investigating this bombing, shedding light on the alarming and growing partnership between leaders in Iran and Argentina. Just 1 day before he was scheduled to present his latest findings, Alberto Nisman was found dead in his home with a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

We are grateful that President Macri’s government has continued to push for Iranian accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Ambassador of Argentina, who is in the gallery with us today.

Twenty-five years later, Iran-backed Hezbollah continues to carry out terror operations. Twenty-five years later, anti-Semitism continues to threaten the lives of Jewish communities throughout Latin America, around the world, and even here in the United States.

With this vote, Congress honors the victims of this horrific attack; recalls the brave work by Alberto Nisman, who lost his life pursuing justice; and calls for full accountability for those responsible. It has been far too long.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the ranking member, Congressman JOE WILSON, ranking member of the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism Subcommittee, and Congressmen ALBIO SIRES and FRANCIS ROONEY, the chair and ranking member of the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade Subcommittee, for joining me in introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with us against this despicable act of terror. As we recall the victims today, we stand against terror and hatred and anti-Semitism, and we stand for justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, if an outrage that, after all these years, there still hasn’t been justice for the AMIA bombing victims and their families.

This resolution today is a message to the Argentine Jewish community, and to marginalized, victimized communities around the world, that the United States will not forget them and will continue to push for justice.

I am glad my colleague mentioned the prosecutor, Alberto Nisman, because what happened to him, to be murdered a day before he was to present his work, is absolutely a disgrace. Some in the government even
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS ON PEACEFUL PROTESTERS AND SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN-LED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN SUDAN

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 432) condemning the attacks on peaceful protestors and supporting an immediate peaceful transition to a civilian government in Sudan, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 432

Whereas in 2016, the Government of the United States launched a plan aimed at reducing conflict and expanding humanitarian access in Sudan, improving counterterrorism cooperation, ending Sudan’s negative interference in South Sudan, and addressing the threat of the Lord’s Resistance Army, that, according to the Department of State, led to significant advances and resulted in the lifting of some United States sanctions on Sudan in October 2017;

Whereas the Department of State announced “Phase II” of the bilateral re-engagement framework with Sudan in November 2018, under which the United States would consider rescinding Sudan’s designation as a state sponsor of terrorism if the country met the relevant statutory criteria and adhered to United Nations Security Council resolutions on North Korea;

Whereas despite the Department of Sudan’s pledge to cease hostilities, the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Sudan reported in January 2019 that forces of the Government of Sudan launched “large-scale military operations” against insurgents in the Jebel Marra region of Darfur in 2018 and that elements of Sudan’s Rapid Support Forces who were implicated in indiscriminate shootings, rape, acts of torture, and other inhumane treatment of civilians;

Whereas the Department of State’s country reports on human rights practices describe reports of serious human rights violations by Sudan’s intelligence service and military, including the Rapid Support Forces, citing credible reports that villages in Jebel Marra were targeted for attack in 2018, resulting in the displacement of thousands of civilians and noting that Sudan’s Rapid Support Forces were implicated in the majority of reported human rights violations against civilians in the country;

Whereas contrary to the requirements of Phase II, humanitarian organizations report that humanitarian access restrictions have persisted, including bureaucratic interference, shortages of humanitarian aid, human rights abuses and media censorship increased after Phase II was launched;

Whereas in December 2018, protests that began in the city of Nyala erupted across the country, with thousands of Sudanese gathering to demand political change;

Whereas the Sudanese authorities responded to the protests by detaining hundreds of people, including protesters, members of the political opposition, civil society, journalists, and more than a dozen American citizens, and by using excessive and lethal force against protestors;

Whereas in late February 2019, President Bashir declared a year-long state of emergency, dissolving the Federal and State governments and appointing senior military officers to key government posts, putting a hold on searches, seizures, and arrests, and barring news deemed to undermine his government;

Whereas ten, if not hundreds, of thousands of protesters gathered in Khartoum on April 6, 2019, calling for the end of the government of President Bashir, and on April 11, 2019, he was ousted from power by the military and replaced by Defense Minister and First Vice President Lt. Gen. Ahmed Awad Ibn Auf, who later ceded power to Military Inspector General and Army Chief Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan;

Whereas Lt. Gen. Burhan stated that his Transitional Military Council, known as the Rapid Support Forces, which is committed to transferring power to a civilian government, but the Council has sought to maintain the military’s dominance in negotiations with opposition representatives on a transitional arrangement;

Whereas protestors maintained their vigil in Khartoum, calling for the military to transfer power to a civilian-led transitional authority that would end Sudan’s civil wars, address the country’s economic crisis, and lay the foundations for democratic elections; whereas the Transitional Military Council has not met the demands of the protesters and the African Union Peace and Security Council to “step aside and hand over power to a civilian-led transitional authority, in accordance with the will of the people and constitutional order”;

Whereas on June 3rd, elements of Sudanese security forces, led by the Rapid Support Forces, violently dispersed the sit-in of the protesters and killed over 100 people, with hundreds more injured and reports of rape and other human rights abuses;

Whereas negotiations between the Transitional Military Council and the opposition coalition, known as the Sudanese Freedom and Change, on the composition and powers of a transitional government are complicated by the role of individuals in the Military Council who have been accused of war crimes by the UN Hybrid Court, which is based on Islamic Sharia law as the basis for laws, and by security forces use of live fire against protesters in the cities of Nyala, Zalingei, and Khartoum, resulting in multiple deaths, during the talks; and

Whereas in the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2005, Congress expressed its sense that individuals found to be involved in the planning or carrying out of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity should not hold leadership positions in the Government of Sudan; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) stands in solidarity with the people of Sudan and strongly supports the right of the Sudanese people to assemble peacefully and express their legitimate demands for fundamental political change, including a democratic, civilian-led government;

(2) condemns the Government of Sudan’s use of violence and arbitrary detention against peaceful protesters and the harassment and intimidation of professionals, journalists, human rights defenders, political opposition, and civil society actors;