Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding calling on
the President to direct the United States Representative to the United
Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to
immediately promote the establishment of an appropriate regional or
international justice mechanism through the United Nations and United
Nations General Assembly to investigate and prosecute possible war
crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of internationally recog-
nized human rights stemming from the conflict in Syria, and for other
purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Tlaib submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding calling on
the President to direct the United States Representative to the United
Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of an appropriate regional or international justice mechanism through the United Nations and United Nations General Assembly to investigate and prosecute possible war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of internationally recognized
human rights stemming from the conflict in Syria, and for other purposes.

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10th, 1948, with the support of 48 countries including Syria, enshrines the fundamental and inviolable rights and freedoms of all human beings;

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is a State Party to the following core international human rights instruments:

2. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
5. The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Whereas significant volumes of publicly accessible information exist indicating that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, led by the dictator Bashar al-Assad, has violated significant portions of the aforementioned agreements, as well as the Geneva Conventions, during the conflict in Syria that began in 2011 and continues to this day;

Whereas the international community has previously established ad hoc tribunals and special courts and other justice mechanisms through the United Nations to bring justice in specific countries where there have been war crimes; and

Whereas various tribunals, including the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone, have successfully investigated and prosecuted war crimes, and there are many positive lessons to be learned from these 3 ad hoc tribunals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the United States should publicly declare that it is a requirement of basic justice that violations of internationally recognized human rights, international law, war crimes, and crimes against humanity should be investigated and prosecuted;
(2) the President should direct the United States Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of an international justice mechanism for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of internationally recognized human rights, and to prosecute the alleged perpetrators of such serious crimes committed during the period of conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic;

(3) in working with other countries to establish this regional or international justice mechanism, the United States should assist all its partners in this effort to develop judicial procedures that enable the fair and open prosecution of those persons accused of perpetrating such serious crimes;

(4) the United States should encourage, support, and collect any and all information that can be supplied to an appropriate regional or international justice mechanism regarding possible war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of internationally recognized human rights for use as evidence to support the indictment and trial of any persons responsible; and
the United States should urge all other interested states to apprehend and deliver into the custody of an appropriate regional or justice mechanism for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and violations of internationally recognized human rights persons indicted for international crimes and urge all interested states to provide any and all data and information pertaining to such crimes to that justice mechanism.