

From [Human Events'](#) [John Gizzi](#) -

*Twenty-four hours after the House passed a resolution condemning "the ongoing violence" in Iran and did so by a vote of 405 to 1, the White House seems to be toughening its rhetoric more along that of resolution sponsor Mike Pence (R-Ind.) and less than President Obama or his top spokesman only days ago.*

*On Saturday (June 20) afternoon, the President issued his toughest statement yet on the repression of demonstrators by the Islamic regime in Tehran. In a press release from the White House, Mr. Obama declared that "[t]he Iranian government must understand that the world is watching" and called on the "Iranian government to stop all violent and unjust actions against its own people. The universal rights to assembly and free speech must be respected, and the United States stands with all who seek to exercise those rights."*

*Admonishing the Iranian government to "respect the dignity of its own people and govern through consent [and] not coercion," the President quoted Dr. Martin Luther King's words: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." He added, "I believe that. The international community believes that," and, "we will continue to bear witness."*

*Powerful words, all right, but still very far removed from those uttered by House GOP Conference Chairman Pence and other Republican sponsors of the Iran resolution (H.R. 560) a day before. At the time, Pence told reporters: "Some critics say America should stay silent [over Iran], but I say from my heart, the American cause is freedom, and in this cause, its people will never be silent."*

*Pence's words were echoed by six other GOP lawmakers who were vigorous backers of the resolution, which also condemned the "suppression of independent elections" as well as interference with communications. Among them was House Republican Whip Eric Cantor (Va.), who declared: "Whenever America hears the call for freedom, we ought to answer. [Americans have] a moral responsibility to speak out on behalf of the Iranian people."*

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*Recalling Ronald Reagan's momentous Berlin Wall speech, Pence derided those such as Obama who said we should remain silent because we didn't want to be meddling in Iran's affairs.*

*Pence said, "Some observers say that America should remain silent in the wake of extraordinary violence and repression that has dominated the airwaves of the world from Iran in the last week. But I say, from my heart: the American cause is freedom. And in this cause the American people will never be silent."*