

H. CON. RES. 279

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas there are credible reports that on July 13, 1994, vessels of the Cuban Government fired high-pressure water hoses, repeatedly rammed, and deliberately sank the “13th of March”, a tugboat carrying 72 unarmed Cuban citizens;

Whereas approximately 40 of the men, women, and children passengers on the “13th of March” drowned as a result of the actions of the Cuban Government, including over 20 children aboard;

Whereas President Clinton deplored the sinking of the “13th of March” as “another example of the brutal nature of the Cuban regime”;

Whereas on August 20, 1994, the President pledged that “The United States will continue to bring before the United Nations and other international organizations evidence of human rights abuses, such as the sinking of the tugboat ‘13th of March.’ Meanwhile, we will pursue this matter with vigor and determination.”;

Whereas all of the male survivors of the “13th of March” have been imprisoned by the Cuban Government;

Whereas the freedom to emigrate is an internationally recognized human right and freedom’s fundamental guarantor of last resort; and

Whereas the Cuban Government, by prohibiting the existence of a free press and by jamming TV and Radio Marti, denies the Cuban people the right of free access to information, including information about this tragedy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) condemns the Cuban Government for delib-
4 erately sinking on July 13, 1994, the “13th of
5 March”, a tugboat carrying 72 unarmed Cuban citi-
6 zens, causing the death of approximately 40 Cuban
7 citizens, including over 20 children;

8 (2) urges the President to direct the United
9 States Representative to the United Nations to urge
10 the United Nations Security Council to adopt a reso-
11 lution that—

1 (A) condemns the sinking of the “13th of
2 March”; and

3 (B) provides for a full internationally su-
4 pervised investigation of the incident;

5 (3) urges the President to direct the United
6 States Representative to the United Nations to urge
7 the United Nations High Commissioner for Human
8 Rights to investigate the sinking of the “13th of
9 March”; and

10 (4) urges the Cuban Government—

11 (A) to release from prison and cease in-
12 timidation measures against all survivors of the
13 sinking of the “13th of March”;

14 (B) to identify all individuals missing from
15 such sinking;

16 (C) to recover the bodies of the dead from
17 such sinking; and

18 (D) to return such bodies to their families
19 so that these men, women, and children may
20 have appropriate burial services.

Passed the House of Representatives October 4,
1994.

Attest:

Clerk.

103D CONGRESS
2D SESSION

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the July 13, 1994, sinking of the
"13th of March", a tugboat carrying 72 unarmed
Cuban citizens, by vessels of the Cuban Govern-
ment.