

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 253

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the urgency of United States ratification of United Nations human-rights treaties.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1993

Mr. LAFALCE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the urgency of United States ratification of United Nations human-rights treaties.

Whereas human rights form the basis of the values and principles on which the United States was founded;

Whereas the United States has derived its identity from the ideal of universal human rights as delineated in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and Bill of Rights;

Whereas the United States has specifically grounded the principles of its foreign policy on the fundamental values of democracy and rights of the person;

Whereas the United States has announced the pursuit of human rights in its bilateral relations with all governments;

Whereas the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, June 14–25, 1993, reaffirmed the universality of human rights;

Whereas the United States Secretary of State at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights publicly committed the United States to move promptly to obtain the consent of the Senate for the pending ratification of the United Nations human-rights treaties;

Whereas the United States is the only Western democracy that has not ratified four of the human-rights treaties and thereby is in the company of such human-rights violators as China, Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Paraguay, Sudan, and Syria;

Whereas Presidents Nixon and Carter transmitted four of the treaties to the Senate in 1973, 1978, and 1980 where they have languished, and one treaty and two protocols have received no executive branch action;

Whereas ratification of these treaties may require implementing legislation that would be addressed by the House of Representatives; and

Whereas it is the expected role of the United States to provide the moral and ethical leadership in the pursuit of protecting and promoting global human rights: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Congress that
- 2 the United States ought to ratify expeditiously and with-
- 3 out delay the following treaties and protocols:

1 (1) International Convention on the Elimination
2 of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

3 (2) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms
4 of Discrimination Against Women.

5 (3) American Convention on Human Rights.

6 (4) International Covenant on Economic, Social
7 and Cultural Rights.

8 (5) Convention on the Rights of the Child.

9 (6) Optional Protocol to the International Cov-
10 enant on Civil and Political Rights.

11 (7) Additional Protocol on Economic, Social
12 and Cultural Rights to the American Convention on
13 Human Rights.

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