

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 471

To urge the Government of Burma (Myanmar) to release Aung San Suu Kyi, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 1994

Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself and Mr. LEACH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

To urge the Government of Burma (Myanmar) to release Aung San Suu Kyi, and for other purposes.

Whereas in 1988, the Burmese regime brutally suppressed nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations, resulting in the deaths of several thousand people and the imprisonment of several thousand others;

Whereas in 1989, the Burmese regime placed under house arrest Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's founding father and the most prominent figure in the pro-democracy movement;

Whereas in May 1990, the Burmese people in free and fair elections awarded over 80 percent of the National Assembly seats to the National League for Democracy;

Whereas the military regime responded to this expression of the will of the Burmese people not only by refusing to relinquish power, but by further cracking down on opposition politicians and those who supported democracy and human rights in Burma;

Whereas the inhumane practices of the regime prompted a quarter million Rohingya refugees to flee into Bangladesh, where most remain today in refugee camps;

Whereas in 1991, Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts on behalf of a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma;

Whereas in 1993, several past winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, having been denied permission to visit Burma, traveled to Thailand to call for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi;

Whereas martial law remains in effect in Burma today, with hundreds of political prisoners in custody, human rights frequently violated, and national minorities driven into exile;

Whereas the Government of Burma has denied international humanitarian agencies free and confidential access to prisoners;

Whereas the national convention convened by the Burmese Government in January 1993 to begin work on a new constitution does not have the mandate of the Burmese people, nor appear to be progressing toward putting political power in the hands of a freely elected civilian government;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and United Nations General Assembly have adopted consensus resolutions deploring the human rights situation

in Burma and expressing grave concerns about the lack of progress toward democracy as well as abuses such as summary and arbitrary executions, torture, forced labor, and oppressive measures against women and ethnic and religious minorities;

Whereas Burma has for many years been the world's largest producer of opium and heroin;

Whereas the United States Government in each of the past 5 years has denied the Government of Burma certification under chapter 8 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 due to a lack of cooperation on narcotics control efforts;

Whereas credible reports continue to link Burmese Government officials and military officers to drug trafficking;

Whereas since 1988 the United States has been in the forefront of international efforts to promote democracy and human rights in Burma;

Whereas in 1992, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 473, which condemned human rights abuses in Burma and called upon the President to seek a mandatory international arms embargo against Burma;

Whereas in fiscal year 1993 the Congress earmarked \$1,000,000 to support assistance for Burmese refugees and students on both sides of the Thai/Burma border;

Whereas United States corporations are under increasing pressure from stockholders to divest their holdings in Burma and otherwise to refuse to do business in Burma so long as the current military regime continues to abuse the political and human rights of its people;

Whereas the Government of Thailand has invited the Burmese regime to participate in some of the meetings of the

1 (1) immediately and unconditionally release
2 Burma's political prisoners, including Aung San Suu
3 Kyi;

4 (2) permit the transfer of political power to an
5 elected civilian government based upon the results of
6 the 1990 election;

7 (3) fully respect the human rights and fun-
8 damental freedoms that are the birthright of all peo-
9 ples;

10 (4) end the practice of forced labor, including
11 portering for the military;

12 (5) allow free and confidential access to all pris-
13 oners, including prisoners of conscience, by inter-
14 national humanitarian agencies;

15 (6) implement fully the Memorandum of Under-
16 standing with United Nations Commission on
17 Human Rights and create the necessary conditions
18 to ensure an end to the flows of refugees to neigh-
19 boring countries and to facilitate the speedy repatri-
20 ation and full reintegration, under conditions of
21 safety and dignity, of those who have already fled
22 Burma;

23 (7) respect fully the obligations set forth in the
24 1949 Geneva Conventions, in particular the obliga-
25 tions in common article III, and make use of such

1 relief services as may be offered by impartial hu-
2 manitarian bodies; and

3 (8) take effective law enforcement actions
4 against those individuals within the Burmese Gov-
5 ernment (including the Burmese military), as well as
6 those outside the government, who are engaged in
7 the production and trafficking of illicit narcotics.

8 **SEC. 2. ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE GOV-**
9 **ERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

10 It is further the sense of the House of Representa-
11 tives that the President, the Secretary of State, and other
12 United States Government officials and representatives
13 should—

14 (1) urge the Government of Burma to release,
15 immediately and unconditionally, Aung San Suu Kyi
16 and other political prisoners;

17 (2) maintain the current United States ban on
18 all forms of nonhumanitarian assistance to Burma;

19 (3) disperse the funds previously appropriated
20 to support assistance for Burmese refugees and stu-
21 dents along the Thai/Burma border;

22 (4) maintain current limitations on the provi-
23 sion of bilateral narcotics control assistance to the
24 Government of Burma until that government dem-
25 onstrates a genuine commitment to combating the

1 scourge of illicit narcotics production and traffick-
2 ing;

3 (5) continue to oppose loans to Burma in ac-
4 cordance with chapter 8 of part I of the Foreign As-
5 sistance Act of 1961;

6 (6) consider imposing further economic sanc-
7 tions against Burma, and encourage other members
8 of the international community to take similar steps;

9 (7) elevate the issues of democracy and human
10 rights in Burma in the conduct of United States re-
11 lations with other members of the international com-
12 munity, particularly in coordination with Japan,
13 China, and the members of the Association of South-
14 east Asian Nations;

15 (8) maintain United States support for the ap-
16 pointment by the United Nations Secretary General
17 of a special envoy to focus on conflict resolution as
18 the basis of national reconciliation and the restora-
19 tion of democracy in Burma;

20 (9) ensure that, during the July 1994 Post-
21 Ministerial Conference of the Association of South-
22 east Asian Nations, the Secretary of State calls on
23 the members of the Association of Southeast Asian
24 Nations to support the international consensus on
25 Burma by urging the Government of Burma to un-

1 conditionally release Aung San Suu Kyi and to indi-
2 cate its willingness to cooperate with a special envoy
3 appointed by the United Nations Secretary General;

4 (10) maintain the unilateral United States
5 arms embargo against Burma, and encourage the
6 other members of the international community, most
7 particularly the members of the Association of
8 Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic
9 of China, to prohibit arms sales and transfers to
10 Burma;

11 (11) encourage other members of the inter-
12 national community to halt all nonhumanitarian as-
13 sistance to Burma or, at a minimum, to condition
14 any new official assistance on significant progress by
15 the Government of Burma toward respecting the
16 human rights and fundamental freedoms of its peo-
17 ple; and

18 (12) continue to encourage the United Nations
19 and its specialized agencies operating in Burma—

20 (A) to use particular care to ensure that
21 their activities meet basic human needs, do not
22 benefit the present military regime in Rangoon,
23 and promote the enjoyment of internationally
24 recognized human rights, and

1 (B) to work through nongovernmental or-
2 ganizations to the greatest possible extent.

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