

105TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. CON. RES. 156

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing concern for the continued deterioration of human rights in Afghanistan and emphasizing the need for a peaceful political settlement in that country.

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Whereas Congress recognizes that the legacy of civil conflict in Afghanistan during the last 17 years has had a devastating effect on the civilian population in that country, killing 2,000,000 people and displacing more than 7,000,000, and has had a particularly negative impact on the rights and security of women and girls;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Practices for 1996 states: "Serious human rights violations continue to occur [. . .] political killings, torture, rape, arbitrary detention, looting, abductions and kidnappings for ransom were committed by armed units, local commanders and rogue individuals.";

Whereas the Afghan combatants are responsible for numerous abhorrent human rights abuses, including the rape, sexual abuse, torture, abduction, and persecution of women and girls;

Whereas drug proliferation has increased in Afghanistan;

Whereas Congress is disturbed by the upsurge of reported human rights abuses in Afghanistan, including extreme restrictions placed on women and girls;

Whereas safe haven has been provided to suspected terrorists and terrorist camps may be allowed to operate in Afghanistan;

Whereas Afghanistan is a sovereign nation and must work to solve its internal disputes; and

Whereas Afghanistan and the United States recognize international human rights conventions, such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which espouse respect for basic human rights of all individuals without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 **SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

4 The Congress hereby—

1 (1) deplores the violations of international hu-
2 manitarian law in Afghanistan and raises concern
3 over the reported cases of stoning, public executions,
4 and street beatings;

5 (2) condemns the targeted discrimination
6 against women and girls and expresses deep concern
7 regarding the prohibition of employment and edu-
8 cation for women and girls;

9 (3) urges the Taliban and all other parties in
10 Afghanistan to cease providing safe haven to sus-
11 pected terrorists or permitting Afghan territory to
12 be used for terrorist training; and

13 (4) takes note of the continued armed conflict
14 in Afghanistan, affirms the need for peace negotia-
15 tions and expresses hope that the Afghan parties
16 will agree to a cease-fire throughout the country.

17 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that the President—

19 (1) should continue to monitor the human
20 rights situation in Afghanistan and should call for
21 adherence by all factions in Afghanistan to inter-
22 national humanitarian law;

23 (2) should call for an end to the systematic dis-
24 crimination and harassment of women and girls in
25 Afghanistan;

1 (3) should encourage efforts to procure a dura-
2 ble peace in Afghanistan and should support the ef-
3 forts of the United Nations Special Envoy Secretary
4 General Lakhdar Brahimi to assist in brokering a
5 peaceful resolution to years of conflict;

6 (4) should call upon all countries with influence
7 to use their influence on the contending factions to
8 end the fighting and come to the negotiating table,
9 abide by internationally recognized norms of behav-
10 ior, cease human rights violations, end provision of
11 safe haven to terrorists and close terrorist training
12 camps, and reverse discriminatory policies against
13 women and girls;

14 (5) should call upon all nations to cease provid-
15 ing financial assistance, arms, and other kinds of
16 support to the militaries or political organizations of
17 any factions in Afghanistan; and

18 (6) should support efforts by Aghan individuals
19 to establish a cessation of hostilities and a transi-

- 1 tional multiparty government leading to freedom, re-
- 2 spect for human rights, and free and fair elections.

Passed the House of Representatives November 9,
1997.

Attest:

Clerk.