

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 156

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. KELLY, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. GEJDENSON,, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. CAPPs, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. SOLOMON, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. FARR of California, Mrs. MORELLA, and Mr. BERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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.

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 militias 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 under Taliban rule;

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

Whereas the Taliban have provided safe haven to suspected terrorists and may be allowing terrorist training camps to operate in territory under its control;

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 by the Taliban coalition in Afghani-
3 stan and raises concern over the reported cases of
4 stoning, public executions, and street beatings;

5 (2) condemns the Taliban’s targeted discrimina-
6 tion against women and girls and expresses deep
7 concern regarding the prohibition of employment
8 and education 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
3 United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan led
4 by Lakhdar Brahimi to assist in brokering a peace-
5 ful resolution to years of conflict;

6 (4) should call upon the Government of Paki-
7 stan to use its influence with the Taliban to cease
8 human rights violations, end provision of safe haven
9 to terrorists and terrorist training camps, and re-
10 verse discriminatory policies against women and
11 girls;

12 (5) should call upon all nations to cease provid-
13 ing financial assistance, arms, and other kinds of
14 support to the militaries or political organizations of
15 any factions that abuse human rights in Afghani-
16 stan; and

17 (6) should support efforts by non-Taliban orga-
18 nizations in Afghanistan and moderate Taliban or-
19 ganizations and individuals to establish a cessation
20 of hostilities and a transitional multiparty govern-
21 ment leading to freedom, respect for human rights,
22 and free and fair elections.

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