

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 405

Commemorating the independence of East Timor and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should establish diplomatic relations with East Timor.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. FRANK, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the independence of East Timor and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should establish diplomatic relations with East Timor.

Whereas on May 20, 2002, East Timor will become the first new country of the millennium;

Whereas the perseverance and strength of the East Timorese people in the face of daunting challenges has inspired the people of the United States and around the world;

Whereas in 1974 Portugal acknowledged the right of its colonies, including East Timor, to self-determination, including independence;

Whereas East Timor has been under United Nations administration since October 1999 during which time international peacekeeping forces, supplemented by forces of the United States Group for East Timor (USGET), have worked to stabilize East Timor and provide for its national security;

Whereas the people of East Timor exercised their long-sought right of self-determination on August 30, 1999, when 98.6 percent of the eligible population voted, and 78.5 percent chose independence in a United Nations-administered popular consultation despite systematic terror and intimidation by the Indonesian military and its militia;

Whereas the East Timorese people again demonstrated their strong commitment to democracy when 91.3 percent of eligible voters peacefully participated in East Timor's first democratic, multiparty election for a Constituent Assembly on August 30, 2001, and when 86.3 percent of those eligible participated in the first presidential election on April 14, 2002;

Whereas East Timor adopted a constitution in March 2002;

Whereas East Timor is emerging from over 400 years of colonial domination and a 24-year period of occupation by the Indonesian military;

Whereas, as the people of East Timor move proudly toward independence, many still struggle to recover from the scars of the military occupation and the 1999 scorched-earth campaign that resulted in displacement which, according to the United Nations and other independent reports, exceeded 500,000 in number and widespread death, rape, and other mistreatment of women, family

separation, and large refugee populations and the destruction of 70 percent of the country's infrastructure;

Whereas efforts are ongoing by East Timorese officials and others to seek justice for the crimes against humanity and war crimes that have been perpetrated in recent years, efforts which include the work of the United Nations Serious Crimes Investigation Unit and the East Timorese Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation to document and assess responsibility for these crimes;

Whereas recommendations by the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission and the United Nations Security Council to investigate and prosecute senior Indonesian military and civilian officials for their roles in promoting the 1999 anti-independence violence in East Timor have not yet been fully implemented;

Whereas, although the people of East Timor are working toward a plan for vigorous economic growth and development, the Government of East Timor faces a substantial shortfall in its recurrent and development budgets over the first 3 years of independence, and is seeking to fill the gap in full with grants from donor countries;

Whereas a large percentage of the population of East Timor lives below the poverty line with inadequate access to health care and education, the unemployment rate in East Timor is estimated at 80 percent, and the life expectancy in East Timor is only 57 years; and

Whereas Nobel Peace Laureate Carlos Ximenes Belo, Roman Catholic Bishop of Dili, East Timor, has appealed to the international community and the United States for in-

creased economic and development assistance for the fledgling nation: Now, therefore, be it

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

3           (1) Congress—

4               (A) congratulates and honors the coura-  
5 geous people of East Timor and their leaders;

6               (B) welcomes East Timor into the commu-  
7 nity of nations as a sovereign state and looks  
8 forward to working with East Timor as an  
9 equal partner;

10              (C) supports United Nations and inter-  
11 national efforts to support reconstruction and  
12 development in East Timor, and United Na-  
13 tions and international peacekeeping forces to  
14 safeguard East Timor's security, including con-  
15 tinuing the periodic visits by United States  
16 military forces;

17              (D) remains committed to working toward  
18 a debt-free start to East Timor and just, sus-  
19 tainable, and secure development programs as  
20 well as adequate resources for the judicial sys-  
21 tem for East Timor for the foreseeable future  
22 beyond independence;

23              (E) expresses continued concern over de-  
24 plorable humanitarian conditions and an envi-

1           ronment of intimidation among the East Timor-  
2           ese refugees living in West Timor;

3           (F) strongly supports prompt, safe, vol-  
4           untary repatriation and reintegration of East  
5           Timorese refugees, in particular those East  
6           Timorese still held in militia-controlled refugee  
7           camps in West Timor, especially reunification  
8           of East Timorese children separated from their  
9           parents through coercion or force;

10          (G) expresses a commitment to maintain-  
11          ing appropriate restrictions and prohibitions in  
12          law on military assistance, training relations,  
13          and technical support to the Indonesian Armed  
14          Forces; and

15          (H) acknowledges that a United Nations  
16          International Commission of Inquiry found in  
17          January 2000 that justice is “fundamental for  
18          the future social and political stability of East  
19          Timor”, and remains deeply concerned about  
20          the lack of justice in the region; and

21          (2) it is the sense of Congress that the Presi-  
22          dent and the Secretary of State should—

23          (A) immediately extend to East Timor the  
24          diplomatic relations afforded to other sovereign

1 nations, including the establishment of an em-  
2 bassy in East Timor;

3 (B) maintain a level of United States as-  
4 sistance for East Timor commensurate with the  
5 challenges this new nation faces after independ-  
6 ence;

7 (C) work to fund in a generous and re-  
8 sponsible way East Timor's financing gap in its  
9 recurrent and development budgets, and coordi-  
10 nate with other donors to ensure the budget  
11 gap is addressed;

12 (D) focus bilateral assistance for East  
13 Timor on the areas of employment creation, job  
14 training, rural reconstruction, microenterprise,  
15 environmental protection, health care, edu-  
16 cation, refugee resettlement, reconciliation and  
17 conflict resolution, and strengthening the role of  
18 women in society;

19 (E) strongly urge the Indonesian Govern-  
20 ment to step up efforts to disarm and disband  
21 all militia, hold them accountable to the rule of  
22 law, ensure stability along the border, and  
23 promptly reunite East Timorese children sepa-  
24 rated from their parents through coercion or  
25 force; and

1           (F) review thoroughly information from  
2           the East Timorese Commission for Reception,  
3           Truth, and Reconciliation and use all diplo-  
4           matic resources at their disposal to ensure that  
5           those officials responsible for crimes against hu-  
6           manity and war crimes against the East Timor-  
7           ese people are held accountable and that the In-  
8           donesian Government fully cooperates with the  
9           East Timorese judicial system.

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