

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 627

Deploring the abuse of persons in United States custody in Iraq, regardless of the circumstances of their detention, urging the Secretary of the Army to bring to swift justice any member of the Armed Forces who has violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice, expressing the deep appreciation of the Nation to the courageous and honorable members of the Armed Forces who have selflessly served, or are currently serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2004

Mr. HUNTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Deploring the abuse of persons in United States custody in Iraq, regardless of the circumstances of their detention, urging the Secretary of the Army to bring to swift justice any member of the Armed Forces who has violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice, expressing the deep appreciation of the Nation to the courageous and honorable members of the Armed Forces who have selflessly served, or are currently serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and for other purposes.

Whereas the American people and the world are dismayed by revelations of abuses inflicted upon detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad;

Whereas the military justice process so far has resulted in charges being brought against six individuals, three of whom have been recommended for trial by court martial;

Whereas the investigation by the United States Central Command has identified problems of leadership, chain of command, and training that contributed to the instances of abuse;

Whereas the Congress was not fully informed of the existence, or the seriousness, of those abuses or of the investigation of those abuses until after they had been disclosed in the national media;

Whereas such abuses are offensive to the principles and values of the American people and the United States military, are incompatible with the professionalism, dedication, standards and training required of individuals who serve in the United States military, and contradict the policies, orders, and laws of the United States and the United States military and undermine the ability of the United States military to achieve its mission in Iraq;

Whereas the vast majority of members of the Armed Forces have upheld the highest possible standards of professionalism and morality in the face of illegal tactics and terrorist attacks and attempts on their lives;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces have planned and conducted, frequently at great peril and cost, military operations in a manner carefully intended to prevent or minimize injury to Iraqi civilians and property;

Whereas over 138,000 members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Iraq, a total force comprised of active, National Guard, and Reserve personnel, are executing a courageous and determined mission to rebuild and rehabilitate a proud nation after liberating it from the tyranny, oppression, and genocide of Saddam Hussein's evil regime;

Whereas the Department of Defense has awarded members of the Armed Forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom at least 3,767 Purple Hearts, as well as thousands of commendations for valor, including at least 4 Distinguished Service Crosses, 127 Silver Stars, and over 16,000 Bronze Stars;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces, United States citizens, over 30 Coalition partners, and patriotic Iraqis are working to finally return the government of Iraq to the Iraqi people after decades of despotism;

Whereas since the deposing of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi people have enjoyed substantial improvements in essential services, including major water, sewage, power, infrastructure, transportation, telecommunications, and food security projects that already benefit millions more citizens than under the Ba'ath Party regime;

Whereas the quality of life for Iraqis has significantly improved in the areas of food availability, health services, and educational opportunities since the downfall of the Hussein government; and

Whereas security provided by the United States Armed Forces, the Coalition partners of the United States, and the Iraqi people has permitted the adoption by Iraq of a Transitional Administrative Law, with the promise of a

sovereign Iraqi Interim Government, national elections, a constitution, and democracy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) deplores and condemns the abuse of persons
3 in United States custody in Iraq, regardless of the
4 circumstances of their detention;

5 (2) declares that the alleged crimes of a handful
6 of individuals should not detract from the commend-
7 able sacrifices of over 300,000 members of the
8 United States Armed Forces who have served, or
9 who are serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

10 (3) reaffirms and reinforces the American prin-
11 ciple that any and all individuals under the custody
12 and care of the United States Armed Forces shall be
13 afforded proper and humane treatment;

14 (4) urges the Secretary of the Army to conduct
15 a full and thorough investigation into any and all al-
16 legations of mistreatment or abuse of detainees in
17 Iraq;

18 (5) urges the Secretary of the Army and appro-
19 priate military authorities to undertake corrective
20 action to address chain of command deficiencies and
21 the systemic deficiencies identified in the incidents
22 in question;

23 (6) urges the Secretary of the Army to bring to
24 swift justice any member of the Armed Forces who

1 has violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice to
2 ensure that their actions are not allowed to impugn
3 the integrity of the United States Armed Forces or
4 undermine the United States mission in Iraq;

5 (7) reaffirms the need for Congress to be fre-
6 quently updated on the status of efforts by the De-
7 partment of Defense to address and resolve issues
8 identified in this resolution;

9 (8) expresses the deep appreciation of the Na-
10 tion to the courageous and honorable members of
11 the Armed Forces who have selflessly served, or who
12 are currently serving, in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

13 (9) expresses the support and thanks of the Na-
14 tion to the families and friends of the soldiers, Ma-
15 rines, airmen, sailors, and Coast Guardsmen who
16 have served, or who are serving, in Operation Iraqi
17 Freedom; and

18 (10) expresses the continuing solidarity and
19 support of the House of Representatives and the
20 American people for the partnership of the United
21 States with the Iraqi people in building a viable
22 Iraqi government and a secure nation.

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