

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 583

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the Iraqi Government's campaign against the Marsh Arabs of Southern Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 7, 1994

Mr. COX submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the Iraqi Government's campaign against the Marsh Arabs of Southern Iraq.

Whereas the government of Saddam Hussein has a long and well documented history of brutal repression of the population of Iraq;

Whereas Saddam Hussein carried out a methodical campaign of genocide against Iraqi Kurds, including extensive efforts to render large areas of Iraqi Kurdistan uninhabitable and the use of poison gas in violation of international law;

Whereas Saddam Hussein is now conducting a massive campaign of repression against the population of Shi'ite Arabs in southern Iraq known as the Marsh Arabs or the Maadan;

Whereas this campaign includes an enormous effort to drain the wetlands at the confluence of the Tigris and the Euphrates which have sustained the distinct Marsh Arab civilization for thousands of years;

Whereas, in addition to draining the wetlands, Iraqi troops have extensively shelled villages in the marshes;

Whereas the campaign against the Marsh Arabs appears to constitute an effort to drive the entire civilian population out of the marshes and to destroy the way of life of a distinct community within Iraq;

Whereas there are recent reports that Iraqi troops have employed chemical weapons against the Marsh Arabs in violation of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq; and

Whereas prior to the Persian Gulf War the world community did not stop Saddam Hussein from employing similar tactics against the Kurds: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the United States Government should
3 immediately—

4 (1) raise the issue of Saddam Hussein's cam-
5 paign of repression against the Marsh Arabs of
6 southern Iraq in the United Nations Security Coun-
7 cil;

8 (2) insist that United Nations weapons inspec-
9 tors be permitted to conduct onsite inspections con-
10 cerning the possible use by Iraqi troops of chemical
11 weapons against the Marsh Arabs of southern Iraq;

1 (3) seek to provide humanitarian assistance to
2 persons fleeing from the marshes of southern Iraq;
3 and

4 (4) study and report to the Congress concern-
5 ing—

6 (A) the establishment for the Marsh Arabs
7 of a safe-haven zone in the marshes of southern
8 Iraq; and

9 (B) the environmental consequences of the
10 destruction of this vast wetlands area.

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