

Public Law 103-294
103d Congress

Joint Resolution

Aug. 11, 1994
[S.J. Res. 195]

To designate August 1, 1994, as "Helsinki Human Rights Day".

Whereas August 1, 1994, is the 19th anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) (hereafter referred to as the "Helsinki Accords");

Whereas the participating States have declared their determination to fully respect and apply the Helsinki Principles Guiding Relations among participating States, including respect for human rights, the territorial integrity of States, and the inviolability of frontiers;

Whereas the participating States have declared that "the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the strengthening of democratic institutions continue to be a vital basis for our comprehensive security";

Whereas the participating States have declared that "respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, democracy, the rule of law, economic liberty, social justice, and environmental responsibility are our common aims";

Whereas the participating States have acknowledged that "there is still much work to be done in building democratic and pluralistic societies, where diversity is fully protected and respected in practice";

Whereas the war in Bosnia and Hercegovina has resulted in organized, systematic, and premeditated war crimes and genocide and has threatened stability and security in Europe;

Whereas ethnic tensions, civil unrest, and egregious human rights abuses in several of the recently admitted CSCE States continue to result in significant violations of CSCE commitments; and

Whereas the CSCE has contributed to positive developments in Europe by promoting and furthering respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals and groups and provides an appropriate framework for the further development of such rights and freedoms and genuine security and cooperation among the participating States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS DAY.

(a) DESIGNATION.—August 1, 1994, the 19th anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and

Cooperation in Europe, is designated as “Helsinki Human Rights Day”.

(b) **PROCLAMATION.**—The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation reasserting America’s commitment to full implementation of the human rights and humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki Accords, urging all signatory States to abide by their obligations under the Helsinki Accords, and encouraging the people of the United States to join the President and Congress in observance of Helsinki Human Rights Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

(c) **HUMAN RIGHTS.**—The President is requested to convey to all signatories of the Helsinki Accords that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms continues to be a vital element of further progress in the ongoing Helsinki process; and to develop new proposals to advance the human rights objectives of the Helsinki process, and in so doing to address the major problems that remain.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL.

The Secretary of State is directed to transmit copies of this joint resolution to the Ambassadors or representatives to the United States of the other 52 Helsinki signatory States.

Approved August 11, 1994.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 195:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 140 (1994):
July 25, considered and passed Senate.
Aug. 1, considered and passed House.