

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 6

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 1997

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 forces affiliated with Burhanuddin Rabbani and Abdul Rashid Dostum are responsible for numerous abhorrent human rights abuses, including the

rape, sexual abuse, torture, abduction, and persecution of women and girls;

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 Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That (a) Congress hereby—

3 (1) deplores the violations of international hu-
4 manitarian law by the Taliban coalition in Afghani-
5 stan and raises concern over the reported cases of
6 stoning, public executions, and street beatings;

7 (2) condemns the Taliban’s targeted discrimina-
8 tion against women and girls and expresses deep
9 concern regarding the prohibition of employment
10 and education for women and girls;

11 (3) urges the Taliban and all other parties in
12 Afghanistan to cease providing safe haven to sus-

1 pected terrorists or permitting Afghan territory to
2 be used for terrorist training; and

3 (4) takes note of the continued armed conflict
4 in Afghanistan, affirms the need for peace negotia-
5 tions and expresses hope that the Afghan parties
6 will agree to a cease-fire throughout the country.

7 (b) It is the sense of Congress that the President
8 should—

9 (1) continue to monitor the human rights situa-
10 tion in Afghanistan and should call for adherence by
11 all factions in Afghanistan to international humani-
12 tarian law;

13 (2) call for an end to the systematic discrimina-
14 tion and harassment of women and girls in Afghani-
15 stan;

16 (3) encourage efforts to procure a durable peace
17 in Afghanistan and should support the United Na-
18 tions Special Mission to Afghanistan led by Norbert
19 Holl to assist in brokering a peaceful resolution to
20 years of conflict;

21 (4) call upon the Government of Pakistan to
22 use its good offices with the Taliban to cease human
23 rights violations, end provision of safe haven to ter-
24 rorists and terrorist training camps, and reverse dis-
25 criminatory policies against women and girls;

1 (5) call upon other nations to cease providing
2 financial assistance, arms, and other kinds of sup-
3 port to the militaries or political organizations of
4 any of the warring factions in Afghanistan; and

5 (6) undertake a review of United States policy
6 toward Afghanistan.

7 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit
8 a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President with
9 the request that he further transmit such copy to the
10 United Nations and relevant parties in Afghanistan.

Passed the Senate May 20, 1997.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.