

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 180

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should not have granted clemency to terrorists;

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Whereas the Armed Forces of National Liberation (the FALN) is a militant terrorist organization that claims responsibility for the bombings of approximately 130 civilian, political, and military sites throughout the United States;

Whereas its reign of terror resulted in 6 deaths and the permanent maiming of dozens of others, including law enforcement officials;

Whereas 16 members of the FALN were tried for numerous felonies against the United States, including seditious conspiracy;

Whereas at their trials, none of the 16 defendants contested any of the evidence presented by the United States;

Whereas at their trials, none expressed remorse for their actions;

Whereas all were subsequently convicted and sentenced to prison for terms up to 90 years;

Whereas not a single act of terrorism has been attributed to the FALN since the imprisonment of the 16 terrorists;

Whereas no petitions for clemency were made by these terrorists, but other persons, in an irregular procedure, sought such clemency for them;

Whereas on August 11, 1999, President William Jefferson Clinton offered clemency to these 16 terrorists, all of whom have served less than 20 years in prison;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and 2 United States Attorneys all reportedly advised the President not to grant leniency to the 16 terrorists;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Prisons reportedly based its decision in part on the existence of audio recordings indicating that some of the 16 have vowed to resume their violent activities upon release from prison;

Whereas the State Department in 1998 reiterated two longstanding tenets of counterterrorism policy that the United States will: “(1) make no concessions to terrorists and strike no deals; and “(2) bring terrorists to justice for their crimes”;

Whereas the President’s offer of clemency to the FALN terrorists violates longstanding tenets of United States counterterrorism policy;

Whereas the President’s decision sends an unmistakable message to terrorists that the United States does not punish terrorists in a severe manner, making terrorism more likely; and

Whereas the release of terrorists is an affront to the rule of law, the victims and their families, and every American who believes that violent acts must be punished to the fullest extent of the law: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that making
 3 concessions to terrorists is deplorable and that President
 4 Clinton should not have offered or granted clemency to
 5 the FALN terrorists.

Passed the House of Representatives September 9, 1999.

Attest:

Clerk.