

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 206

Expressing grave concern regarding armed conflict in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation which has resulted in civilian casualties and internally displaced persons, and urging all sides to pursue dialog for peaceful resolution of the conflict.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. FORBES) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing grave concern regarding armed conflict in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation which has resulted in civilian casualties and internally displaced persons, and urging all sides to pursue dialog for peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Whereas during the Russo-Chechen War of 1994–1996, Russian Federation military forces used massive force against civilians in Chechnya, causing immense human casualties, gross human rights violations, large-scale displacement of individuals, and destruction of property;

Whereas Chechnya has been the site of internal lawlessness and numerous kidnappings, including that of United

States citizen Fred Cuny, whose exact fate is still unknown;

Whereas in recent months, extremist forces based in Chechnya have mounted armed incursions into the adjacent Russian Federation Republic of Dagestan;

Whereas the United States recognizes the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation;

Whereas Russian Federation armed forces have conducted armed attacks against Chechnya and positioned forces with the stated intention of sealing Chechnya's borders and creating a security zone in the region;

Whereas such attacks, including indiscriminate bombing and strafing of civilians in Chechnya, have given rise to over 100,000 internally displaced persons, most of whom have escaped into neighboring regions of Russia;

Whereas such indiscriminate attacks are a violation of paragraph 19 of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, approved at the 1994 Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, held in Budapest, Hungary, which states that in the event of armed conflict, participating States "will seek to create conditions favorable to the political solution of the conflict. They will cooperate in support of humanitarian assistance to alleviate suffering among the civilian population, including facilitating the movement of personnel and resources to such tasks", and paragraph 36, which states, "If recourse to force cannot be avoided in performing internal security missions, each participating State will ensure that its use must be commensurate with the needs for enforcement. The armed forces will take due care to avoid injury to civilians or their property.";

Whereas the conflict in the North Caucasus may threaten democratic development, the rule of law, and respect for human rights throughout Russia;

Whereas almost 300 persons have died as a result of unsolved terrorist bombings in Russia that coincided with the armed incursions into Dagestan;

Whereas authorities in Moscow and other cities of the Russian Federation have used terrorist bombings as a pretext to intensify a campaign against individuals from the North Caucasus region, including the detention and forcible expulsion of such individuals from these cities; and

Whereas in response to Russian attacks the elected Government of Chechnya has declared its solidarity with renegade Chechen forces in opposing Russian attacks: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2       *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3               (1) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-  
 4       eration to cease the indiscriminate use of force  
 5       against the civilian population in Chechnya, in ac-  
 6       cordance with commitments of the Organization for  
 7       Security and Cooperation in Europe;

8               (2) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-  
 9       eration to enter into negotiations on the North  
 10      Caucasus conflict with legitimate political represent-  
 11      atives of the region, including President Maskhadov  
 12      and his Government, and to avail itself of the con-  
 13      flict prevention and crisis management capabilities

1 of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in  
2 Europe, which helped broker an end to the 1994–  
3 1996 War;

4 (3) urges the Government of Chechnya to use  
5 every appropriate means to deny extremist forces lo-  
6 cated in its territory a base of operations for the  
7 mounting of armed incursions that threaten peace  
8 and stability in the North Caucasus region;

9 (4) cautions that forcible resettlement of inter-  
10 nally displaced persons would evoke outrage from  
11 the international community;

12 (5) urges that the Government of the Russian  
13 Federation seek and accept international humani-  
14 tarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the in-  
15 ternally displaced persons from Chechnya, so as to  
16 reduce the risk of civilian casualties; and

17 (6) calls on the Government of the United  
18 States to express to all parties the necessity of re-  
19 solving the conflict peacefully, with full respect to  
20 the human rights of all the citizens of the Russian  
21 Federation, and to support the provision of appro-  
22 priate international humanitarian assistance.

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