

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 265

Condemning the continued detention of Kosovar Albanians removed to Serbia at the end of the 1999 Kosova conflict and calling for their release.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2000

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. OLVER, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. HOYER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. FROST) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the continued detention of Kosovar Albanians removed to Serbia at the end of the 1999 Kosova conflict and calling for their release.

Whereas at the conclusion of the NATO campaign to halt the Serbian and Yugoslav ethnic cleansing in Kosova, a large, but undetermined number of Kosovar Albanians held in Serbian and Yugoslav prisons in Kosova were taken from Kosova before and during the withdrawal of Serbian and Yugoslav police and military forces from Kosova;

Whereas the Serbian Justice Ministry has admitted that roughly 2,000 prisoners were brought to Serbia from

Kosova in June 1999, while Serbian and Yugoslav police and military forces were withdrawing from Kosova;

Whereas the number of Kosovar Albanians still held in Serbian or Yugoslav prisons is unclear as a full list of names of those in detention has not been released, but estimates have ranged from just over 1,000 to several thousand still in detention;

Whereas on July 10, 1999, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, comprised of parliamentarians from across Europe, the United States, and Canada, adopted a resolution calling upon Serbia and Yugoslavia, in accordance with international humanitarian law, to grant full, immediate and ongoing International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to all prisoners held in relation to the Kosova crisis, to ensure the humane treatment of such prisoners, and to arrange for the release of all such prisoners;

Whereas on July 21, 1999, the House of Representatives passed an amendment by a unanimous vote of 424–0 which called upon the Governments of Serbia and Yugoslavia to immediately account for all Kosovar Albanians in their custody and return them to Kosova;

Whereas Dr. Flora Brovina, a Kosovar pediatrician and activist held by Serbia whose clinic provided medical services to women and children, was sentenced to 12 years in prison based, according to Amnesty International, “on self-incriminating statements which she signed under duress” and charges which Amnesty International characterized as “without foundation”;

Whereas on December 10, 1999, the Department of State “condemn[ed] the proceedings against Dr. Brovina” and “insist[ed] that the Belgrade authorities account for, release, and return the thousands of Kosovar Albanians that they are continuing to hold to Kosova and to their families”; and

Whereas to date, only a few hundred Kosovar Albanians have been released from Serb and Yugoslav prisons: Now, therefore, be it

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

3            (1) the Serbian and Yugoslav Governments  
4            should immediately account for all Kosovar Alba-  
5            nians held in their prisons and treat them in accord-  
6            ance with all applicable international standards;

7            (2) the International Committee of the Red  
8            Cross (ICRC) should be given full, immediate, and  
9            ongoing access to all Kosovar Albanians held in Ser-  
10          bian and Yugoslav prisons;

11          (3) all Kosovar Albanians now held in Serbian  
12          or Yugoslav prisons should be released and any evi-  
13          dence against them turned over to the United Na-  
14          tions Interim Administration Mission in Kosova  
15          (UNMIK) for legal processing because neither the  
16          Serbian nor Yugoslav judicial systems have jurisdic-  
17          tion over Kosova; and

1           (4) the United Nations Security Council should  
2           condemn the continued detention of Kosovar Alba-  
3           nians in Serbian and Yugoslav prisons and call for  
4           their return to Kosova.

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