

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 410

Condemning the assassination of Father John Kaiser and others who worked to promote human rights and justice in the Republic of Kenya.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2000

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. MINGE, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. LUTHER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. GUTKNECHT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the assassination of Father John Kaiser and others who worked to promote human rights and justice in the Republic of Kenya.

Whereas Father John Kaiser, a Catholic of the Order of the Mill Hill Missionaries and a native of Minnesota who served as a missionary in the Kisii and Ngong Dioceses in the Republic of Kenya for 36 years advocating the rights of all Kenyans, was shot dead on August 23, 2000;

Whereas Father Kaiser was a frequently outspoken advocate on issues of human rights and against the injustice of government corruption in Kenya;

Whereas fellow priests have stated that Father Kaiser had told them the night before he was killed that he feared for his life;

Whereas the brutal murders of Father Stallone, Father Graiff, and Father Luigi Andeni, all of the Marsabit Diocese, and the circumstances of the murder of Brother Larry Timons of the Nakuru Diocese, and that of Father Martin Boyle of the Eldoret Diocese have not yet been satisfactorily investigated nor have the perpetrators of the murders been brought to justice, raising growing concern over the rule of law and the justice system in Kenya;

Whereas Father Kaiser's death is one more example of the hostile actions being directed against Kenyan civil society and in particular human rights groups and advocates;

Whereas the report of a Kenyan governmental commission, known as the Akiwumi Commission, on the investigation into the politically motivated ethnic violence between 1992–1997 in Kenya's Great Rift Valley, has not yet been released, in spite of several requests by numerous church leaders and human rights organizations to have the Commission's findings released to the public;

Whereas documents were found on Father Kaiser's body that he had intended to hand over to the Akiwumi Commission;

Whereas the Kenyan Human Rights Commission has expressed the fear that the progress in the struggle for democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the basic needs of all Kenyans achieved during the last few years is jeopardized by the current Kenyan Government;

Whereas the Kenyan Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over the continued blatant violations of the rule of law and the constitution, acts of torture, and murder and rape by the Kenyan security forces;

Whereas private armies that work with the police are known to exist in Kenya and the Government of Kenya encourages informal repression as a means of intimidating and denying citizens their rights; and

Whereas the human rights movement in Kenya is in need of international support and solidarity for the important work they are doing: Now, therefore, be it

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

3            (1) condemns the violent deaths of Father John  
4        Kaiser and others who worked to promote human  
5        rights and justice in the Republic of Kenya and ex-  
6        presses its outrage with respect to such deaths;

7            (2) calls for an independent investigation of  
8        such deaths, in addition to the initiatives of the Gov-  
9        ernment of Kenya;

10          (3) calls on the Secretary of State, acting  
11        through the Assistant Secretary for Democracy,  
12        Human Rights, And Labor, to prepare and submit  
13        to the Congress, not later than December 15, 2000,  
14        a report on the progress of the independent inves-  
15        tigation and initiatives of the Government of Kenya  
16        described in paragraph (2);

1           (4) calls for the findings of such independent  
2 investigation to be made public; and

3           (5) calls on the President to support such inde-  
4 pendent investigation through all diplomatic means.

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