

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 433

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the parliamentary elections held in Belarus on October 15, 2000.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 2000

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

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the parliamentary elections held in Belarus on October 15, 2000.

Whereas on October 15, 2000, Aleksandr Lukashenko and his authoritarian regime conducted an illegitimate and undemocratic parliamentary election in an effort to further strengthen the power and control his regime exercises over the people of the Republic of Belarus;

Whereas, during the period preceding the election, the regime of Aleksandr Lukashenko attempted to intimidate the democratic opposition by beating, harassing, arresting, and sentencing the opposition's members for supporting a boycott of the October 15 election;

Whereas the democratic opposition in Belarus was denied fair and equal access to state-controlled television and radio and was instead slandered by the state-controlled media;

Whereas on September 13, 2000, Belarusian police seized 100,000 copies of a special edition of the Belarusian Free Trade Union newspaper, Rabochy, dedicated to the democratic opposition's efforts to promote a boycott of the October 15 election;

Whereas Aleksandr Lukashenko and his regime denied seats on the Central Election Commission to the democratic opposition in Belarus, thereby violating his pledge to provide the democratic opposition a role in the commission;

Whereas Aleksandr Lukashenko and his regime denied independent candidates opposed to his regime the right to register as candidates in the election;

Whereas Aleksandr Lukashenko and his regime dismissed recommendations presented by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for making the election law in Belarus consistent with OSCE standards;

Whereas, in Grodno, police loyal to Aleksandr Lukashenko summoned voters to participate in this illegitimate election for parliament;

Whereas the last genuinely free and fair parliamentary election in Belarus took place in 1995 and from it emerged the 13th Supreme Soviet whose democratically and constitutionally derived authorities and powers have been undercut by the authoritarian regime of Aleksandr Lukashenko; and

Whereas on October 11, 2000, the Lukashenko regime froze the bank accounts and seized the equipment of the inde-

pendent publishing company, Magic, where most of the independent newspapers in Minsk are published: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON BELARUS PAR-**  
4 **LIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.**

5       The Congress—

6           (1) declares that—

7                   (A) the period preceding the elections held  
8                   in Belarus on October 15, 2000, was plagued  
9                   by human rights abuses and a climate of fear  
10                   for which the regime of Aleksandr Lukashenko  
11                   is responsible;

12                   (B) such elections were conducted in the  
13                   absence of a democratic electoral law;

14                   (C) the Lukashenko regime purposely de-  
15                   nied the democratic opposition access to state-  
16                   controlled media; and

17                   (D) such elections were for seats in a par-  
18                   liament that has been deprived of its real con-  
19                   stitutional power and democratic legitimacy by  
20                   the Lukashenko regime;

21           (2) declares its support for the Belarus demo-  
22           cratic opposition, commends the efforts of the oppo-  
23           sition to boycott the illegitimate parliamentary elec-

1 tions, and expresses the hopes of Congress that the  
2 citizens of Belarus will soon benefit from true free-  
3 dom and democracy;

4 (3) reaffirms its recognition of the 13th Su-  
5 preme Soviet as the only democratically and con-  
6 stitutionally legitimate legislative body of Belarus;  
7 and

8 (4) notes that, as the legitimate parliament of  
9 Belarus, the 13th Supreme Soviet should continue to  
10 represent Belarus in the Parliamentary Assembly of  
11 the Organization for Security and Cooperation in  
12 Europe.

13 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE DISAPPEARANCES OF**  
14 **INDIVIDUALS AND POLITICAL DETENTIONS**  
15 **IN BELARUS.**

16 It is the sense of the Congress that the President  
17 should call upon Aleksandr Lukashenko and his regime  
18 to—

19 (1) provide a full accounting of the disappear-  
20 ances of individuals in Belarus, including the dis-  
21 appearance of Viktor Gonchar, Anatoly Krasovsky,  
22 Yuri Zakharenka, and Dmitry Zavadsky; and

23 (2) release Vladimir Kudinov, Andrei Klimov,  
24 and all others imprisoned in Belarus for their polit-  
25 ical views.

1 **SEC. 3. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.**

2       The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall  
3 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President.

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