

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 461

Calling for the immediate and unconditional release from prison of certain Kurdish members of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey and for the prompt recognition by the Government of the Republic of Turkey of full cultural and language rights for the Kurdish people within its borders.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2000

Mr. FILNER (for himself, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

---

## RESOLUTION

Calling for the immediate and unconditional release from prison of certain Kurdish members of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey and for the prompt recognition by the Government of the Republic of Turkey of full cultural and language rights for the Kurdish people within its borders.

Whereas the friendship between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Turkey is based on a mutual respect and a shared commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas Turkey is now a candidate for membership in the European Union, a community of nations likewise based on shared values of democracy and human rights;

Whereas full inclusion of the 20,000,000 Kurds living within Turkish borders in an open and multiethnic society will promote both the strengthening of democracy and the stability of the region as a whole;

Whereas four former parliamentarians from the now banned Kurdish-based Democracy Party (DEP), Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, and Selim Sadak, remain imprisoned at Ankara's Ulucanlar Prison and among the actions cited in Zana's indictment was her 1993 appearance before the Helsinki Commission in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas 153 Members of the United States Congress in 1997 signed a letter to President Clinton calling for Leyla Zana's immediate and unconditional release "so that we may again welcome her to our shores"; and

Whereas, at the recent Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust held on January 26–28, 2000, the Turkish delegation expressed its commitment to "the promotion of the concepts of tolerance and respect for cultural diversity", and the Congress warmly endorses this approach to the building of democracy and ethnic pluralism in Turkey as within our own great Nation: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives declares
- 2 that—
- 3            (1) the immediate and unconditional release
- 4            from prison in the Republic of Turkey of the parlia-

1       mentarians Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan,  
2       and Selim Sadak is a vital step in upholding due  
3       process in Turkey and facilitating Turkey's integra-  
4       tion into the European Union; and

5               (2) the prompt recognition by the Government  
6       of the Republic of Turkey of full cultural and lan-  
7       guage rights for the Kurdish people within its bor-  
8       ders, including the right of education and broad-  
9       casting in Kurdish, is a vital step in promoting toler-  
10      ance and cultural diversity in a manner consistent  
11      with Turkey's commitment as a participating state  
12      of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in  
13      Europe.

○