

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 145

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the recent order by the Taliban regime of Afghanistan to require Hindus in Afghanistan to wear symbols identifying them as Hindu.

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 145

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantee the freedom of religion;

Whereas on May 22, 2001, the Taliban regime of Afghanistan directed Hindus and other non-Muslims to wear a yellow identity symbol and for Hindu women to fully cover themselves in a veil;

Whereas this proposal is reminiscent of the yellow Star of David that Jews were forced to wear in Nazi Germany and Nazi-occupied areas;

Whereas Department of State spokesperson Richard Boucher condemned the Taliban action, stating that “forcing social groups to wear distinctive clothing or identifying marks stigmatizes and isolates those groups and can never, never be justified”;

Whereas the Taliban regime recently offended the world by ordering the destruction of all pre-Islamic statues in Afghanistan, among them a pair of 1,600-year-old, 100-foot-tall statues of Buddha that were carved out of a mountainside;

Whereas the reprehensible policies of the Taliban are exacerbating the suffering of the people of Afghanistan who are already besieged by a devastating drought and the continued fighting in the region; and

Whereas the American people feel a great deal of sympathy for the people of Afghanistan and continue to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) strongly condemns the Taliban’s use of Nazi
4 tactics to force Hindus in Afghanistan to wear sym-
5 bols identifying them as Hindu;

6 (2) joins with people of all faiths around the
7 world in standing against the religious persecution
8 by the Taliban regime;

1 (3) demands the Taliban regime immediately
2 revoke its order stigmatizing Hindus and other non-
3 Muslims in Afghanistan and conform its laws to all
4 basic international civil and human rights standards;
5 and

6 (4) calls on the Government of Pakistan to use
7 its influence with the Taliban regime to demand that
8 the Taliban revoke the reprehensible policy of fore-
9 ing Afghan Hindus and other non-Muslims to wear
10 a yellow identity symbol.

Passed the House of Representatives June 13, 2001.

Attest:

Clerk.