

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 168

Expressing the sense of Congress in support of victims of torture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTNEN (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LEACH, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CROWLEY, and Ms. LEE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress in support of victims of torture.

Whereas the people of the United States abhor the use of torture by any government or person;

Whereas the existence of torture creates a climate of fear and international insecurity that affects all people;

Whereas torture results in mental and physical damage to an individual that destroys the individual's personality and terrorizes society and the effects of torture can last a lifetime for the individual and can also affect future generations;

Whereas repressive governments often use torture as a weapon against democracy by eliminating the leadership of their opposition and frightening the general public;

Whereas more than 500,000 survivors of torture live in the United States;

Whereas torture has devastating effects on the victim which often require extensive medical and psychological treatment;

Whereas both the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–320) and the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999 (Public Law 106–87) authorize funding for rehabilitation services for victims of torture so that these individuals may become productive and contributing members of their communities;

Whereas the United States played a leading role in the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and has ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and

Whereas June 26th of each year is the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That, on the occasion of the United Nations
 3 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Con-
 4 gress pays tribute to all victims of torture in the United
 5 States and around the world who are struggling to over-

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1 come the physical scars and psychological effects of tor-
2 ture.

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