

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 575

Commending the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their continued commitment to holding elections and broadening political participation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2007

Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HINCHHEY, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. RENZI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. WATT, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. TANNER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. WU, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WATSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. UPTON, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. SPRATT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Commending the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their continued com-

mitment to holding elections and broadening political participation, and for other purposes.

Whereas on June 17, 2003, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan held parliamentary elections, the fourth since 1989, and the first during the reign of His Majesty King Abdullah II;

Whereas His Majesty King Abdullah II underscored his commitment to hold the next parliamentary elections in Jordan not later than November 2007;

Whereas municipal elections for the local councils are scheduled to be held on July 31, 2007, under a new reformed municipal elections law passed on February 4, 2007, under which the mayors and councils of all municipalities in Jordan will be elected;

Whereas the new reformed municipal elections law includes a 20 percent quota for women in the council seats and reduces the age of eligible voters from 19 to 18 years of age in order to expand the voter base;

Whereas, with the direct assistance of the United States Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Jordan has placed great emphasis in recent years on the rights of women to vote and run for public office, thereby serving as a model for other countries in the region;

Whereas the people and the Government of Jordan are committed to continuing this progress;

Whereas His Majesty King Abdullah II recently emphasized the importance of building a thriving civil society when he declared, “We in Jordan—and many others, throughout the Middle East—are working hard to create a civic environment in which our people will thrive. The basic re-

quirement is an inclusive, democratic civil society—one that guarantees rights, delegates responsibilities, honors merit and rewards achievement. The foundation stones on which we build are peace and stability, basic civil and political rights, essential services, freedom of expression and the rule of law.”; and

Whereas Jordan continues to invest in reforming its educational system to incorporate democratic values and principles: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the people, the Government of
3 the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and His Majesty
4 King Abdullah II for their commitment to con-
5 ducting parliamentary and municipal elections in
6 2007;

7 (2) expresses its desire that Jordan’s progress
8 toward democratization continue and flourish as a
9 model for other Arab countries;

10 (3) commends His Majesty King Abdullah II
11 and the Jordanian people for striving to uphold
12 women’s rights and enhance women’s participation
13 in the political process;

14 (4) reaffirms the special relationship that exists
15 between the people of the United States and the peo-
16 ple of Jordan; and

- 1 (5) remains committed to assist Jordan, should
- 2 it so desire, in promoting democratic reform.

