

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 678

Extending best wishes to the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as they celebrate the 62nd anniversary of Pakistan's independence from the British Empire.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. McDERMOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Extending best wishes to the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as they celebrate the 62nd anniversary of Pakistan's independence from the British Empire.

Whereas August 14th, Pakistan's Independence Day, is a national holiday in Pakistan;

Whereas, on August 14, 1947, Pakistan officially became a sovereign nation;

Whereas, August 14, 2009, will mark the 62nd anniversary of the day Pakistan gained its independence from the British Empire;

Whereas Pakistan has endeavored to overcome an unstable political past in its efforts to become a democratic repub-

lic, and continues to make progress toward social, economic, and gender equality;

Whereas Pakistan is recognized for its commitment to democracy, as demonstrated by the free and fair parliamentary elections which resulted in the selection of Yousuf Raza Gilani as Prime Minister in February 2008 and of Asif Ali Zardari as President in September 2008, returning Pakistan to a democratic civilian rule after almost 9 years under a military dictatorship;

Whereas the United States reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Pakistan, and commits to strengthening those bonds;

Whereas Pakistan has made recent progress in its campaign to counter a domestic insurgency, and has made tremendous contributions and great sacrifices in combating terrorism, including the loss of lives of hundreds of Pakistani soldiers and thousands of civilians in terrorist-related incidents;

Whereas Pakistan suffered a significant loss of lives in the October 2005 earthquake and the United States showed friendship and commitment by providing humanitarian assistance, military support for relief operations, and private contributions;

Whereas the internal displacement of over 2,000,000 civilians following Pakistani military operations against terrorists in the Swat region poses a grave humanitarian crisis, and the United States remains committed to serving the displaced and to helping Pakistan in its struggle to combat terrorism and extremism;

Whereas the United States and Pakistan have a shared commitment to a broad and lasting strategic partnership, and will continue to cooperate on a number of issues including the combat of terrorism and violent extremism, security in the region, continued strengthening of democratic institutions, and improved opportunities for trade, education, humanitarian relief, and reconstruction;

Whereas the United States is the largest trading partner of Pakistan, and the United States is committed to strengthening our trading partnership;

Whereas Americans of Pakistani origin are one of the largest Muslim-American ethnic groups and enrich the cultural diversity and public discourse of the United States; and

Whereas Pakistan and the United States have a strong ongoing partnership regarding the promotion of democratic values, cooperation on international security, and collaboration on strategic initiatives: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) looks forward to ongoing friendship with
3 Pakistan and continuing partnership in matters of
4 mutual concern;

5 (2) applauds the Pakistani-American commu-
6 nity for the important role it plays in the relation-
7 ship between the United States and Pakistan; and

8 (3) extends best wishes to the people of Paki-
9 stan as they celebrate the 62nd anniversary of Paki-
10 stan's independence from the British Empire.

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