

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 774

Expressing appreciation to Bermuda for accepting 4 individuals released from the detention facility at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. WEXLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing appreciation to Bermuda for accepting 4 individuals released from the detention facility at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Whereas President Barack Obama has vowed to close the detention facility at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in January 2010, necessitating the release or transfer of about 225 individuals detained at the facility;

Whereas at least 50 detainees have thus far been cleared for release;

Whereas since President Obama took office about 15 detainees have left Guantanamo and were resettled in Britain, France, Bermuda, Chad, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, and Portugal, and 1 detainee was transferred to the State of New York for a Federal trial;

Whereas there has been significant opposition in Congress and the wider public to resettling detainees into the United States or transferring detainees to prisons in the United States;

Whereas the United States, must ensure, in compliance with international human rights law (including the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York on December 10, 1984, and entered into force with respect to the United States on November 20, 1994), that detainees will not be transferred to nations where their safety will be jeopardized;

Whereas in May 2009, during a visit to the White House, Premier Ewart Brown of Bermuda offered to assist the United States in relocating released detainees from the detention facility at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;

Whereas in June 2009, Bermuda accepted 4 former prisoners, Chinese Uighurs who had been cleared twice of being enemy combatants by the United States Government and were cleared for release;

Whereas, since then, Congress has prohibited the use of Federal funds for transfers and also requires a 2-week detailed notification before future moves;

Whereas Bermuda provided the aircraft to fly the Uighurs to their new home;

Whereas the 4 Uighurs have been given temporary jobs tending the grounds of a golf course in Port Royal, in an effort to integrate them into the surrounding society: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) expresses its appreciation to Bermuda for
2 accepting 4 Chinese Uighurs released from the de-
3 tention facility at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay,
4 Cuba;

5 (2) encourages Bermuda to ensure that the 4
6 former detainees are able to participate as fully as
7 possible in their local community and in Bermudan
8 society; and

9 (3) heralds Bermuda for safely, humanely, and
10 effectively resettling individuals detained at the de-
11 tention facility at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay,
12 Cuba, who have been cleared of wrongdoing.

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