

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 600

Urging the Government of Afghanistan, following a successful first round of the presidential election on April 5, 2014, to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive run-off presidential election on June 14, 2014, while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 28, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. SHERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of Afghanistan, following a successful first round of the presidential election on April 5, 2014, to pursue a transparent, credible, and inclusive run-off presidential election on June 14, 2014, while ensuring the safety of voters, candidates, poll workers, and election observers.

Whereas on April 5, 2014, the Government of Afghanistan held the first round of the presidential election in which voter participation was 60 percent;

Whereas on May 15, 2014, Afghanistan’s Independent Election Commission (IEC) certified the results, and announced that a run-off election would be held on June 14, 2014, because no candidate received more than 50 percent of the votes;

Whereas on May 14, 2014, the IEC invalidated votes from 331 polling stations and removed them from the final tabulation, based on Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) decisions;

Whereas there have been widespread reports of voter and election monitor intimidation, including the killing of members of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) during an attack at the Serena Hotel in Kabul on March 20, 2014, as well as attempts to bribe members of the IEC, the ECC, and other election monitoring organizations;

Whereas investigations by the ECC, and its coordination with the IEC, have not been conducted in a transparent manner;

Whereas 17 members of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) were killed while supporting the April 5, 2014, elections;

Whereas United States and coalition armed forces have greatly contributed to the stability and security of Afghanistan at a considerable personal sacrifice; and

Whereas the United States has contributed more than \$200,000,000 toward the 2014 Afghan presidential election: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) commends the Government of Afghanistan
2 for holding a successful first round of the presi-
3 dential election and expresses strong support for a
4 credible, inclusive, and transparent second round on
5 June 14, 2014;

6 (2) supports the mandate of Afghan electoral
7 bodies such as the Independent Election Commission
8 (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission
9 (ECC) to administer, adjudicate, and manage polls,
10 as well as oversee logistical and technical prepara-
11 tions in a transparent, fair, and credible manner to
12 prevent fraud and misconduct;

13 (3) encourages the Government of Afghanistan
14 to implement measures that will increase voter par-
15 ticipation, particularly among the Afghan female
16 population;

17 (4) recognizes the determination of the Afghan
18 people to exercise their right to vote and determine
19 their country's destiny;

20 (5) urges the Government of Afghanistan to
21 take steps to assure that fraudulent electoral activi-
22 ties do not take place during the runoff;

23 (6) urges the IEC to adopt measures to better
24 mitigate fraud, improve electoral transparency of the
25 polling and counting process, and communicate these

1 measures clearly and consistently to the people of
2 Afghanistan;

3 (7) urges close and continuing communication
4 between the IEC and the Afghanistan National Se-
5 curity Forces (ANSF) to identify and provide secu-
6 rity for vulnerable areas of the country during the
7 election period;

8 (8) encourages all elements of Afghan society to
9 refrain from fomenting violence and other disturb-
10 ances in voting areas;

11 (9) urges the ANSF to make every necessary
12 effort to ensure the safety of voters, candidates, poll
13 workers, and election observers;

14 (10) expresses its support for the full partici-
15 pation of Afghan civil society in the election process;

16 (11) recognizes that a democratically elected
17 government that reflects the will of the Afghan peo-
18 ple would promote the long-term prosperity, sta-
19 bility, and security interests of Afghanistan and its
20 neighbors, its partners in the North Atlantic Treaty
21 Organization International Security Assistance
22 Force, and the United States; and

23 (12) recognizes the sacrifices of United States
24 and coalition armed forces that have contributed,

1 and will continue to contribute, to the security and
2 stability of Afghanistan.

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