

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 196

Expressing the sense of Congress that United States assistance to Algeria should be terminated unless its military backed government proceeds toward democratization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 23, 1993

Mr. WASHINGTON submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that United States assistance to Algeria should be terminated unless its military backed government proceeds toward democratization.

Whereas, on December 26, 1991, Algeria successfully completed the first round of democratically-held multi party national elections in that country;

Whereas the first round of elections expressed the will of the people of Algeria who wanted an end to the 30 years of one party rule;

Whereas on January 11, 1992, the Algerian military seized power, cancelled the second round of elections due to take place on January 16, 1992, and imposed unelected indi-

viduals by installing the five-man Higher State Council (Haut Conseil d'Etat) as the national governing body;

Whereas the military actions of January 11th totally undermined the national democratic election process, and superseded virtually all constitutional rights by dissolving parliament, and declaring a state of emergency for a year which has now been renewed indefinitely;

Whereas international human rights organizations amply documented the alarming rise of executions and summary death sentences which exceed 300, and thousands of heavy prison sentences, meted out by recently constituted special courts in violation of the most fundamental requirements of international law, and based on confessions extracted under torture and the denial of the right to a proper defense or an appeal;

Whereas the now ruling Higher State Council has led the country into a deteriorating path of repression, denial of civil rights and violence, engaged in a brutal and systematic process of arbitrary arrests, torture and the unrestricted detention of thousands of opposition members; and

Whereas the United States Congress is deeply concerned about the continuing deterioration of the economic and social conditions within Algeria: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) in order to promote the restoration of the
4 democratic process in Algeria, the President shall
5 actively encourage unconditional negotiations be-
6 tween the Higher State Council and all political par-

1 ties committee to multi-party democracy, including
2 those who won parliamentary seats in the first round
3 of elections; and

4 (2) United States assistance to the military
5 backed government of Algeria should be suspended,
6 and the United States should oppose all loans to Al-
7 geria from international lending institutions, unless
8 and until the President certifies that the Higher
9 State Council is making significant progress toward
10 the restoration of a democratic process in Algeria
11 by—

12 (A) immediately lifting of the state of
13 emergency;

14 (B) legalizing all political parties commit-
15 ted to democratic elections;

16 (C) good faith negotiations with all politi-
17 cal parties especially those parties who won
18 seats in parliament and who expressed their
19 commitment to multi-party democracy;

20 (D) dissolving the “special courts”, and re-
21 ferring those accused of violent crimes to civil-
22 ian courts;

23 (E) releasing all political prisoners, par-
24 ticularly those who are imprisoned because of
25 their political beliefs;

1 (F) appointing a caretaker government
2 agreed upon by all the political parties, espe-
3 cially those who won seats in the first round of
4 national elections, to ensure national reconcili-
5 ation and supervise the transition to democracy;

6 (G) returning freedom of the press, by
7 halting the detention and threats against jour-
8 nalists and permitting the publication of news-
9 papers which operated prior to 1992; and

10 (H) resuming the electoral process by re-
11 scheduling the second phase of the parliamen-
12 tary election within a one year period.

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