

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 57

Expressing the sense of Congress supporting the Government of India's efforts to hold free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 1995

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. STEARNS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress supporting the Government of India's efforts to hold free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Whereas the militant-inspired violence in the Kashmir Valley has claimed more than 10,000 lives during the last 5 years;

Whereas terrorist acts committed by religious militants have devastated Kashmir's infrastructure through the destruction of such civilian facilities as schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, and power stations;

Whereas more than 250,000 Kashmiri Pandits and almost 50,000 Muslims have fled their ancestral homes and have been forced to become refugees within their own country due to arson, violence, and death threats;

Whereas the Government of India has taken the following tangible steps to revive the democratic political process in Jammu and Kashmir—

(1) the government has released several prominent military leaders, enabling them to participate in free and fair elections;

(2) India's Chief Elections Commissioner has revised and simplified electoral registration procedures in Jammu and Kashmir;

(3) the Government of India has established a National Human Rights Commission to investigate incidents of human rights violations perpetrated by Indian security forces;

(4) the Government of India is pursuing a policy of greater transparency under which foreign journalists, diplomats, and parliamentary delegations have been permitted complete and unimpeded access to the state;

(5) the Indian security forces have exercised judicious restraint in coping with the Hazratbal crisis, following a month-long siege of the sacred mosque by militants; and

(6) the Government of India welcomed a visit to Jammu and Kashmir by the International Red Cross in 1994; and

Whereas Pakistan's leaders continue to oppose elections in Jammu and Kashmir: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) Congress supports India's efforts to hold
4 free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir and
5 that such elections are imperative to end the cycle

1 of violence that has plagued the Kashmir Valley for
2 more than 5 years;

3 (2) Congress urges all political parties to par-
4 ticipate in such elections and democratically elect
5 their representatives; and

6 (3) Congress urges the Government of Pakistan
7 to work together with the Government of India to
8 adopt a constructive and joint approach to resolve
9 the Kashmir problem, which should include the com-
10 mitment of the Government of Pakistan to support
11 free and fair elections.

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