

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 235

Calling for an end to the violent repression of the legitimate rights of the people of Kosova.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 1998

Mr. GILMAN (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. PAXON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. KING, and Mr. HOYER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling for an end to the violent repression of the legitimate rights of the people of Kosova.

Whereas the Albanian people of Kosova constitute more than 90 percent of the total population of Kosova;

Whereas the political rights of the Albanian people of Kosova were curtailed when the Government of Yugoslavia illegally amended the Constitution of Yugoslavia without the consent of the people of Kosova on March 23, 1989, revoking the autonomous status of Kosova;

Whereas in 1990, the Parliament and Government of Kosova were abolished by further unlawful amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia;

Whereas the State Department's 1997 Country Report on Human Rights in Serbia notes violations of civil liberties in Kosova particularly in the following categories: political and other extra-judicial killing; torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest, detention or exile; denial of fair public trial; and arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence;

Whereas on the night of February 28, 1998, Serbian paramilitary police units, reported to number in excess of 25,000 men, swept through the Drenica region of Kosova killing more than 20 Albanian citizens, many of who died from being beaten to death;

Whereas on March 2, 1998, 30,000 demonstrators peacefully marched in Pristina to protest the massacre of February 28 and were brutally attacked by Serbian police;

Whereas a group calling itself the Liberation Army of Kosova has threatened to retaliate against the atrocities committed by Serbian authorities;

Whereas new elections in Kosova have been scheduled for March 22, 1998; and

Whereas the President of the United States and other officials have warned the Government of Serbia that there would be serious consequences if Serbian policies led to an escalation of violence in Kosova: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—
 3 (1) efforts of the international Contact Group
 4 (the United States, United Kingdom, France, Ger-
 5 many, Russia, and Italy) in support of a resolution

1 of the conflict in Kosova are to be commended and
2 intensified;

3 (2) no international or United States sanctions
4 currently in force against the Government of Serbia
5 and Montenegro should be terminated at this time,
6 unless such termination serves to support a peaceful
7 resolution to the repression in Kosova;

8 (3) the United States should consult with its al-
9 lies and other members of the United Nations on re-
10 imposing those sanctions against Serbia-Montenegro
11 that were terminated following the signing of the
12 Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995 if Serbian au-
13 thorities continue to use unlawful violence against
14 the Albanian people of Kosova;

15 (4) the United States should acknowledge re-
16 cent developments in the Republic of Montenegro
17 that indicate that the new leadership of the Republic
18 is seeking a peaceful resolution to the repression in
19 Kosova, particularly the statement by Montenegrin
20 President Milo Djukanovic that Kosova must receive
21 a certain degree of autonomy, and his call for a dia-
22 log between the Government of Serbia and Montene-
23 gro and ethnic Albanians in Kosova;

24 (5) the United States should, to the extent
25 practicable, recognize positive actions by the Govern-

1 ment of the Republic of Montenegro with regard to
2 repression in Kosova through exclusion from those
3 sanctions that may be applied to the Government of
4 Serbia;

5 (6) the elections in Kosova scheduled on March
6 22, 1998, should be allowed to proceed unimpeded
7 by Belgrade, as they represent the opportunity for a
8 peaceful expression of the political will of the Alba-
9 nian people of Kosova;

10 (7) all parties should refrain from acts that
11 could lead to heightened tensions in Kosova;

12 (8) the agreement on education in Kosova
13 should be implemented immediately, including at the
14 university level, allowing all residents of Kosova re-
15 gardless of ethnicity to receive education in their na-
16 tive tongue; and

17 (9) that the elected leaders of Kosova should
18 begin a dialog with the authorities in Belgrade to re-
19 solve the present situation, and to provide for the ex-
20 ercise of the legitimate civil and political rights of
21 the Albanian people of Kosova.

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