

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Congress recognizes that the legacy of civil conflict in Afghanistan during the last 17 years has had a devastating effect on the civilian population in that country, killing 2,000,000 people and displacing more than 7,000,000, and has had a particularly negative impact on the rights and security of women and girls;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Practices for 1996 states: "Serious human rights violations continue to occur[...] political killings, torture, rape, arbitrary detention, looting, abductions and kidnappings for ransom were committed by armed units, local commanders and rogue individuals.";

Whereas the Afghan forces affiliated with Burhanuddin Rabbani and Abdul Rashid Dostum are responsible for numerous abhorrent human rights abuses, including the rape, sexual abuse, torture, abduction, and persecution of women and girls;

Whereas Congress is disturbed by the upsurge of reported human rights abuses in Taliban-controlled territory, including extreme restrictions placed on women and girls;

Whereas the Taliban have provided safe haven to suspected terrorists and may be allowing terrorist training camps to operate in territory under its control;

Whereas Afghanistan is a sovereign nation and must work to solve its internal disputes; and

Whereas Afghanistan and the United States recognize international human rights conventions, such as the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which espouse respect for basic human rights of all individuals without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) deplores the violations of international hu-
4 manitarian law by the Taliban coalition in Afghani-
5 stan and raises concern over the reported cases of
6 stoning, public executions, and street beatings;

7 (2) condemns the Taliban’s targeted discrimina-
8 tion against women and girls and expresses deep
9 concern regarding the prohibition of employment
10 and education for women and girls;

11 (3) urges the Taliban and all other parties in
12 Afghanistan to cease providing safe haven to sus-
13 pected terrorists or permitting Afghan territory to
14 be used for terrorist training; and

15 (4) takes note of the continued armed conflict
16 in Afghanistan, affirms the need for peace negotia-
17 tions and expresses hope that the Afghan parties
18 will agree to a cease-fire throughout the country.

19 (b) It is the sense of Congress that the President
20 should—

1 (1) continue to monitor the human rights situa-
2 tion in Afghanistan and should call for adherence by
3 all factions in Afghanistan to international humani-
4 tarian law;

5 (2) call for an end to the systematic discrimina-
6 tion and harassment of women and girls in Afghani-
7 stan;

8 (3) encourage efforts to procure a durable peace
9 in Afghanistan and should support the United Na-
10 tions Special Mission to Afghanistan led by Norbert
11 Holl to assist in brokering a peaceful resolution to
12 years of conflict;

13 (4) call upon the Government of Pakistan to
14 use its good offices with the Taliban to cease human
15 rights violations, end provision of safe haven to ter-
16 rorists and terrorist training camps, and reverse dis-
17 criminatory policies against women and girls;

18 (5) call upon other nations to cease providing
19 financial assistance, arms, and other kinds of sup-
20 port to the militaries or political organizations of
21 any of the warring factions in Afghanistan; and

22 (6) undertake a review of United States policy
23 toward Afghanistan.

24 SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit
25 a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President with

- 1 the request that he further transmit such copy to the
- 2 United Nations and relevant parties in Afghanistan.

Passed the Senate May 20, 1997.

Attest:

Secretary.

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 6

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing concern for the continued deterioration of human rights in Afghanistan and emphasizing the need for a peaceful political settlement in that country.