

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2109

To limit the sale or export of plastic bullets to the United Kingdom.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 1999

Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To limit the sale or export of plastic bullets to the United Kingdom.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Ireland
5 Peace Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Since the British Army and the Royal Ul-
9 ster Constabulary in Northern Ireland have begun to
10 use plastic bullets as weapons, thousands have been

1 injured and 17 individuals have been killed by such
2 bullets, including seven children.

3 (2) Since the Royal Ulster Constabulary began
4 to use plastic bullets in 1973, more than 54,000
5 rounds have been fired, and plastic bullets have com-
6 pletely replaced rubber bullets.

7 (3)(A) Plastic bullets are often used in a sec-
8 tarian manner.

9 (B) During the standoff at Drumcree from July
10 7, 1996, to July 14, 1996, the security forces of the
11 United Kingdom in Northern Ireland fired a total of
12 5,942 rounds of plastic bullets, of which 5,500 were
13 targeted at Catholic Nationalists.

14 (4) Before the Drumcree standoff, six civil lib-
15 erties/human rights groups, including the Committee
16 on the Administration of Justice in Northern Ire-
17 land, the British Irish Rights Watch, and Liberty,
18 asked the chief constable in Northern Ireland to
19 “immediately and permanently withdraw plastic bul-
20 lets from use”.

21 (5)(A) The use of plastic bullets is counter-
22 productive whether such use is against the residents
23 of the Lower Ormeau Road and the Bogside or
24 against the Orange Order marchers in Portadown or
25 on the Upper Ormeau Road.

1 (B) The use of plastic bullets has contributed
2 to thousands of maimings, disfigurements, loss of eye-
3 sight of individuals, and overwhelmingly caused
4 other widespread violence and intimidation.

5 (6) The United Campaign Against Plastic Bul-
6 lets claim that the use of plastic bullets has caused
7 further alienation of nationalists and increased dis-
8 trust of the security forces of the United Kingdom
9 while contributing to the destabilization of Northern
10 Ireland.

11 (7) The efforts of the Government of the
12 United Kingdom to acquire dangerous weapons and
13 related materials and the means to deliver such
14 weapons and materials endanger the lives of Catho-
15 lics in Northern Ireland.

16 (8) The Committee on the Administration of
17 Justice in Northern Ireland reported that the use of
18 plastic bullets during riots only exacerbates the situ-
19 ation in Northern Ireland and increases rioting rath-
20 er than quelling it.

21 (9) The European Parliament has passed four
22 separate motions calling for the ban of plastic bul-
23 lets because such bullets are used as intimidating
24 weapons.

1 tions and enforcement under section 38(e) of such Act (22
2 U.S.C. 2778(e)).

3 **SEC. 5. BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES TO**
4 **LIMIT THE SALE OR EXPORT OF PLASTIC**
5 **BULLETS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to further the objectives
7 described in section 3, the President shall establish and
8 carry out appropriate diplomatic initiatives, both bilat-
9 erally with allies of the United States and multilaterally
10 in appropriate international fora (including the United
11 Nations), to limit the sale or export of plastic bullets to
12 the Government of the United Kingdom or any other enti-
13 ty in the United Kingdom, including the Royal Ulster Con-
14 stabulary.

15 (b) REPORTS.—Not later than 6 months after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, and periodically there-
17 after, the President shall prepare and transmit to the Con-
18 gress a report containing a description of the extent to
19 which the bilateral and multilateral efforts described in
20 subsection (a) have been successful, including the names
21 of the countries that have agreed to limit the sale or export
22 of plastic bullets to the United Kingdom, including the
23 Royal Ulster Constabulary.

1 **SEC. 6. INCLUSION OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING USE OF**
2 **PLASTIC BULLETS AS WEAPONS IN NORTH-**
3 **ERN IRELAND IN ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS**
4 **REPORT.**

5 As part of the annual human rights report trans-
6 mitted to the Congress under section 502B of the Foreign
7 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304), the Secretary
8 of State shall include a description of each incident involv-
9 ing the use of plastic bullets as weapons in Northern Ire-
10 land during the preceding year.

11 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION.**

12 As used in this Act, the term “plastic bullet” means
13 a projectile made of rock-hard polyvinyl chloride that—

14 (1) is approximately 4 inches long and 1.5
15 inches in diameter;

16 (2) weighs approximately 4.75 ounces; and

17 (3) is usually off-white in color.

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