

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 161

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the condition and humanitarian needs of refugees within Kosovo.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the condition and humanitarian needs of refugees within Kosovo.

Whereas international humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provide a vital role in assessing and responding to the humanitarian needs of refugees around the world and, most recently, of the hundreds of thousands who have fled Kosovo;

Whereas, according to unconfirmed reports, hundreds of thousands of refugees remain in Kosovo at risk for their lives and requiring immediate food, shelter, and medicine;

Whereas it is the belief of the House of Representatives that the safety and lives of these undetermined legions of ref-

ugees within Kosovo are equal to the safety and lives of the many refugees who have fled the region;

Whereas the international community is committed to providing humanitarian assistance to current and future Kosovo refugees, while uncertain of how vast that need may be;

Whereas during an April 19, 1999, interview in Belgrade with Dr. Ron Hatchett of the University of St. Thomas, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic agreed to and subsequently permitted representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to meet with and examine the condition of the three captured American prisoners of war;

Whereas in the same interview, President Milosevic agreed to permit representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees into Kosovo to provide aid and assess the humanitarian needs of refugees within Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Whereas on May 4, 1999, with the assent of the United Nations Security Council, of which the United States is a member, United Nation's Secretary General Kofi Annan initiated a United Nations interagency assessment mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to assess emergency relief and rehabilitation needs within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to identify the means for providing such critical relief and rehabilitation assistance;

Whereas this humanitarian mission seeks to objectively assess critical needs in the areas of human rights and protection, food, security, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, and condition of the civilian population, and also

seeks to accurately determine the number, location, and requirements of the people in Kosovo and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia needing immediate and future humanitarian aid; and

Whereas this humanitarian mission is working diligently to depart for Kosovo and others sectors of Yugoslavia on May 8, 1999, if appropriate security assurances are provided by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That—

2               (1) it is the sense of the House of Representa-  
3       tives that Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic  
4       should provide the necessary security assurances to  
5       the United Nations interagency mission to the Fed-  
6       eral Republic of Yugoslavia to permit them to safely  
7       and accurately provide the international community  
8       with an objective, first-hand assessment of the con-  
9       dition of refugees inside of Kosovo and all sectors of  
10      the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and

11              (2) the House of Representatives encourages  
12      member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Orga-  
13      nization (NATO) to weigh the value of this humani-  
14      tarian mission toward ending human suffering in  
15      Kosovo, and to consider reasonable measures to en-  
16      hance the safety of this international delegation dur-

- 1 ing its brief humanitarian mission within the Fed-
- 2 eral Republic of Yugoslavia.

