

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 187

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should seek to prevent any Taliban-led government in Afghanistan from obtaining a seat in the United Nations, and should refuse to recognize any Afghan government, while gross violations of human rights persist against women and girls there.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. ROHRABACHER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should seek to prevent any Taliban-led government in Afghanistan from obtaining a seat in the United Nations, and should refuse to recognize any Afghan government, while gross violations of human rights persist against women and girls there.

- 1 Whereas millions of women and girls living under Taliban
- 2 rule in Afghanistan are denied their basic human
- 3 rights;
- 4 Whereas according to the Department of State and inter-
- 5 national human rights organizations, the Taliban con-

1 continues to commit widespread and well-documented
2 human rights abuses, in gross violation of internation-
3 ally accepted norms;

4 Whereas, according to the United States Department of
5 State Country Report on Human Rights Practices
6 (hereafter “1998 State Department Human Rights
7 Report”), violence against women in Afghanistan oc-
8 curs frequently, including beatings, rapes, forced mar-
9 riages, disappearances, kidnappings, and killings;

10 Whereas women and girls under Taliban rule are generally
11 barred from working, going to school, leaving their
12 homes without an immediate male family member as
13 chaperone, and visiting doctors, hospitals or clinics;

14 Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human
15 Rights Report, gender restrictions by the Taliban con-
16 tinue to interfere with the delivery of humanitarian
17 assistance to women and girls in Afghanistan;

18 Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human
19 Rights Report, under Taliban rule women are forced
20 to don a head-to-toe garment known as a burqa, which
21 has only a mesh screen for vision, and many women
22 found in public not wearing a burqa, or wearing a
23 burqa that does not properly cover the ankles, are
24 beaten by Taliban militiamen;

1 Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human
2 Rights Report, some poor women under Taliban rule
3 cannot afford the cost of a burqa and thus are forced
4 to remain at home or risk beatings if they go outside
5 the home without one;

6 Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human
7 Rights Report, the lack of a burqa has resulted in the
8 inability of some women under Taliban rule to get nec-
9 essary medical care because they cannot leave home;

10 Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human
11 Rights Report, women under Taliban rule reportedly
12 have been beaten if their shoe heels click when they
13 walk;

14 Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human
15 Rights Report, under Taliban rule women in homes
16 must not be visible from the street, and houses with
17 female occupants must have their windows painted
18 over;

19 Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human
20 Rights Report, under Taliban rule women are not al-
21 lowed to drive, and taxi drivers reportedly have been
22 beaten if they take unescorted women as passengers;

23 Whereas according to the 1998 State Department Human
24 Rights Report, women under Taliban rule are forbid-
25 den to enter mosques or other places of worship; and

1 Whereas women and girls of all ages under Taliban rule
2 have suffered needlessly and even died from curable
3 illness because they have been turned away from
4 health care facilities because of their gender: Now,
5 therefore, be it

6 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives that—

8 (1) the President should instruct the United
9 States Representative to the United Nations to use
10 all appropriate means to prevent any Taliban-led
11 government in Afghanistan from obtaining the seat
12 in the United Nations General Assembly reserved for
13 Afghanistan so long as gross violations of inter-
14 nationally recognized human rights against women
15 and girls persist; and

16 (2) the United States should refuse to recognize
17 any government in Afghanistan which is not taking
18 actions to achieve the following goals in Afghanistan:

19 (A) The effective participation of women in
20 all civil, economic, and social life.

21 (B) The right of women to work.

22 (C) The right of women and girls to an
23 education without discrimination and the re-
24 opening of schools to women and girls at all lev-
25 els of education.

1 (D) The freedom of movement of women
2 and girls.

3 (E) Equal access of women and girls to
4 health facilities.

5 (F) Equal access of women and girls to
6 humanitarian aid.

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