

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 292

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the referendum in East Timor, calling on the Government of Indonesia to assist in the termination of the current civil unrest and violence in East Timor, and supporting a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force for East Timor.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. GOSS, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. GREENWOOD, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. POMBO, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the referendum in East Timor, calling on the Government of Indonesia to assist in the termination of the current civil unrest and violence in East Timor, and supporting a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force for East Timor.

Whereas on May 5, 1999, the Governments of Portugal and Indonesia and the United Nations concluded an historic agreement intended to resolve the status of East Timor

through a popular consultation based upon a universal, direct, and secret ballot;

Whereas the agreement gave the people of East Timor an opportunity to accept a proposed special autonomy for East Timor within the unitary Republic of Indonesia or reject the special autonomy and opt for independence;

Whereas on August 30, 1999, 98.5 percent of registered voters participated in a vote on the future of East Timor, and by a vote of 344,580 to 94,388 chose the course of independence;

Whereas after the voting was concluded, violence intensified significantly in East Timor;

Whereas the declaration by the Government of Indonesia of martial law in East Timor has failed to quell the violence;

Whereas it has been reported that hundreds of people have been killed and injured since the violence began in East Timor;

Whereas it has been reported that as many as 200,000 of East Timor's 780,000 residents have been forced to flee East Timor;

Whereas it has been reported that East Timor militias are controlling the refugee camps in West Timor, intimidating the refugees and denying access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, relief agencies, and other humanitarian nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas it has been reported that a systematic campaign of political assassinations that has targeted religious, student, and political leaders, aid workers, and others has taken place;

Whereas the compound of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was besieged and fired upon, access to food, water, and electricity was intentionally cut off, and UNAMET personnel have been killed, forcing the closure of UNAMET in East Timor;

Whereas Catholic leaders and lay people have been targeted to be killed and churches burned in East Timor;

Whereas the international community has called upon the Government of Indonesia to either take immediate and concrete steps to end the violence in East Timor or allow a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force to enter East Timor and restore order;

Whereas on September 9, 1999, the United States suspended all military relations with Indonesia as a result of the failure to quell the violence in East Timor; and

Whereas on September 12, 1999, Indonesian President B.J. Habibie announced that Indonesia would allow a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force into East Timor: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) congratulates the people of East Timor on
3 their exemplary participation in the August 30,
4 1999, popular consultation;

5 (2) commends the professionalism, determina-
6 tion, and courage of the United Nations Mission in
7 East Timor (UNAMET) personnel in support of the
8 August 30, 1999, vote on the future of East Timor;

1 (3) recognizes the overwhelming expression of
2 the people of East Timor in favor of independence
3 from Indonesia;

4 (4) condemns the violent efforts of East Timor
5 militias and elements of the Indonesian military to
6 overturn the results of the August 30, 1999, vote;

7 (5) notes with grave alarm the failure of the
8 Government of Indonesia, despite repeated assur-
9 ances to the contrary, to guarantee the security of
10 the people of East Timor and further notes that it
11 is the responsibility of the Government of Indonesia
12 to restrain elements of the Indonesian military and
13 paramilitary forces and restore order in East Timor;

14 (6) calls upon the Government of Indonesia to
15 recognize its responsibilities as a member of the
16 United Nations and a signatory to the Universal
17 Declaration of Human Rights to cooperate with ap-
18 propriate United Nations authorities in the restora-
19 tion of order in East Timor;

20 (7) urges the Government of Indonesia to allow
21 unrestricted access to refugees and displaced persons
22 in West Timor and to guarantee their safety;

23 (8) calls upon the Government of Indonesia to
24 hold accountable those responsible for the violence

1 and human rights abuses and atrocities in East
2 Timor;

3 (9) notes with approval the decision of the
4 United States to suspend military relations with,
5 and the sale of any military weapons or equipment
6 to, the Government of Indonesia until order is effec-
7 tively restored;

8 (10) expresses approval of Indonesia's belated
9 decision to allow a United Nations Security Council-
10 endorsed multinational force into East Timor and
11 strongly urges Indonesia to accept the rapid deploy-
12 ment of this force and to cooperate fully without
13 preconditions on the composition and deployment of
14 this force;

15 (11) expresses support for a rapid and effective
16 deployment throughout East Timor of the United
17 Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational
18 force;

19 (12) urges that the United States consider ad-
20 ditional measures to end the current civil unrest and
21 violence in East Timor, including the suspension of
22 bilateral and international financial assistance (ex-
23 cept for humanitarian assistance and assistance de-
24 signed to promote the development of democratic in-
25 stitutions) to the Government of Indonesia until

1 such time as it has demonstrated cooperation with
2 respect to the deployment of a multinational force in
3 East Timor and such force is fully deployed,
4 UNAMET is fully operational in East Timor, refu-
5 gees and displaced persons are able to return to
6 East Timor safely, and order and respect for human
7 rights are restored in East Timor;

8 (13) expresses approval of United States
9 logistical and other technical support for deployment
10 of a multinational force for East Timor;

11 (14) commends Australia for its readiness to
12 lead the multinational force for East Timor and wel-
13 comes the participation of other nations in this
14 force;

15 (15) urges the Indonesian People's Consultative
16 Assembly to expeditiously ratify the vote of August
17 30, 1999, in East Timor and to otherwise speed the
18 transition to full independence for East Timor; and

19 (16) recognizes that an effective United States
20 foreign policy for this region requires both an effec-
21 tive near-term response to the ongoing violence in,
22 and progress toward independence for, East Timor
23 and a long-term strategy for supporting stability, se-
24 curity, and democracy in Indonesia and East Timor.

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