

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 84

Calling for the immediate intervention in the conflict in Burma, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling for the immediate intervention in the conflict in Burma, and for other purposes.

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), was democratically elected as the General Secretary of the NLD in the multiparty election of May 1990 in Burma and is the rightful leader of the Government of Burma;

Whereas the military junta of Burma, previously known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and now calling itself the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), refused to cede power to the rightful, democratically elected Government of Burma led by Aung San Suu Kyi;

Whereas the military junta is engaged in ethnic cleansing against minorities within Burma, including the Karen, Karenni, and Shan people, which constitutes genocide under established international law;

Whereas the conflict between the military junta and the ethnic minorities is one of the longest running civil wars in history;

Whereas this conflict has resulted in 600,000 internally displaced people living within Burma and more than 130,000 people from Burma living in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border;

Whereas the military dictatorship employs inhumane tactics in its war against the ethnic minorities, including indiscriminate burning of homes, villages, and crops, forced portage, the use of civilians as human minesweepers, forced relocation, and the use of systematic rape as a weapon of terror;

Whereas such inhumane methods of subjugation have decimated the Karen people and have destroyed the Karen state;

Whereas the military junta has engaged in the indiscriminate laying of unmapped land mines, in contempt of international law, which has resulted in hundreds of innocent victims;

Whereas the SPDC and other entities with which it is allied profit from trade in illicit drugs within and outside Burma's borders, including by producing and selling more than 1,000,000,000 methamphetamine pills in 2002 alone, thereby poisoning hundreds of thousands of young people throughout Southeast Asia;

Whereas the peaceful coexistence among Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, and people of traditional beliefs in Burma is in contrast with the intolerance and persecution waged against people of faith by the SPDC, particularly the small Muslim minority known as the Rohingya;

Whereas the Global Day of Prayer for Burma was established in March of 1997, in order to bring together people of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds in prayer for the people of Burma, and has been celebrated annually since 1997 on the second Sunday of March;

Whereas Thailand has historically provided generous and hospitable sanctuary to all refugees from Burma, including prodemocracy activists and ethnic minorities;

Whereas some elements of the Thai Government, because of business and other dealings with the SPDC, are now at grave risk of becoming complicit with Burma and of being accused of aiding and abetting those who commit crimes against humanity;

Whereas some elements within the Thai Government are advocating the forced repatriation to Burma of human rights and democracy activists and the closure of nongovernmental organizations in order to appease Burma's military dictatorship;

Whereas since November 30, 2002, a number of nongovernmental organizations, including the Federation of Trade Unions—Burma, the Thai-Burma Cultural Cooperation Committee Office for Phayar Thone Su, the People's Defense Force, the Myeik–Davoy United Front, the Dawei Women's Union, the Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS), the Mon Youth Progressive Organization, the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), the

National League for Democracy—Liberated Area (NLD—LA), the Network on Democracy and Development (NDD), the Political Defiance Committee, and the Burma Women’s Union, have been harassed, and 10 of these groups have been shut down by the Thai Government, their property has been confiscated, their leaders have been arrested, and they have been threatened with forced repatriation to Burma;

Whereas these arrests and threatened deportations by some elements of the Thai Government appear to be aimed at appeasing the Burmese military junta; and

Whereas these planned deportations could irreparably tarnish the reputation of the Thai Government: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls upon the executive branch of the
3 United States Government and the international
4 community to intervene immediately in the conflict
5 in Burma and actively protect and assist the refu-
6 gees along the Thai-Burma border and the internally
7 displaced persons within Burma;

8 (2) calls upon the Government of Thailand, a
9 close ally of the United States, to allow the United
10 Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to estab-
11 lish a permanent presence to assist the refugees;

12 (3) calls upon the international community to
13 place human rights monitors and peacekeepers in-
14 side Burma immediately in order to end the ethnic

1 cleansing campaign of the State Peace and Develop-
2 ment Council (SPDC);

3 (4) calls upon the international community to
4 press the SPDC to desist immediately from its sys-
5 tematic policy of genocide;

6 (5) calls upon the SPDC to respect and allow
7 forthwith the establishment of the democratically
8 elected Government of Burma from the 1990 elec-
9 tion, led by Aung San Suu Kyi and the National
10 League for Democracy;

11 (6) calls upon the international community to
12 prosecute the military dictatorship of Burma on
13 charges of genocide and as perpetrators of grave
14 crimes against humanity;

15 (7) calls upon the Government of Thailand to
16 rescind immediately its decision to deport democracy
17 activists to likely death in Burma;

18 (8) calls upon the appropriate committees of
19 the United States Congress and appropriate legisla-
20 tive bodies of other countries to hold hearings on the
21 violations of human rights and genocide against the
22 ethnic minorities in Burma;

23 (9) calls for appropriate reparations by the
24 SPDC to victims of rape and victims of forced labor
25 in Burma;

1 (10) calls for the SPDC to release immediately
2 and unconditionally all political prisoners in Burma;

3 (11) urges the SPDC to commence immediately
4 a full-scale political dialogue with the National
5 League for Democracy and all ethnic groups in
6 Burma;

7 (12) calls upon the international community to
8 destroy the military capability of the SPDC by elimi-
9 nating the capacity of the SPDC and other entities
10 with which it is allied to produce illicit drugs that
11 supply the funds for the procurement by the SPDC
12 of arms and munitions to support its war against
13 the people of Burma; and

14 (13) calls upon the international community
15 and people of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds to
16 join together with the people of Burma for the Glob-
17 al Day of Prayer for Burma.

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