

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 343

Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to respect all universally recognized human rights, including the right to freedom of religion and to participate in religious activities and institutions without interference or involvement of the Government; and to respect the human rights of ethnic minority groups in the Central Highlands and elsewhere in Vietnam.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2004

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to respect all universally recognized human rights, including the right to freedom of religion and to participate in religious activities and institutions without interference or involvement of the Government; and to respect the human rights of ethnic minority groups in the Central Highlands and elsewhere in Vietnam.

Whereas the Government of Vietnam has discouraged the peaceful expression of dissent by its citizens through intimidation, harassment, and sometimes through imprisonment, house arrest and other forms of detention;

Whereas Vietnamese Government officials may travel freely throughout the United States;

Whereas the Government of Vietnam has failed to adequately address issues of land tenure and discrimination in ethnic minority areas of the Central and Northwest Highlands;

Whereas reports have been received alleging attacks by Vietnamese police and other Government representatives against Montagnards who were engaged in peaceful Easter week demonstrations pressing for religious freedom and the return of ancestral lands; and

Whereas Montagnards were reportedly beaten and reportedly killed by police and other Vietnamese government representatives during the recent demonstrations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) strongly urges the Government of Vietnam
3 to respect all universally recognized human rights;

4 (2) expresses its concern over reports that the
5 Government of Vietnam used excessive force to put
6 down recent, peaceful demonstrations in Vietnam's
7 Central Highlands;

8 (3) calls upon the Government of Vietnam to
9 allow international organizations and foreign observ-
10 ers ongoing unrestricted access to the Central and
11 Northwest Highlands;

12 (4) calls upon the Government of Vietnam to
13 allow United States officials to travel freely through-

1 out Vietnam including the Central and Northwest
2 Highlands area; and

3 (5) strongly urges the Government of Vietnam
4 to address the concerns of indigenous minorities in
5 the Central and Northwest Highlands of Vietnam,
6 and to permit direct assistance and development ac-
7 tivities aimed at improving socioeconomic conditions
8 for all Highlands residents, whether provided bilat-
9 erally, through NGOs, or international organiza-
10 tions.

○