

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 260

Condemning the kidnapping and hostage-taking of 3 United States citizens for over 4 years by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and demanding their immediate and unconditional release.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida (for himself, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MACK, Mr. RENZI, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. KELLER of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. WELLER of Illinois, and Ms. GRANGER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the kidnapping and hostage-taking of 3 United States citizens for over 4 years by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and demanding their immediate and unconditional release.

Whereas the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Department of State;

Whereas the FARC utilizes kidnappings for ransom, extortion, and the drug trade to finance its activities;

Whereas the FARC has consistently committed atrocities against citizens of both Colombia and the United States, kidnapped more than 36 United States citizens since 1980, and killed 10 United States citizens;

Whereas an aircraft carrying United States citizens crashed over territory controlled by the FARC on February 13, 2003;

Whereas Keith Stansell, Thomas Howes, and Marc Gonsalves, 3 United States citizens on the aircraft, were taken hostage by the FARC on February 13, 2003;

Whereas the FARC murdered Tom Janis, another United States citizen on the downed aircraft;

Whereas 3 United States citizens on a subsequent search mission also lost their lives;

Whereas the 3 hostages were last reported alive on July 25, 2003, during a taped interview with the CBS news show “60 Minutes”;

Whereas a Colombian police officer who escaped from the FARC in April 2007 claims he saw the 3 United States hostages alive in April 2007;

Whereas at least 50 FARC leaders have been indicted in the United States for drug trafficking; and

Whereas Ricardo Palmera, the most senior FARC leader to be tried in the United States, was convicted of conspiring to take the United States citizens hostage in Colombia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

1 (1) condemns the kidnappings of Keith
2 Stansell, Thomas Howes, and Marc Gonsalves by the
3 Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
4 and calls for their immediate and unconditional re-
5 lease;

6 (2) condemns the FARC for holding these hos-
7 tages for more than 4 years and demands to know
8 their health and status;

9 (3) condemns the FARC for the murder of Tom
10 Janis;

11 (4) condemns the FARC for its use of kidnap-
12 ping for ransom, extortion, and drug trafficking and
13 for supporting and spreading terror within Colom-
14 bia;

15 (5) expresses sympathy to the relatives of the
16 hostages who have been unsure of the fates of their
17 family members for more than 4 years;

18 (6) reconfirms that the United States Govern-
19 ment does not make concessions to terrorists; and

20 (7) reiterates that the United States Govern-
21 ment supports efforts to secure the safe return of
22 the hostages to the United States.

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