

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 397

Condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's embassies in 2007,  
and expressing solidarity with the Government and the people of Estonia.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mrs. BONO, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. McCOTTER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. COSTELLO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's embassies in 2007, and expressing solidarity with the Government and the people of Estonia.

Whereas, on April 27, 2007, the Bronze Soldier Soviet monument in central Tallinn was moved to a prominent location in the Garrison Military Cemetery as a result of a decision by the Government of Estonia;

Whereas the Government of Estonia communicated its reasons for this decision to the Government of the Russian Federation and offered to work with Russian officials during the process, which the Russian officials declined to do;

Whereas, on April 27, 2007, a crowd of more than 1,000 demonstrators gathered at the site of the memorial and riots broke out across Tallinn;

Whereas more than 153 people were injured as a result of the riots, and one died as a result of stabbing by another rioter;

Whereas several stores in Tallinn and surrounding villages were looted as a result of the riots, and a statue of an Estonian general was set on fire;

Whereas, since April 27, 2007, the Government of Estonia has reported several cyber-attacks on its official lines of communication, including those of the Office of the President;

Whereas, on April 28, 2007, and in days following, the Embassy of Estonia in Moscow was surrounded by angry protesters who demanded the resignation of the Government of Estonia, tore down the flag of Estonia from the Embassy building, and subjected Embassy officials inside the building to violence and vandalism;

Whereas, on April 30, 2007, a delegation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation visited Estonia and issued an official statement at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Estonia that “the government of Estonia must step down”;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, the Ambassador of Estonia to the Russian Federation was physically attacked by protesters and members of youth groups during an official press conference;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, the Swedish Ambassador to the Russian Federation was attacked as he left the Embassy of Estonia in Moscow, and his car was damaged by a

crowd, resulting in a formal protest to the Russian Federation by the Swedish Foreign Ministry;

Whereas the Government of Estonia has reported other coordinated attacks against Estonian embassies in Helsinki, Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Riga, Prague, Kiev, and Minsk, and the Estonian Consulate in St. Petersburg;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, Prime Minister of Estonia Andrus Ansip stated that a “sovereign state is under a heavy attack” and that the events constitute “a well-coordinated and flagrant intervention with the internal affairs of Estonia”;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, the public prosecutor’s office of Estonia initiated an investigation into the cyber-attacks against Internet servers in Estonia and requested cooperation from the Russian Federation to identify the source of the attacks;

Whereas, on May 2, 2007, the European Commission expressed its solidarity with Estonia and urged Russia to respect its obligations to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, done at Vienna April 18, 1961, and end the blockade of the Embassy of Estonia in Moscow; and

Whereas the Embassy of Estonia in Russia has been closed since April 27, 2007, and Estonia has suspended consular services to Moscow because conditions remain unsafe for Embassy officials: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That—

2            (1) it is the sense of the House of Representa-  
3            tives that the Soviet Union’s brutal, decades-long oc-  
4            cupation of Estonia was illegal, illegitimate, and a

1 patent violation of Estonia's sovereignty and right to  
2 self-determination; and

3 (2) the House of Representatives—

4 (A) expresses its strong support for Esto-  
5 nia as a sovereign state and a member of the  
6 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)  
7 and the Organization of Security and Coopera-  
8 tion in Europe (OSCE) as it deals with matters  
9 internal to its country;

10 (B) condemns recent acts of violence, van-  
11 dalism, and looting that have taken place in Es-  
12 tonia;

13 (C) condemns the attacks and threats  
14 against Estonia's embassies and officials in  
15 Russia and other countries;

16 (D) urges all activists involved to express  
17 their views peacefully and reject violence;

18 (E) honors the sacrifice of all those, in-  
19 cluding soldiers of the Red Army, that gave  
20 their lives in the fight to defeat Nazism;

21 (F) condemns any and all efforts to cal-  
22 lously exploit the memory of the victims of the  
23 Second World War for political gain;

24 (G) supports the efforts of the Government  
25 of Estonia to initiate a dialogue with appro-

1           pripate levels of the Government of the Russian  
2           Federation to resolve the crisis peacefully and  
3           to sustain cooperation between their two sov-  
4           ereign, independent states; and

5           (H) urges the governments of all coun-  
6           tries—

7                   (i) to condemn the violence that has  
8                   occurred in Estonia, Moscow, and else-  
9                   where in 2007 and to urge all parties to  
10                  express their views peacefully;

11                  (ii) to assist the Government of Esto-  
12                  nia in its investigation into the source of  
13                  cyber-attacks; and

14                  (iii) to fulfill their obligations under  
15                  the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Rela-  
16                  tions, done at Vienna April 18, 1961.

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