

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 53

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2007

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 at least 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 shown alive in a videotape seized by the Government of Colombia and aired on November 30, 2007;

Whereas a police officer from Colombia 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 Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

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

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

4 (3) condemns the FARC for the murder of Tom
5 Janis;

6 (4) condemns the FARC for its use of kidnap-
7 ping for ransom, extortion, and drug trafficking and
8 for supporting and spreading terror within Colom-
9 bia;

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

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

15 (7) reiterates that the United States Govern-
16 ment supports efforts to secure the safe return of
17 the hostages to the United States.

Passed the Senate December 19 (legislative day, De-
cember 18), 2007.

Attest:

NANCY ERICKSON,
Secretary.