

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 221

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a renewed effort be made by all sides to end the violent guerrilla war in Colombia, which poses a serious threat to democracy as well as economic and social stability as evidenced by the recent increase in guerrilla and paramilitary violence which victimizes public officials and Colombian and foreign nationals.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself and Mr. ACKERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a renewed effort be made by all sides to end the violent guerrilla war in Colombia, which poses a serious threat to democracy as well as economic and social stability as evidenced by the recent increase in guerrilla and paramilitary violence which victimizes public officials and Colombian and foreign nationals.

Whereas a brutal campaign of violence, kidnapping, and extortion carried out by the guerrilla movements of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) during the October 1997 nationwide municipal elections resulted in at least

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40 political candidates murdered, over 1,900 candidates forced to abandon their campaigns, 120 candidates reluctantly designated to political office, and 11 municipalities with no elections at all;

Whereas, in the last six months, paramilitary death squads have massacred 30 civilians in the town of Mapiripan and dozens more in Miraflores and further continued the killing spree with an ambush on an entourage of 11 government officials;

Whereas the FARC, designated as a terrorist organization by the United States Secretary of State, continues to hold three United States missionaries hostage without any effort to negotiate their release;

Whereas the magnitude of the guerrilla and paramilitary threat has been intensified by their growing relationship with narcotics trafficking;

Whereas the surge of new guerrilla and paramilitary violence has created more than 300,000 refugees over the last three years;

Whereas an estimated 70,000 people have died as a direct result of the internal fighting over the last decade and this endemic level of violence is now the leading cause of death in Colombia;

Whereas the guerrillas and the paramilitaries have resisted all overtures by the Government of Colombia to end the violence and establish peace;

Whereas 10,000,000 Colombian citizens voted for a mandate for peace, expressing their discontent with the guerrilla war and the need for the government to end the conflict;

Whereas in December President Samper called upon the United States Government to assist in negotiating an end

to the guerrilla conflict and aid in establishing stability in the region; and

Whereas the campaign of the guerrillas and the paramilitaries ultimately poses a major threat to the very democracy of Colombia: Now, therefore, be it

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

3            (1) recognizes the importance of the threat of  
4        escalating guerrilla and paramilitary violence to Co-  
5        lombia's democracy and that acts of violence in-  
6        tended to disrupt the electoral process in the Octo-  
7        ber elections could spill over to the upcoming con-  
8        gressional and presidential elections to be held in  
9        1998;

10           (2) urges that the guerrilla leaders of the Revo-  
11        lutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and  
12        the National Liberation Army (ELN) end the vio-  
13        lence and sever their relationship with narcotics traf-  
14        fickers, negotiate a peace accord with the Govern-  
15        ment of Colombia, and take their agenda into the  
16        political arena for debate;

17           (3) calls on the leadership of the (FARC) and  
18        the (ELN) to release the United States missionaries  
19        being held hostage in Colombia or to fully account  
20        for their whereabouts;

1           (4) urges the Government of Colombia to invig-  
2       orate their efforts to swiftly end the guerrilla conflict  
3       which is taking a large toll daily on the stability of  
4       Colombian democracy and take greater action  
5       against paramilitary units that commit gross human  
6       rights violations;

7           (5) calls upon the international community,  
8       particularly the Organization of American States, to  
9       play a more proactive role in trying to resolve the  
10      conflict by encouraging all sides to come back to the  
11      peace table; and

12          (6) urges the administration to reevaluate  
13      United States policies toward Colombia, taking into  
14      account the threat of the guerrilla movement to Co-  
15      lombia's democracy, and to seriously consider the  
16      Government of Columbia's request for United States  
17      assistance in seeking a resolution to the conflict.

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