

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 235

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 1998

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling for an end to the violent repression of the legitimate rights of the people of Kosova.

Whereas the Albanian people of Kosova constitute more than 90 percent of the total population of Kosova;

Whereas the political rights of the Albanian people of Kosova were curtailed when the Government of Yugoslavia illegally amended the Constitution of Yugoslavia without the consent of the people of Kosova on March 23, 1989, revoking the autonomous status of Kosova;

Whereas in 1990, the Parliament and Government of Kosova were abolished by further unlawful amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia;

Whereas the Mission of Long Duration to Kosova, the Sandzak and Vojvodina, which the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) deployed in 1992, eased local tensions through objective human rights monitoring and facilitating dialogue between authorities and the various communities before the authorities of Serbia-Montenegro expelled the Mission in 1993;

Whereas the State Department's 1997 Country Report on Human Rights in Serbia notes violations of civil liberties in Kosova particularly in the following categories: political and other extra-judicial killing; torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest, detention or exile; denial of fair public trial; and arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence;

Whereas on the night of February 28, 1998, Serbian paramilitary police units, reported to number in excess of 25,000 men, swept through the Drenica region of Kosova killing more than 20 Albanian citizens, many of who died from being beaten to death;

Whereas on March 2, 1998, 30,000 demonstrators peacefully marched in Pristina to protest the massacre of February 28 and were brutally attacked by Serbian police;

Whereas a group calling itself the Liberation Army of Kosova has threatened to retaliate against the atrocities committed by Serbian authorities;

Whereas new elections in Kosova scheduled for March 22, 1998, have now been postponed; and

Whereas the President of the United States and other officials have warned the Government of Serbia that there would be serious consequences if Serbian policies led to an escalation of violence in Kosova: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the violent repression carried out by the
 4 Serbian police and paramilitary forces against the
 5 ethnic Albanian population of Kosova should be con-
 6 demned by the United States and the international
 7 community;

8 (2) efforts of the international Contact Group
 9 (the United States, United Kingdom, France, Ger-
 10 many, Russia, and Italy) in support of a resolution
 11 of the conflict in Kosova are to be commended and
 12 intensified;

13 (3) no international or United States sanctions
 14 currently in force against the Government of Serbia
 15 and Montenegro should be terminated at this time,
 16 unless such termination serves to support a peaceful
 17 resolution to the repression in Kosova;

18 (4) the United States should consult with its al-
 19 lies and other members of the United Nations on re-
 20 imposing those sanctions against Serbia-Montenegro
 21 that were terminated following the signing of the
 22 Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995 if Serbian au-

1 thorities continue to use unlawful violence against
2 the Albanian people of Kosova;

3 (5) the United States should acknowledge re-
4 cent developments in the Republic of Montenegro
5 that indicate that the new leadership of the Republic
6 is seeking a peaceful resolution to the repression in
7 Kosova, particularly the statement by Montenegrin
8 President Milo Djukanovic that Kosova must receive
9 a certain degree of autonomy, and his call for a dia-
10 log between the Government of Serbia and Montene-
11 gro and ethnic Albanians in Kosova;

12 (6) the United States should, to the extent
13 practicable, recognize positive actions by the Govern-
14 ment of the Republic of Montenegro with regard to
15 repression in Kosova through exclusion from those
16 sanctions that may be applied to the Government of
17 Serbia;

18 (7) the elections in Kosova originally scheduled
19 for March 22, 1998, and now postponed, should be
20 allowed to proceed unimpeded by Belgrade whenever
21 they take place, as they represent the opportunity
22 for a peaceful expression of the political will of the
23 Albanian people of Kosova;

24 (8) all parties should refrain from acts that
25 could lead to heightened tensions in Kosova;

1 (9) international and nongovernmental organi-
2 zations that provide medical assistance should be
3 permitted immediate and unrestricted access to
4 Kosova and all of its citizens;

5 (10) international investigators of serious
6 breaches of international humanitarian law should
7 be granted immediate and unimpeded access to all
8 parts of Kosova and to its citizens;

9 (11) the agreement on education in Kosova
10 should be implemented immediately, including at the
11 university level, allowing all residents of Kosova re-
12 gardless of ethnicity to receive education in their na-
13 tive tongue;

14 (12) the elected leaders of Kosova should begin
15 a dialog without preconditions with the authorities
16 in Belgrade to resolve the present situation, and to
17 provide for the exercise of the legitimate civil and
18 political rights of all the people of Kosova;

19 (13) inasmuch as the Belgrade regime led by
20 the last Communist dictator in Europe, Slobodan
21 Milosevic, continues to abuse democratic norms and
22 the rights of all its citizens, threatening general re-
23 gional stability, the United States should undertake
24 determined measures and provisions designed to pro-

1 mote human rights and democratic government
2 throughout Serbia and Montenegro;

3 (14) the authorities of Serbia-Montenegro
4 should cooperate fully with efforts and initiatives of
5 the Organization for Security and Cooperation in
6 Europe (OSCE) to address the problems in Kosova,
7 including the immediate and unconditional return of
8 a Mission of Long Duration;

9 (15) staff of the United States Information
10 Agency office in Pristina, Kosova, should be aug-
11 mented; and

12 (16) the United Nations Security Council
13 should consider the question of restoration of the
14 human and political rights of the people of Kosova
15 and actions to halt Belgrade's violent repression of
16 the region's population.

Passed the House of Representatives March 18,
1998.

Attest:

Robin H. Carle,
Clerk.