

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 315

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress condemning the atrocities by Serbian police and military forces against Albanians in Kosova and urging that blocked assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) under control of the United States and other governments be used to compensate the Albanians in Kosova for losses suffered through Serbian police and military action.

Whereas the ethnic Albanian population of the province of Kosova, which makes up the overwhelming majority of the population of that area, has been denied internationally recognized human rights and political rights, including the protection of life, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press;

Whereas Serbian police and military forces have engaged in brutal suppression of the Albanian people, and the number of Serbian police and military forces which have been deployed in Kosova is estimated at some 50,000 men;

Whereas human rights groups have reported and documented instances of Serbian forces conducting abductions and summary executions of innocent ethnic Albanian civilians in reprisal killings that are similar to those conducted by Nazi forces during World War II and are similar to the ethnic cleansing which was carried out by ethnic Serbian troops in Bosnia;

Whereas Serbian forces have indiscriminately shelled and burned villages, reducing them to rubble, in order to drive out the ethnic Albanian inhabitants, inflicting heavy material losses upon the ethnic Albanians in Kosova;

Whereas hundreds of ethnic Albanians, including women and children, have been killed and over 200,000 ethnic Albanians have been forced to flee and have become refugees as a result of this Serbian military action;

Whereas the stubborn denial of human rights and political rights to the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosova by the Government of Serbia has been the major factor in the radicalization of the political situation in the province and made the prospects of a peaceful resolution of the conflict there difficult if not impossible;

Whereas the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) resulted in 5 independent states and the ownership of the blocked assets of the SFRY has yet to be determined and apportioned among the successor states; and

Whereas the United States and the governments of other countries have blocked the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as part of the blocked assets of the SFRY: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) deeply deplores and strongly condemns the
4 appalling loss of life and the extensive destruction of
5 property in Kosova that is the consequence of the
6 brutal actions of Serbian police and military forces
7 against the ethnic Albanian population of the prov-
8 ince;

9 (2) believes that the Government of Serbia is
10 primarily responsible for the loss of life and destruc-
11 tion of property, and thus Serbia should bear the
12 principal burden of providing compensation for the
13 loss of life and for the costs of rebuilding areas
14 which its forces have devastated;

15 (3) urges the President and officials he des-
16 ignates to work with the Congress to draft legisla-
17 tion and regulations which will permit the claims of
18 ethnic Albanians from Kosova who have suffered as
19 a consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police
20 and military forces in Kosova to be considered, with-
21 out prejudice to the claims of United States nation-
22 als, when claims settlement negotiations involving

1 the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
2 (Serbia and Montenegro) which the United States
3 has blocked or asserted control over takes place;

4 (4) urges that, in drafting such legislation and
5 implementing regulations, special consideration be
6 given to the circumstances of the Government of the
7 Republic of Montenegro and to persons located in
8 and organized under the laws of the Republic of
9 Montenegro;

10 (5) urges the President and the Secretary of
11 State to urge all other countries to follow a policy
12 which permits ethnic Albanians who have suffered as
13 a consequence of the brutal actions of Serbian police
14 and military forces in Kosova to make claims
15 against the assets of the Federal Republic of Yugo-
16 slavia (Serbia and Montenegro) which are in the
17 control of the respective country; and

18 (6) requests that a copy of this resolution be
19 transmitted to the President and the Secretary of
20 State by the Clerk of the House of Representatives
21 and the Secretary of the Senate.

Passed the House of Representatives September 23,
1998.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.