

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 332

Expressing concern for the plight of Assyrians in the Near East.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 1997

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

RESOLUTION

Expressing concern for the plight of Assyrians in the Near East.

Whereas Assyrians have suffered profound religious and ethnic discrimination at the hands of certain governments and political factions of the Near East;

Whereas the Assyrian people have made great sacrifices in the effort to oppose the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq and have suffered mightily as a result of their efforts;

Whereas certain governments in the Near East have failed to cooperate fully with the efforts of the United States Department of State and international human rights agencies to account for the disappearances of prominent Assyrians;

Whereas the Assyrian people are a distinct cultural and ethnic group, tracing their heritage back over 6,700 years;

Whereas the Assyrians have made significant and invaluable contributions to the progress of human civilization, such as the university, the library, the postal delivery system, and indoor plumbing;

Whereas the Assyrian language is a unique and living language, with its roots in ancient Akkadian;

Whereas there are almost 3,000,000 Assyrians living throughout the world today and 300,000 living in the United States;

Whereas the Assyrian people have been repeatedly denied their right as a nation to determine their own destiny; and

Whereas the Assyrian people have expressed their desire to coexist peacefully with other peoples in a democratic society: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

3 The House of Representatives—

4 (1) condemns the continuing religious and ethnic discrimination against Assyrians, as well as denial of basic human rights to Assyrians in the Near East;

8 (2) reaffirms that all Assyrians should be entitled to freely practice their religion, speak their language, practice their customs, and celebrate their

1 culture in whatever country they choose to make
2 their home; and

3 (3) strongly urges the governments of the Near
4 East to cooperate fully to ensure that the rights of
5 Assyrians are thoroughly respected.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

7 It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

8 (1) the President should call for an end to the
9 government-sponsored persecution of Assyrians, and
10 further call for all governments to uphold the rights
11 of Assyrians;

12 (2) the President should instruct the Secretary
13 of State to address the issue of Assyrian rights with
14 other governments through the appropriate bilateral
15 and multilateral forums; and

16 (3) the President should instruct the United
17 States Ambassador to the United Nations to work in
18 that body to address the issue of discrimination
19 against Assyrians in the Near East.

○