

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 228

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the peace process in Colombia and calling on the government and all other parties to the current conflict in Colombia to take steps to advance the peace process so as to end the ongoing violence which continues to pose a serious threat to democracy, human rights, and economic and social stability in that nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FARR of California, and Mr. DAVIS of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the peace process in Colombia and calling on the government and all other parties to the current conflict in Colombia to take steps to advance the peace process so as to end the ongoing violence which continues to pose a serious threat to democracy, human rights, and economic and social stability in that nation.

Whereas a civil war has raged in Colombia for 50 years and the dramatic expansion of drug production has exacerbated the violence and contributed to prolonging the conflict;

Whereas on June 21, 1998, close to eleven million Colombians went to the polls, in a clear affirmation of the democratic process, to cast their vote for a mandate for peace;

Whereas as a result of the political violence Colombia suffers from one of the worst human rights situations in the hemisphere today with an estimated 70,000 people killed, with more than 300,000 refugees created in the last three years, and some 1,000,000 Colombians internally displaced as a direct result of the fighting over the last decade;

Whereas the violence has resulted in the deaths of at least 30 human rights defenders, the recent murder of 3 United States citizens and the kidnapping of 2 more, the disappearance of 3 United States missionaries in 1995, and countless assassinations and threats against other human rights workers, professors, intellectuals, and academic researchers;

Whereas the operations of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN), and the various paramilitary units have become increasingly dependent upon, and interconnected with, the illicit narcotics trade;

Whereas the instability in Colombia resulting from the conflict has hindered efforts to eradicate narcotics production and has enabled a freer flow of illicit drugs from Colombia to the United States;

Whereas the continued insurgency of the FARC and ELN guerrillas and the extreme violence of the paramilitaries ultimately poses a major threat to the very democracy of

Colombia, historically one of the strongest and most resilient in the hemisphere, and to the stability of the region;

Whereas international private sector leaders have urged support for the peace process as a means of encouraging investment and revitalization of Colombia's economy; and

Whereas a negotiated settlement is the only long-term solution for ending the internal conflict in Colombia and for protecting United States interests in the region: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) commends the people of Colombia for their  
3       continued demonstration of support for the demo-  
4       cratic process as well as for an end to the internal  
5       conflict plaguing that nation;

6               (2) commends President Andres Pastrana for  
7       his strong commitment to seek an end to the guer-  
8       rilla insurgency and paramilitary violence in Colom-  
9       bia and for his efforts to begin a peace process;

10              (3) commends the Colombian Government and  
11       military leadership for their initial steps toward re-  
12       moving from the armed forces officers found to be  
13       linked to illegal and unacceptable activities of  
14       paramilitaries;

15              (4) condemns the violations of human rights,  
16       including murder and kidnappings, that continue in  
17       Colombia, particularly the murder at the hands of  
18       the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

1 (FARC) guerrillas of 3 United States citizens, the  
2 disappearance of 3 United States missionaries in  
3 territory controlled by the FARC, and the recent  
4 mass kidnappings and hijackings by the National  
5 Liberation Army (ELN), which resulted in 2 United  
6 States citizens being taken hostage;

7 (5) urges the leaders of the FARC and the  
8 ELN, and the leaders of the paramilitary groups, to  
9 end the violence, agree to suspend all kidnappings,  
10 release all hostages, renounce their relationships  
11 with the narcotics trade, and negotiate a meaningful  
12 peace accord with the Government of Colombia  
13 which would provide lasting peace, a reaffirmation of  
14 the democratic principles of government, and eco-  
15 nomic and social justice for all Colombians;

16 (6) urges the Government of Colombia to rap-  
17 idly and effectively implement a program to help  
18 protect threatened human rights workers;

19 (7) encourages the FARC and the Government  
20 of Colombia to agree to the establishment of an  
21 international observer group which would monitor  
22 the “despeje” zone and report on new or existing il-  
23 legal narcotics activities and human rights abuses in  
24 that zone;

1           (8) urges the FARC to demonstrate its renunci-  
2           ation of the narcotics trade by verifiably eradicating  
3           coca cultivation in 10,000 hectares of the “despeje”  
4           zone and by cooperating with the Government of Co-  
5           lombia in converting those hectares to the cultivation  
6           of substitute legal crops;

7           (9) welcomes the agreement between the FARC  
8           and the Government of Colombia to create a com-  
9           mission to investigate and provide a final report on  
10          the fate of the 3 United States missionaries of the  
11          New Tribes Mission missing in Colombia;

12          (10) calls upon the international community to  
13          play a more active role in helping to resolve the in-  
14          ternal conflict in Colombia by encouraging all sides  
15          to participate in the peace process; and

16          (11) reaffirms the support of the United States  
17          for the peace process in Colombia, commits the  
18          United States to assist the Government of Colombia  
19          in finding a peaceful resolution to the internal con-  
20          flict, continues to support United States assistance  
21          to help strengthen political stability and economic  
22          growth, and continues to cooperate with all segments  
23          of Colombian society who demonstrate a clear and

- 1 unequivocal commitment to combating the drug
- 2 trade within Colombia.

