

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 285

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the referendum in East Timor and calling on the Government of Indonesia and all other parties to the current civil unrest in East Timor to assist in any attempts to immediately terminate the paramilitary's campaign of violence and terror and comply with the overwhelming results of the August 30, 1999, popular consultation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KING, Ms. LEE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LUTHER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mrs. MORELLA) 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 referendum in East Timor and calling on the Government of Indonesia and all other parties to the current civil unrest in East Timor to assist in any attempts to immediately terminate the paramilitary's campaign of violence and terror and comply with the overwhelming results of the August 30, 1999, popular consultation.

Whereas in 1975 the newly independent Portuguese colony of East Timor was invaded and occupied by Indonesia;

Whereas for the past 24 years, East Timorese pro-independence groups have been brutally repressed by the Indonesian military (ABRI/TNI) and more recently by military-backed paramilitary units engaged in kidnapping, torture, and murder;

Whereas more than 200,000 East Timorese have perished in violent conflicts;

Whereas on May 5, 1999, Portugal, Indonesia, and the United Nations concluded an historic agreement intended to resolve the long-standing issue of East Timor through a popular consultation based upon a universal, direct, and secret ballot;

Whereas the agreement gave the East Timorese people an opportunity to accept a proposed special autonomy for East Timor within the unitary Republic of Indonesia or reject the special autonomy and opt for independence;

Whereas on June 11, 1999, the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET), which proceeded to organize and conduct the popular consultation; and

Whereas on August 30, 1999, in a show of courage and determination, 98.5 percent of registered East Timorese went to the polls to express their will as to the future of their territory, and by a vote of 344,580 to 94,388 overwhelmingly chose independence: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) commends the people of East Timor for

3       their unrelenting perseverance to cast their vote on

1 the future status of East Timor in a democratic  
2 manner;

3 (2) congratulates the people of East Timor on  
4 their exemplary participation in the August 30,  
5 1999, popular consultation;

6 (3) condemns the post-election violence carried  
7 out by paramilitary groups against United Nations  
8 personnel and the people of East Timor;

9 (4) is concerned about the imposition of martial  
10 law by Indonesia in East Timor;

11 (5) further condemns the assaults upon refu-  
12 gees seeking protection in churches, the Inter-  
13 national Red Cross, and other places of sanctuary;

14 (6) calls for international action to address the  
15 humanitarian crisis in which thousands of refugees  
16 from East Timor are blocked from receiving food or  
17 medical care;

18 (7) reaffirms the profound concern of the  
19 United States for the incalculable human suffering  
20 inflicted on the East Timorese and demands an im-  
21 mediate halt to the violence and a peaceful transi-  
22 tion to independence for East Timor;

23 (8) encourages efforts on behalf of the United  
24 Nations to put pressure on the Government of Indo-

1       nesia to attempt to control, disarm, and disband the  
2       brutal militias in East Timor;

3           (9) calls on the President—

4               (A) to suspend all remaining military as-  
5               sistance to Indonesia until the paramilitaries in  
6               East Timor are controlled; and

7               (B) to condition all future assistance to In-  
8               donesia, except for humanitarian assistance,  
9               upon the ability and willingness of the Govern-  
10              ment of Indonesia to control paramilitary and  
11              militia forces and to restore order and respect  
12              for human rights in East Timor;

13           (10) calls upon international organizations, in-  
14           cluding the World Bank and the International Mone-  
15           tary Fund, to condition all future assistance to Indo-  
16           nesia, except for humanitarian assistance, upon the  
17           ability and willingness of the Government of Indo-  
18           nesia to control paramilitary and militia forces and  
19           to restore order and respect for human rights in  
20           East Timor;

21           (11) encourages efforts by the United Nations  
22           envoys in Indonesia to express the outrage of the  
23           international community over the violence in East  
24           Timor and to make plain to the Government of In-  
25           donesia its responsibility to restrain paramilitary

1 forces and to restore order and respect for human  
2 rights in East Timor;

3 (12) calls upon the United Nations Security  
4 Council to offer assistance to the Government of In-  
5 donesia in restoring order in East Timor;

6 (13) welcomes continued dialogue between  
7 United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and  
8 Indonesian authorities, including President B.J.  
9 Habibie and Defense Minister Wiranto, for further  
10 measures to restore law and order in East Timor;

11 (14) encourages increased United States sup-  
12 port for an expanded United Nations mandate with  
13 respect to East Timor, and significantly more  
14 United Nations personnel, leading toward assump-  
15 tion of responsibility by the United Nations for ad-  
16 ministration and security in East Timor;

17 (15) calls upon the international community to  
18 play an active role in helping to resolve the internal  
19 conflict in East Timor by encouraging all sides to  
20 participate in the peace process; and

21 (16) further calls upon the United Nations Se-  
22 curity Council, should it determine that the Govern-  
23 ment of Indonesia is unable or unwilling to maintain  
24 order in East Timor, to authorize member states of

- 1 the United Nations to protect the lives and human
- 2 rights of East Timor refugees.

