

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 52

Condemning the destruction of pre-Islamic statues in Afghanistan by the
Taliban regime.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. OLVER, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. STARK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. DICKS, and Ms. MCCOLLUM) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the destruction of pre-Islamic statues in
Afghanistan by the Taliban regime.

- 1 Whereas many of the oldest and most significant Buddhist
- 2 statues in the world are in Afghanistan, which, at the
- 3 time that many of the statues were carved, was one
- 4 of the most cosmopolitan regions in the world and
- 5 hosted merchants, travelers, and artists from China,
- 6 India, central Asia, and the Roman Empire;

1 Whereas such statues are part of the common heritage
2 of mankind, which must be preserved for future gen-
3 erations;

4 Whereas on February 26, 2001, the leader of the Taliban
5 regime, Mullah Mohammad Omar, ordered the de-
6 struction of all pre-Islamic statues in Afghanistan,
7 among them a pair of 1,600-year-old, 100-foot-tall
8 statues of Buddha that are carved out of a mountain-
9 side;

10 Whereas the religion of Islam and Buddhist statues have
11 coexisted in Afghanistan as part of the unique histor-
12 ical and cultural heritage of that nation for more than
13 1,100 years;

14 Whereas the destruction of the pre-Islamic statues con-
15 tradicts the basic tenet of the Islamic religion that
16 other religions should be tolerated;

17 Whereas people of all faiths and nationalities have con-
18 demned the destruction of the statues in Afghanistan,
19 including Muslim communities around the world; and

20 Whereas the destruction of the statues violates the United
21 Nations Convention Concerning the Protection of the
22 World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was rati-
23 fied by Afghanistan on March 20, 1979: Now, there-
24 fore, be it

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

3 (1) joins with people and governments around
4 the world in condemning the destruction of pre-Is-
5 lamic statues in Afghanistan by the Taliban regime;

6 (2) urges the Taliban regime to stop destroying
7 such statues; and

8 (3) calls upon the Taliban regime to grant the
9 United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural
10 Organization and other international organizations
11 immediate access to Afghanistan to survey the dam-
12 age and facilitate international efforts to preserve
13 and safeguard the remaining statues.

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