

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1591

To prohibit the United States Government from providing financing for non-governmental organizations or individuals to carry out military, law enforcement, armed rescue, or other related operations in the countries of the Andean region, including any operations relating to narcotics control efforts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To prohibit the United States Government from providing financing for nongovernmental organizations or individuals to carry out military, law enforcement, armed rescue, or other related operations in the countries of the Andean region, including any operations relating to narcotics control efforts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Andean Region Con-
5 tractor Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Hundreds of civilians, including many
4 United States citizens, are working with the military
5 and police forces of the Republic of Colombia and
6 other countries of the Andean region under con-
7 tracts between the United States Government and
8 several private corporations. The duties of such indi-
9 viduals include piloting drug-crop fumigation air-
10 craft, flying helicopters transporting army battal-
11 ions, serving as mechanics and logistics personnel,
12 assisting the reform of the security forces, per-
13 forming armed search-and-rescue missions, and
14 gathering aerial intelligence, among others.

15 (2) On February 18, 2001, United States con-
16 tractor personnel on a search-and-rescue mission in
17 the guerrilla-held zone of Curillo, in Colombia's
18 Caquetá region, were involved in an exchange of fire
19 with members of Colombia's FARC guerrilla groups,
20 raising concerns about force protection and prox-
21 imity to Colombia's conflict.

22 (3) According to the Inspector General of the
23 Department of State, three United States contract
24 personnel have died while piloting spray planes over
25 Colombian territory since 1997.

1 (4) Contract personnel are being employed in
2 circumstances and locations in Colombia which, for
3 force protection reasons, would generally be off-lim-
4 its to uniformed United States personnel.

5 (5) Increasing use of private contract personnel
6 raises questions of accountability and transparency
7 in the management of United States policy toward
8 Colombia and other countries of the Andean region.

9 (6) On April 20, 2001, a plane operated by in-
10 nocent United States civilians conducting missionary
11 work was shot down in the airspace of the Republic
12 of Peru. The plane was targeted as a result of intel-
13 ligence sharing between Central Intelligence Agency-
14 contracted private military personnel and Peruvian
15 authorities. As a result, Veronica “Roni” Bowers,
16 age 35, and her 7-month old daughter Charity were
17 killed.

18 (7) Basic information about the extent of activi-
19 ties of private military contractors in Colombia and
20 in other countries of the Andean region is generally
21 unavailable to the public.

1 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON FINANCING OF PRIVATE MILI-**
2 **TARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR ARMED RES-**
3 **CUE OPERATIONS IN ANDEAN REGION COUN-**
4 **TRIES.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding chapter 8 of
6 part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 or any other
7 provision of law, no officer or employee of the United
8 States Government may enter into a contract or other
9 agreement under which the United States Government
10 provides financing, in whole or in part, for a nongovern-
11 mental organization (including a corporation or other
12 business entity) or individual to carry out military, law
13 enforcement, armed rescue, or other related operations in
14 the countries of the Andean region, including any oper-
15 ations relating to narcotics control efforts.

16 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
17 section (a) shall be construed to prohibit the financing,
18 in whole or in part, for a nongovernmental organization
19 (including a corporation or other business entity) or indi-
20 vidual to carry out humanitarian activities, including the
21 delivery of food, in the countries of the Andean region.

22 **SEC. 4. DEFINITION.**

23 In this Act, the term “countries of the Andean re-
24 gion” means the Republic of Bolivia, the Federative Re-
25 public of Brazil, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic

1 of Colombia, the Republic of Panama, the Republic of
2 Peru, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

