

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 300

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding so-called “honor killings”.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2003

Mr. NADLER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was  
referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding so-called  
“honor killings”.

Whereas thousands of women around the world are killed and  
maimed each year in the name of family “honor”;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights,  
56th Session, January 2000, working with the Special  
Rapporteurs on violence against women and extrajudicial,  
summary, or arbitrary executions, received reports of so-  
called “honor killings” from numerous countries, and  
noted that such killings take many forms, such as flog-  
ging, forced suicide, stoning, beheading, acid throwing,  
and burning;

Whereas according “crimes of honor” include acid throwing  
and whipping of women accused of moral indiscretion;

Whereas thousands of women and girls are stabbed, burned, or maimed every year by husbands, fathers, and brothers who accuse them of dishonoring their family by being unfaithful, seeking a divorce, or refusing an arranged marriage;

Whereas women accused of adultery are subject to a maximum penalty of death by stoning in numerous countries;

Whereas even though “honor killings” may be outlawed, law enforcement and judicial systems often fail to properly investigate, arrest, and prosecute offenders and laws frequently permit reduction in sentences or exemptions from prosecution for those who “kill in the name of honor” typically resulting in a token punishment, impunity, and continued violence against women; and

Whereas the right to exist is the most fundamental of all rights and must be guaranteed to every individual without discrimination, and the perpetuation of “honor killings” and dowry deaths is a deliberate violation of women’s human rights that should be universally condemned: Now, therefore, be it

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

3            (1) the United States, through the United  
4        States Agency for International Development,  
5        should—

6            (A) work with foreign law enforcement and  
7        judicial agencies to enact legal system reforms  
8        to more effectively address the investigation and  
9        prosecution of so-called “honor crimes”; and

1 (B) make resources available to local orga-  
2 nizations to provide refuge and rehabilitation  
3 for women who are victims of “honor crimes”  
4 and the children of such women;

5 (2) the Department of State, when preparing  
6 yearly Country Reports on Human Rights Practices,  
7 should include—

8 (A) information relating to the incidence of  
9 “honor violence” in foreign countries;

10 (B) the steps taken by foreign govern-  
11 ments to address the problem of “honor vio-  
12 lence”; and

13 (C) all relevant actions taken by the  
14 United States, whether through diplomacy or  
15 foreign assistance programs, to reduce the inci-  
16 dence of “honor violence” and to increase inves-  
17 tigations and prosecutions of such crimes;

18 (3) the United States should communicate to  
19 the United Nations its concern over the high rate of  
20 honor-related violence toward women worldwide and  
21 request that the appropriate United Nations bodies,  
22 in consultation with relevant nongovernmental orga-  
23 nizations, propose actions to be taken to encourage  
24 these countries to demonstrate strong efforts to end  
25 such violence; and

1           (4) the President and the Secretary of State  
2       should communicate directly with leaders of coun-  
3       tries where “honor killings”, dowry deaths, and re-  
4       lated practices are endemic, in order to convey the  
5       Nation’s most serious concerns over these gross vio-  
6       lations of human rights and urge these leaders to in-  
7       vestigate and prosecute all such acts as murder, with  
8       the appropriate penalties.

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