

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 466

Urging the Government of India to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation of the scope of abusive child labor in circuses throughout India and to pursue immediate and effective remedies to end such abuse, and to provide immediate and continuous police protection to secure the personal safety of Kailash Satyarthi, his family, and his colleagues in the South Asian Coalition Against Child Servitude.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2004

Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of India to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation of the scope of abusive child labor in circuses throughout India and to pursue immediate and effective remedies to end such abuse, and to provide immediate and continuous police protection to secure the personal safety of Kailash Satyarthi, his family, and his colleagues in the South Asian Coalition Against Child Servitude.

Whereas Kailash Satyarthi, his family, and his colleagues in the South Asian Coalition Against Child Servitude (SACCS) have rescued tens of thousands of defenseless

children from slavery and other manifestations of the worst forms of child labor around the world;

Whereas Kailash Satyarthi is widely respected around the world for his extraordinary work as Chairperson of the Global March Against Child Labor, which prompted unanimous adoption by the International Labor Organization in 1999 of Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and its subsequent ratification by 150 countries at a record-setting pace, including its ratification by the United States in 1999;

Whereas Kailash Satyarthi is one of the founders and leaders of the Global Campaign for Universal Access to Basic Education, the mission of which is to ensure that by 2015 all children in the world receive a basic education;

Whereas the courageous and innovative work of Kailash Satyarthi has secured the release of countless children on every continent from the scourge of abusive child labor during the past twenty years, has inspired both the powerful and the powerless to fight anew against abusive child labor, and has empowered more children to reach their fullest human potential and realize more of their dreams;

Whereas Kailash Satyarthi, his son, and his SACCS colleagues were brutally attacked on June 15, 2004, when they were leading a group of local activists and parents to rescue Nepalese children trafficked and trapped in bondage with the Great Roman Circus camping at Colonelganj town in the Gonda District of the Province of Uttar Pradesh in India;

Whereas, according to eyewitness accounts and media reports on major news channels in India, Kailash Satyarthi and

his rescue team were attacked with guns, knives, and other weapons and they sustained serious head and bodily injuries before barely escaping their assailants and leaving behind the Nepalese children trapped in the Great Roman Circus;

Whereas the local civil and police authorities in the Gonda District of Uttar Pradesh did nothing to prevent this brutal attack and there is mounting evidence of their complicity in it, in flagrant contradiction of the improving national efforts by the Government of India to redress the problems and suffering associated with at least 50,000,000 child laborers in India;

Whereas the defenseless children that Kailash Satyarthi and his colleagues tried to rescue through nonviolent means are still being held captive by the owners and operators of the Great Roman Circus; and

Whereas Kailash Satyarthi began an indefinite fast on June 18, 2004, outside the halls of the provincial government of Uttar Pradesh to demand the immediate and unconditional release of all captive children in the Great Roman Circus, the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for holding the children against their will, and a thorough governmental investigation into the employment and conditions of the children working in all of the circuses in India: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) urges the Government of India, the provin-
 4 cial government in Uttar Pradesh, and the local gov-
 5 ernment in the Gonda District to take immediate ac-

1 tion to secure the unconditional release of the chil-
2 dren being held by the owners and operators of the
3 Great Roman Circus;

4 (2) urges the Government of India, the provin-
5 cial government of Uttar Pradesh, and the local gov-
6 ernment in Gonda District to provide immediate and
7 continuous police protection to secure the personal
8 safety of Kailash Satyarthi, his family, and his col-
9 leagues in the South Asian Coalition Against Child
10 Servitude who were brutally attacked on June 15,
11 2004, and to prevent any future attacks;

12 (3) urges the Government of India and the pro-
13 vincial government of Uttar Pradesh to fully inves-
14 tigate the June 15, 2004, attack on Kailash
15 Satyarthi, his son, and his colleagues and to arrest
16 and prosecute to the fullest extent of all applicable
17 laws those individuals who ordered and participated
18 in the attack; and

19 (4) urges the Government of India to conduct
20 a thorough and transparent investigation of the
21 scope of abusive child labor in circuses throughout
22 India and to pursue immediate and effective rem-
23 edies to end such abuse.

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