

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 272

Expressing concern for the status of the Assyrian people in post-war Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WATSON, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. HONDA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing concern for the status of the Assyrian people
in post-war Iraq.

Whereas the Assyrian Empire was a kingdom in northern Mesopotamia, located in what is now northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey;

Whereas the Assyrian people are a distinct cultural and ethnic group, tracing their heritage back over 6,700 years;

Whereas the Assyrians have made significant and invaluable contributions to the progress of human civilization;

Whereas the Assyrian language is a unique and living language, with its roots in ancient Akkadian;

Whereas the Assyrian people have suffered profound religious and ethnic discrimination by the Iraqi government under Saddam Hussein;

Whereas the Assyrian people have made great sacrifices in the effort to oppose the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq and have suffered greatly as a result of their efforts;

Whereas the rapid disintegration of Iraq's armed forces at the conclusion of Operation Iraqi Freedom created a vacuum in authority and security for the people of Iraq;

Whereas the Assyrian people have been repeatedly denied their right as a nation to determine their own destiny; and

Whereas the Assyrian people have expressed their desire to coexist peacefully with other peoples in a democratic Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the Sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) Assyrians should be entitled to freely prac-
4 tice their religion and customs, speak their language,
5 and celebrate their culture in Iraq;

6 (2) Assyrian leaders in Iraq should be consulted
7 and included in discussions regarding the composi-
8 tion of the future government of Iraq;

9 (3) the President should call for the future gov-
10 ernment of Iraq to uphold the rights of Assyrians;

11 (4) the President should instruct the Secretary
12 of State to consider the concerns and rights of As-

1 syrians through the appropriate bilateral and
2 mulilateral forums as debate over post-war Iraq con-
3 tinues; and

4 (5) the President should instruct the United
5 States Ambassador to the United Nations to work in
6 that international organization to ensure that the
7 rights and concerns of Assyrians in Iraq are consid-
8 ered as debate over post-war Iraq continues.

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