

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 371

Commending the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their political reform efforts and wishing them continued success in their democratization efforts.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. ACKERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Commending the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for their political reform efforts and wishing them continued success in their democratization efforts.

Whereas on June 17, 2003, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan held parliamentary elections, the fourth since 1989, and the first during the rein of His Majesty King Abdullah II;

Whereas the elections were conducted in an orderly and transparent manner;

Whereas municipal elections for the capital city of Amman were held on July 26 and 27, 2003, and other local councils' elections will be held in September 2003;

Whereas Jordan has placed high importance in recent years on the rights of women to vote and run for public office, thereby serving as a model for other countries in the region;

Whereas six seats in the Jordanian House of Deputies are reserved for female candidates, over and above any seats freely won in the elections, to ensure the participation and representation of women in the development of Jordan's political life and freedoms;

Whereas progress toward democracy and pluralism in Jordan has been significant, and both the Jordanian leadership and the people of Jordan are committed to continuing this progress;

Whereas His Majesty King Abdullah II recently stated at the World Economic Forum: "We in Jordan—and many others, throughout the Middle East—are working hard to create a civic environment in which our people will thrive. The basic requirement is an inclusive, democratic civil society—one that guarantees rights, delegates responsibilities, honors merit and rewards achievement. The foundation stones on which we build are peace and stability, basic civil and political rights, essential services, freedom of expression and the rule of law.";

Whereas the National Center for Human Rights and an independent Higher Media Council have been recently established to strengthen Jordan's commitment to human rights as an integral part of the country's overall efforts to achieve political and democratic reforms; and

Whereas Jordan continues to invest in reforming its educational system to incorporate democratic values and

principles in order to solidify the roots of democracy in its civil society: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) commends the people and the Government  
3       of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for conducting  
4       transparent participatory elections;

5               (2) express its desire that this process toward  
6       democratization continues to thrive to become a  
7       model for other Arab countries;

8               (3) reaffirms the friendship and the special re-  
9       lations that exist between the people of the United  
10      States and the people of Jordan;

11              (4) offers its commitment to assist Jordan in  
12      its future challenges of democratic reform to ensure  
13      democracy is able to grow and flourish; and

14              (5) commends His Majesty King Abdullah II  
15      for his efforts in promoting political, economic, and  
16      social reforms, and for his unequivocal determination  
17      to promote peace in the Middle East.

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