

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 466

Conveying the sympathy of the House of Representatives to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. REYES, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Conveying the sympathy of the House of Representatives to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.

Whereas the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juárez has been plagued with the abduction, sexual assault, and brutal murders of more than 370 young women since 1993;

Whereas these abductions and murders have begun to spread south to the city of Chihuahua;

Whereas more than 90 of these murders show signs of being connected to one or more serial killers;

Whereas some of the victims are as young as 13 years old, and many were abducted in broad daylight in well-populated areas;

Whereas these murders have brought pain as the families and friends of the victims on both sides of the border struggle to cope with the loss of their loved ones;

Whereas many of the victims have yet to be positively identified;

Whereas to date the perpetrators of most of these heinous acts remain unknown;

Whereas the Mexican Federal Government has taken steps to prevent these abductions and murders, including setting up a commission to coordinate Federal and State efforts in Mexico, establishing a 40-point plan, and appointing a special commissioner;

Whereas in 2003 the Federal Bureau of Investigation's El Paso Field Office and the El Paso Police Department began providing Mexican authorities with training in investigation techniques and methods;

Whereas the Government of the State of Chihuahua has jurisdiction over these crimes;

Whereas Mexico is a party to the following international treaties that relate to abductions and murders: the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Declaration on Violence Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the

Child, the Convention of Belém do Pará, the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance, and the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance; and

Whereas impunity for these crimes is a threat to Mexico's ability to consolidate its growing democracy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the abductions and murders of
3 young women in Ciudad Juárez and the city of Chihuahua in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, since
4 1993;

5 (2) expresses its sincerest condolences and
6 deepest sympathy to the families of the young
7 women killed in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico,
8 since 1993, many of whom appear to be victims of
9 one or more serial murderers;

10 (3) recognizes the courageous struggle of the
11 victims' families in seeking justice for the victims;

12 (4) urges the President and Secretary of State
13 to express concern over these abductions and murders to the Government of Mexico and to request
14 that the investigative and preventative efforts of the
15 Mexican Government become part of the bilateral
16 agenda between the Governments of Mexico and the
17 United States;

1 (5) urges the President and Secretary of State
2 to express support for the efforts of the victims'
3 families to seek justice for the victims, to express
4 concern relating to the continued harassment of
5 these families and the human rights defenders with
6 which they work, and to express concern with re-
7 spect to impediments in the ability of the families to
8 receive prompt and accurate information in their
9 cases;

10 (6) supports multilateral efforts to create a
11 DNA database that would allow families to positively
12 identify the remains of the victims and encourages
13 the Secretary of State to facilitate United States
14 participation in such a DNA database;

15 (7) encourages the Secretary of State to include
16 in the Department of State's annual Country Report
17 on Human Rights all instances of improper inves-
18 tigatory methods, threats against human rights ac-
19 tivists, and the use of torture with respect to cases
20 involving the murder and abduction of young women
21 in the State of Chihuahua;

22 (8) recommends that the United States Amba-
23 sador to Mexico visit Ciudad Juárez and the city of
24 Chihuahua to meet with the families of the victims,
25 women's rights organizations, and Mexican Federal

1 and State officials responsible for investigating these
2 crimes and preventing future such crimes;

3 (9) condemns the use of torture as a means of
4 investigation into these crimes;

5 (10) encourages the Secretary of State to urge
6 the Government of Mexico to ensure fair and proper
7 judicial proceedings for the individuals accused of
8 these abductions and murders and to impose appro-
9 priate punishment for those individuals subsequently
10 determined to be guilty of such crimes;

11 (11) condemns all senseless acts of violence in
12 all parts of the world and violence against women in
13 particular; and

14 (12) expresses the solidarity of the people of the
15 United States with the people of Mexico in the face
16 of these tragic and senseless acts.

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