

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 801

Expressing support for the restoration of multi-party democracy, prevention of Maoist conquest, re-establishment of security, government services, exercise of political rights, and respect for human rights in Nepal.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2006

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

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the restoration of multi-party democracy, prevention of Maoist conquest, re-establishment of security, government services, exercise of political rights, and respect for human rights in Nepal.

Whereas, in February 2005, King Gyanendra of Nepal dismissed the Government of Nepal, arrested dissidents and political opponents, imposed a broad array of restrictions on civil liberties, seriously setting back Nepal's democracy and eroding even further the unity of legitimate political force in opposition to the Maoist insurgency in that country;

Whereas King Gyanendra held local municipal elections on February 8, 2006, a year after he seized direct power,

saying the vote will precede the long overdue general elections he has promised to hold by April 2007;

Whereas King Gyanendra claimed the elections to be part of his “road map” back to democracy, but most Nepalese believe it was another ploy to tighten his grip on power;

Whereas members of the opposition seven-party alliance made a public appeal to actively boycott the elections and asked the international community not to recognize the results because the King’s autocratic regime was, in effect, seizing all the fundamental rights of the Nepalese people by staging an election that was guised as free and fair;

Whereas New Delhi, Washington, Tokyo, and the European Union (EU) each expressed their concern with the King’s actions;

Whereas India and the United States suspended the sale of military equipment to Nepal;

Whereas the Maoist insurgency, along with the violence of the security forces, in Nepal has killed approximately 13,000 people since 1996, and the insurgency continues to undermine political stability and prospects for economic development in the country;

Whereas King Gyanendra’s inability to subdue the Maoist insurgency and his repression of pro-democratic elements has undermined his legitimacy;

Whereas King Gyanendra has suppressed the peaceful nationwide pro-democracy demonstration originally scheduled for April 6–9, 2006, by imposing a curfew;

Whereas the King’s actions demonstrate that the royal government has closed down all doors for dialogue;

Whereas the EU Heads of Mission in Katmandu, Nepal, condemn the ban of protests in large areas of Katmandu and the consequent arrests of many Democratic Party leaders and members of professional and civil society organizations prior to the demonstrations planned for April 6–9, 2006;

Whereas the EU Heads of Mission believe that such actions further aggravate the atmosphere of confrontation in Nepal and are not conducive to constructive dialogue;

Whereas Nepalese security forces have killed fifteen protestors, hundreds of people have been injured, and thousands of people have been arrested during the demonstrations that, for the first time, brought thousands of business people into the streets alongside students and political activists;

Whereas the pro-democracy demonstrations lasted for nearly three weeks;

Whereas King Gyanendra made a speech on April 24, 2006, stating that he will reinstate the parliament in Nepal;

Whereas Nepal's political parties must assume the responsibility to develop a plan toward democracy; and

Whereas the development of a plan for democracy will require the full participation of the political parties to oversee a peaceful political process to implement the will of the Nepalese people: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

3 (A) reiterates its support for the restora-
4 tion of multi-party democracy in Nepal;

1 (B) condemns the Maoist insurgency in
2 Nepal which has engaged in civilian atrocities;

3 (C) recognizes the difficulties the Royal
4 Nepalese Army (RNA) faces in countering the
5 Maoist threat, but deplores RNA violations of
6 human rights;

7 (D) reiterates its support for reconciliation
8 between King Gyanendra of Nepal and the op-
9 position political parties, and a return to de-
10 mocracy as the only path toward an effective
11 counter-insurgency strategy and the restoration
12 of security, government services, exercise of po-
13 litical rights, and respect for human rights;

14 (E) supports the action to reinstate par-
15 liament and urges him to give the political par-
16 ties the authority to hold elections for a con-
17 stituent assembly that would write a new con-
18 stitution;

19 (F) regrets the loss of life and injuries that
20 occurred during the nearly three weeks of pro-
21 democracy demonstrations; and

22 (G) urges the Government of Nepal and
23 the political parties to provide the necessary
24 food, medical care, and infrastructure necessary
25 to rebuild the country; and

1 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
2 tives that King Gyanendra should—

3 (A) restore a multi-party democracy;

4 (B) prevent a Maoist takeover of Nepal;

5 and

6 (C) restore security, government services,
7 exercise of political rights, and respect for
8 human rights.

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