

H. Res. 912

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

January 16, 2008.

Whereas on December 27, 2007, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated while departing a peaceful election rally;

Whereas the attack on Ms. Bhutto also killed some 20 other innocent bystanders and fellow Muslims;

Whereas Ms. Bhutto had returned to Pakistan in October 2007 after 8 years of self-imposed exile for the stated purpose of bringing democracy and the voice of moderation back to Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan has struggled historically in its path toward a secure and stable democracy, having been ruled by unelected leaders for 34 out of 60 years of Pakistan's history;

Whereas Pakistan has been plagued by over 40 suicide attacks, claiming over 700 lives in 2007;

Whereas the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan are being used by al Qaeda, the Taliban, and other terrorist and extremist elements to regroup, retrain, and recruit for future attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan is a nuclear-armed nation, adding another level of complexity to Pakistan's deteriorating security

situation and raising the specter of nuclear arms falling into the hands of extremists in the future;

Whereas the international community has a vital interest in supporting a free, stable, and secure Pakistan so as to stem the rise of extremism in the region, prevent global acts of terrorism originating in Pakistan, and support the movement toward stable political institutions and democratic values and the rule of law;

Whereas in the past 5 years, the United States has provided over \$5,000,000,000 in assistance to Pakistan and an additional \$5,000,000,000 to reimburse Pakistan for its expenses incurred in combating terrorism;

Whereas a significant portion of United States assistance and reimbursements have gone to support Pakistani military operations in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region, counterterrorism operations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan and to increase Pakistan's counterterrorism and military capability;

Whereas there is an acute need for additional assistance from the United States and other countries to support and promote Pakistan's economic, social, and political development; and

Whereas the tragic death of Ms. Bhutto creates even greater uncertainty in an unstable region: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and expresses its condolences to her family and the families of all those who were killed or injured in the attack of December 27, 2007;

(2) supports efforts by Pakistan to expeditiously bring to justice those who have perpetrated this cruel and cowardly attack;

(3) welcomes the provision of assistance by the Government of the United Kingdom of expertise to the Government of Pakistan in the conduct of the investigation of the attack;

(4) commends the Government of Pakistan for accepting such assistance and urges that government to allow experts from the United Kingdom to participate in such investigation in the fullest possible manner;

(5) urges the people and Government of Pakistan to be relentless in its pursuit of a democratically-elected government, including the holding of free and fair elections at the earliest possible opportunity;

(6) expresses its support for the freedom of the media, the ability of political parties to express their views without restriction, and the independence of the judiciary in Pakistan; and

(7) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.
Attest:

Clerk.