

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1085

Condemning targeted terrorist attacks against members of the Sikh, Hindu, and other religious minority communities in Afghanistan and supporting refugee protection for Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan in recognition of the systematic religious persecution, discrimination, and existential danger faced by the members of these communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 14, 2020

Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COX of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. RASKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Condemning targeted terrorist attacks against members of the Sikh, Hindu, and other religious minority communities in Afghanistan and supporting refugee protection for Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan in recognition of the systematic religious persecution, discrimination, and existential danger faced by the members of these communities.

Whereas Sikhs and Hindus are indigenous but endangered minorities in Afghanistan, numbering approximately 700

out of a community that recently included over 8,000 members;

Whereas members of the Islamic State-Khorasan, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) affiliate in Afghanistan, attacked a Sikh temple in Kabul, Afghanistan, on March 25, 2020, killing 25 worshipers, including Tanya Kaur, a four-year-old girl;

Whereas Islamic State-Khorasan militants made further attempts on the lives of the survivors before and after the funeral ceremony held for the victims;

Whereas the Islamic State-Khorasan claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, on July 1, 2018, which took the lives of 19 people, including most of the senior leadership of the Sikh and Hindu communities in Afghanistan, who had assembled to meet the Afghan President;

Whereas these acts of violence follow a greater pattern of targeted violence against Sikhs, Hindus, and other religious minorities in Afghanistan in recent years;

Whereas the Department of State and United States Commission on International Religious Freedom have documented systemic discrimination against Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan, including restrictions on religious practices, illegal seizure of property, the inability to send their children to public schools due to harassment, judicial bias against religious minorities, and constitutional limitations on the political rights of religious minorities;

Whereas the former Taliban-led government routinely persecuted and discriminated against the Afghan Sikh community, restricting their funeral rites and forcing the

community to publicly identify themselves by wearing yellow armbands; and

Whereas the President of the United States has proposed resettling up to 18,000 refugees pursuant to section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) for fiscal year 2020, in contrast to the Obama administration's proposal of 110,000 refugees for fiscal year 2016: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses concern for the safety of Sikhs
3 and Hindus in Afghanistan;

4 (2) condemns all terrorist attacks, religious persecution, and discrimination against members of the
5 Sikh and Hindu religious minority communities in
6 Afghanistan;

8 (3) recognizes that members of the Sikh and
9 Hindu communities face existential danger in Afghanistan; and
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11 (4) supports resettling Sikhs and Hindus from
12 Afghanistan in the United States under the United
13 States Refugee Admissions Program pursuant to
14 section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
15 (8 U.S.C. 1157).

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