

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 188

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to increasing political oppression in Burma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 1996

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to increasing political oppression in Burma.

Whereas since 1962 Burma has been ruled by a military dictatorship;

Whereas as part of a crackdown against the Burmese pro-democracy movement, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (hereafter in this resolution referred to as “SLORC”) was established by the military dictatorship in 1988;

Whereas on May 27, 1990, the people of Burma voted overwhelmingly in a free election for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (hereafter in this resolution referred to as “NLD”);

Whereas despite numerous pledges, the SLORC has failed to honor the results of the 1990 elections;

Whereas the United States has not sent an ambassador to Rangoon in protest of the failure of the SLORC to honor the 1990 elections and the continued human rights abuses suffered by the Burmese people;

Whereas in response to the massacre of thousands of Burmese participating in peaceful democratic demonstrations, the Congress adopted a provision as part of the Customs and Trade Act of 1990 requiring the President to impose appropriate economic sanctions on Burma;

Whereas currently the United States has suspended economic aid to Burma, placed an embargo on arms sales, denied Burma benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), and decertified Burma as a narcotics co-operating country;

Whereas the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236), approved April 30, 1994, placed Burma on the list of international “outlaw” states that includes Libya, North Korea, and Iraq and which is set forth in section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2227(a)), thus mandating that voluntary United States funding for any United Nations agency will be automatically reduced if the agency conducts programs in Burma;

Whereas on July 15, 1994, the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 234 calling on the executive branch to encourage members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to work with the United States to achieve the transfer of power to the winners of Burma’s 1990 democratic election;

Whereas on July 25, 1994, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 471, which urged the Burmese regime to transfer power to democratically elected leaders of Burma and to respect human rights;

Whereas on June 28, 1995, the House of Representatives agreed to an amendment to H.R. 1868, which prohibited funds for international narcotics control or crop substitution assistance for the Burmese regime;

Whereas in early 1995 the SLORC conducted a military campaign against ethnic minorities, many of whom are Christian, along the border between Burma and Thailand, including the headquarters of the Democratic Alliance of Burma at Mannerplaw;

Whereas on July 10, 1995, after six years of unlawful detention, the SLORC released Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the NLD;

Whereas since the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the SLORC has rejected her efforts to establish a timetable for dialogue and national reconciliation and has denied the NLD a meaningful role in a credible political process;

Whereas the 1995 Human Rights Watch World Report states that Muslims in the Arakan State, a province of Burma, are subject to forced relocations, forced labor, and religious persecution;

Whereas on December 19, 1995, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 274, which calls on the Burmese regime to begin a political dialogue with democratically elected leaders of Burma, release political prisoners, guarantee respect for basic human rights, and restore civilian and democratic rule to the people of Burma;

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi has called for a halt to private foreign investment until progress towards democracy begins in Burma;

Whereas various United States cities have passed resolutions condemning United States private investment in Burma;

Whereas protests on university campuses against United States policy in Burma are growing in frequency;

Whereas the SLORC regime has purchased \$2,000,000,000 in weapons over the last 3 years from the People's Republic of China and other countries;

Whereas on June 7, 1996, SLORC passed Law 5/96, which outlawed the drawing up, writing, or distribution of the state constitution of Burma without legal authorization;

Whereas penalties for writing a constitution involve a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 20 years in prison, in addition to unspecified fines;

Whereas during the period of May 26th-29th, 1996, 258 delegates to a conference on democracy in Rangoon were arrested and jailed;

Whereas of the 258 delegates arrested, 238 were elected in 1990 as members of the parliament;

Whereas the Report of the Special Representative of the United Nations, published in March, 1996, indicated that forced labor, forced portorage, torture, and arbitrary killing are still widespread in Burma;

Whereas SLORC has refused to file any charges against Khun Sa, the world's most notorious heroin trafficker, and rejected requests by the United States to have him extradited to the United States;

Whereas the Karenni and the Karen, ethnic groups in Burma, are strong supporters of democracy and the United States;

Whereas thousands of innocent Karenni civilians have been killed by unprovoked attacks by SLORC troops in the Karenni state;

Whereas the Karen ethnic group faces constant attacks by SLORC troops, resulting in many deaths and destruction of villages; and

Whereas in the near future, Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the democratic movement in Burma may begin to write a legitimate state constitution for the people of Burma: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That if the SLORC regime arrests Aung San
 3 Suu Kyi, otherwise limits her freedom, or exiles her—

4 (1) the Congress will adopt legislation to pro-
 5 hibit future investment in Burma; and

6 (2) the United States should use all means nec-
 7 essary to bring Khun Sa to trial in the United
 8 States.

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