

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 238

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 1999

Ms. PELOSI (for herself, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. PORTER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. HOLT, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. STARK, Mr. MOAKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. KIND, Mr. FROST, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LAFALCE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. OLVER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States and Mexico have a long history of close relations and share a wide range of interests;

Whereas a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous Mexico is of vital importance to the security of the United States;

Whereas the United States Government provides assistance and licenses exports of military equipment to Mexican security forces for counter-narcotics purposes;

Whereas the Department of State's 1998 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Mexico stated that a "culture of impunity pervades the security forces" and documented human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, torture, disappearances, and extrajudicial killings by these forces;

Whereas confrontations in August 1999 between members of the Mexican military and supporters of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in Chiapas, Mexico, are representative of the political tension and violence that have plagued the region for years;

Whereas the conflict has its roots in the poverty and injustice suffered by the indigenous people of Chiapas and shared by the poor in the neighboring states of Oaxaca and Guerrero;

Whereas the lack of progress in implementing a preliminary peace agreement signed in 1996 and the intimidating level of militarization by the Mexican army, paramilitary groups, and the EZLN have resulted in the forced displacement of thousands of indigenous people and exacerbated the impoverished conditions in Chiapas;

Whereas on September 14, 1999, the Commission for Peace and Reconciliation in Chiapas of the Conference of Mexican Catholic Bishops urged the Government of Mexico to consider relocating military forces in Chiapas to only those positions absolutely necessary for maintaining the integrity and security of Mexico;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has devoted resources to reduce poverty in Chiapas, but the breakdown in peace negotiations and the lack of trust between the Mexican Government and some indigenous communities have limited the impact of that assistance;

Whereas on September 7, 1999, the Government of Mexico pledged to renew dialogue with the EZLN, support the formation of a new mediation team, and investigate human rights abuses in Chiapas;

Whereas the EZLN has not yet accepted the Government of Mexico's overtures to resume negotiations; and

Whereas the summary expulsions of United States citizens and human rights monitors from Mexico are inconsistent with the freedoms of movement, association, and expression: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2        *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the Sec-  
 3        retary of State should—

4                (1) take effective measures to ensure that  
 5        United States assistance and exports of equipment  
 6        to Mexican security forces—

7                        (A) are used primarily for counter-nar-  
 8                        cotics purposes; and

9                        (B) are not provided to units of security  
 10        forces that have been implicated in human  
 11        rights violations, unless the Government of  
 12        Mexico is taking effective measures to bring the  
 13        individuals responsible to justice;

1           (2) encourage the Zapatista National Libera-  
2           tion Army (EZLN) and the Government of Mexico  
3           to take steps to create conditions for good faith ne-  
4           gotiations that address the social, economic and po-  
5           litical causes of the conflict in Chiapas, to achieve a  
6           peaceful and lasting resolution of the conflict, and to  
7           vigorously pursue such negotiations;

8           (3) commend the Government of Mexico for its  
9           renewed commitment to negotiations and for estab-  
10          lishing a date for the United Nations High Commis-  
11          sioner for Human Rights to visit Mexico to discuss  
12          human rights concerns there;

13          (4) give a higher priority in discussions with the  
14          Government of Mexico to criminal justice reforms  
15          that protect human rights, emphasizing United  
16          States concerns about arbitrary detention, torture,  
17          disappearances, and extrajudicial killings, and the  
18          failure to prosecute individuals responsible for these  
19          crimes; and

20          (5) urge the Government of Mexico to imple-  
21          ment the recommendations of the Inter-American  
22          Commission on Human Rights, particularly with re-  
23          gard to United States citizens and others who have

- 1        been summarily expelled from Mexico in violation of
- 2        Mexican law and international law.

