

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.

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

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

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