

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 213

Condemning human rights violations in Chechnya and urging a political solution to the conflict.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2002

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 19, 2002

Reported by Mr. BIDEN, without amendment and with amendments to the preamble

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in italic]

MARCH 20, 2002

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Condemning human rights violations in Chechnya and urging a political solution to the conflict.

Whereas the United States Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights for 2001 reports that the “indiscriminate use of force by [Russian] government troops in the Chechen conflict resulted in widespread civilian casualties and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of persons”;

Whereas the United States Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights for 2001 reports that Russian

forces continue to arbitrarily detain, torture, extrajudicially execute, extort, rape, and forcibly disappear people in Chechnya;

Whereas credible human rights groups within the Russian Federation and abroad report that Russian authorities have failed to launch thorough investigations into these abuses and have taken no significant steps toward ensuring that its high command has taken all necessary measures to prevent abuse;

Whereas there are credible reports of specific abuses by Russian soldiers in Chechnya, including in Alkhan-Yurt in 1999; Staropromyslovski and Aldi in 2000; Alkhan-Kala, Assinovskaia, and Sernovodsk in 2001; and Tsotsin-Yurt and Argun in 2002;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has cracked down on independent media and threatened to revoke the license of RFE/RL, Incorporated, further limiting the ability to ascertain the extent of the crisis in Chechnya;

Whereas Chechen rebel forces are believed responsible for the assassinations of Chechen civil servants who cooperate with the Government of the Russian Federation, and the Chechen government of Aslan Maskhadov has failed unequivocally to condemn these and other human rights abuses or to distance itself from persons in Chechnya allegedly associated with such forces; and

Whereas the Department of State officially recognizes the grievous human rights abuses in Chechnya and the need to develop and implement a durable political solution: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

1 (1) the war on terrorism does not excuse, and
2 is ultimately undermined by, abuses by Russian se-
3 curity forces against the civilian population in
4 Chechnya;

5 (2) the Government of the Russian Federation
6 and the elected leadership of the Chechen govern-
7 ment, including President Aslan Maskhadov, should
8 immediately seek a negotiated settlement to the con-
9 flict there;

10 (3) the President of the Russian Federation
11 should—

12 (A) act immediately to end and to inves-
13 tigate human rights violations by Russian sol-
14 diers in Chechnya, and to initiate, where appro-
15 priate, prosecutions against those accused;

16 (B) provide secure and unimpeded access
17 into and around Chechnya by international
18 monitors and humanitarian organizations to re-
19 port on the situation, investigate alleged atroc-
20 ities, and distribute assistance; and

21 (C) ensure that refugees and displaced per-
22 sons in the North Caucasus are registered in
23 accordance with Russian and international law,
24 receive adequate assistance, and are not forced
25 against their will to return to Chechnya; and

(4) the President of the United States should—

(A) ensure that no security forces or intelligence units that are the recipients of United States assistance or participants in joint operations, exchanges, or training with United States or NATO forces, are implicated in these;

(B) seek specific information from the Government of the Russian Federation on investigations of reported human rights abuses in Chechnya and prosecutions against those individuals accused of those abuses;

(C) promote peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the elected leadership of the Chechen government, including Aslan Maskhadov; and

(D) re-examine the status of Chechen refugees, especially widows and orphans, including consideration of the possible resettlement of such refugees in the United States.

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