

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING UZBEKISTAN; AND COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS**

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**MARKUP**

BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST  
AND CENTRAL ASIA

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H. Con. Res. 187 and H. Res. 343**

—————  
JUNE 29, 2005  
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**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING UZBEKISTAN; AND COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS**

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**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST  
AND CENTRAL ASIA,  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 3:41 p.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Chair of the Subcommittee) presiding.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Pursuant to notice, I call up the resolution addressed in H. Con. Resolution 187, expressing the sense of Congress concerning Uzbekistan; and House Resolution 343, commending the State of Kuwait for granting women certain important political rights, for purposes of markup.

[The resolutions referred to follow:]

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 187

Expressing the sense of Congress concerning Uzbekistan.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. ACKERMAN) 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 concerning Uzbekistan.

Whereas, on May 13 and 14, 2005, the Government of Uzbekistan brutally suppressed an uprising in the eastern city of Andijon, in which hundreds of civilians, many of them children, were reportedly killed;

Whereas following the May 2005 violence—

(1) the Government of Uzbekistan has reportedly sealed off outside access to Andijon and has refused to open the area to a full and independent investigation into the violence; and

(2) Uzbek authorities have reportedly arrested human rights defenders and opposition activists in Andijon and have threatened others with arrest or criminal charges to deter demonstrations against the government;

Whereas, in June 2005, the United States, the European Union, NATO's North Atlantic Council, the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe called for a credible independent international inquiry into the recent violence in Andijon and urged the Government of Uzbekistan to prosecute those responsible for civilian deaths;

Whereas Uzbek law enforcement and security ministries have been implicated by witnesses as having been involved in the deadly crackdown in Andijon;

Whereas these Uzbek ministries have reportedly received training and equipment from counterterrorism programs run by the United States;

Whereas United States security assistance to the Government of Uzbekistan, provided by several United States agencies, has been intended in part to improve the abilities of soldiers and law enforcement officers from the Uzbek intelligence service, military, and national law enforcement service;

Whereas, in July 2004, after a Department of State review of democratization in Uzbekistan, former Secretary of State Colin Powell determined that the Government of Uzbekistan was not fulfilling the terms of a 2002 Strategic Partnership Framework agreement that mandated "substantial and continuing progress" on democratization, and Secretary Powell did not certify Uzbekistan as eligible to receive certain United States assistance;

Whereas by continuing to suppress human rights and to deny citizens peaceful, democratic means of expressing their convictions, the Government of Uzbekistan risks fueling

popular support for violent and extremist movements, thus undermining the goals of the Global War on Terror;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in his Inaugural Address, stated that the United States “will persistently clarify the choice before every ruler and every nation: The moral choice between oppression, which is always wrong, and freedom, which is eternally right. America will not pretend that jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude, or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies. We will encourage reform in other governments by making clear that success in our relations will require the decent treatment of their own people”; and

Whereas Congress has repeatedly expressed its desire to see deeper reform in Uzbekistan and has conditioned certain United States assistance to the Government of Uzbekistan on its progress in meeting human rights and democracy commitments made to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

3            (1) the Government of Uzbekistan should take  
4        immediate steps to comply with calls for an inde-  
5        pendent international inquiry into the violence in  
6        Andijon and the prosecution of those individuals re-  
7        sponsible for civilian deaths;

8            (2) the Government of Uzbekistan should accel-  
9        erate democratic reforms and fulfill its human rights  
10       obligations by—



1 (A) releasing from prison all individuals  
2 jailed for peaceful political activism or the non-  
3 violent expression of their political or religious  
4 beliefs;

5 (B) fully investigating any credible allega-  
6 tions of torture and prosecuting those individ-  
7 uals responsible;

8 (C) permitting the free and unfettered  
9 functioning of independent media outlets, inde-  
10 pendent political parties, and nongovernmental  
11 organizations, whether officially registered or  
12 not;

13 (D) permitting the free exercise of reli-  
14 gious beliefs and ceasing the persecution of  
15 members of religious groups and denominations  
16 not registered with the government;

17 (E) holding free, transparent, competitive,  
18 and fair elections; and

19 (F) making publicly available documenta-  
20 tion of their revenues and expenditures and  
21 punishing those individuals engaged in official  
22 corruption; and

23 (3) the President, the Secretary of State, and  
24 the Secretary of Defense should—

1 (A) condition diplomatic engagement with  
2 and security assistance to the Government of  
3 Uzbekistan based on Uzbekistan's compliance  
4 with calls for an independent international in-  
5 quiry into the violence in Andijon, and the pros-  
6 ecution of those individuals responsible for civil-  
7 ian deaths;

8 (B) continue to raise at the highest levels  
9 with the Government of Uzbekistan the concern  
10 of the United States for greater respect for  
11 human rights and democratic freedoms in  
12 Uzbekistan and related conditions for United  
13 States assistance;

14 (C) take into account the progress achieved  
15 by the Government of Uzbekistan in upholding  
16 human rights and civil liberties and imple-  
17 menting political reforms when determining the  
18 allocation of United States assistance for and  
19 the nature of United States political and mili-  
20 tary engagement with Uzbekistan;

21 (D) ensure that United States assistance  
22 does not benefit the security forces of  
23 Uzbekistan that have been implicated in viola-  
24 tions of human rights and, in particular, the vi-  
25 olence in Andijon; and

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6

1           (E) support those individuals, nongovern-  
2           mental organizations, and media outlets in  
3           Uzbekistan working to establish a more open  
4           society and a transparent, democratic system of  
5           government.

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109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 343

Commending the State of Kuwait for granting women certain important political rights.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. KELLY, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. PITTS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WATSON, Mr. ISSA, and Ms. WATERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Commending the State of Kuwait for granting women certain important political rights.

Whereas on May 16, 2005, the Parliament of the State of Kuwait amended Article 1 of the Election Law 35 of 1962, providing female citizens of Kuwait the right to vote and run in the 2007 elections;

Whereas the rights of women are of paramount importance in international human rights, to be respected and promoted regardless of historical, cultural, or religious heritage;

Whereas the active advancement of women's rights throughout the world is and remains an important policy priority of the United States; and

Whereas the Department of State recognizes that the Kuwaiti parliamentary vote of May 16, 2005, was an important step forward for the women of Kuwait and the nation as a whole, and the United States views this step as a positive development on the road to political reform, serving as a positive example for other governments and societies in the region that are on the path to political freedom, inclusion of women, and full democratization: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That House of Representatives—

2               (1) commends the Government and Parliament  
3       of the State of Kuwait for providing female citizens  
4       of Kuwait the right to vote and hold public office;

5               (2) urges the full participation of Kuwaiti  
6       women in the political life of their country; and

7               (3) encourages the Government of Kuwait to  
8       continue taking positive steps to achieve full modernization of its political system and lasting democratic reform.  
9  
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○

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I move this recommendation to the Full Committee. Without objection, these resolutions can be considered as read, and open for amendment at any point. Developments in Iraq, as well as Afghanistan, have had ripple effects throughout the Middle East and Central Asia. It is imperative that we support those who are undertaking the necessary reforms to ensure and protect the rights of all citizens, as with the case of Kuwait, highlighted in House Resolution 343.

Concurrently, we must hold accountable those who continue to repress their people, such as the Government of Uzbekistan and the situation detailed in House Concurrent Resolution 187.

So I am privileged to recognize our Ranking Member, Mr. Ackerman, for any opening statements that he might have on either of the two bills.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Chair, I just wanted to commend Mr. Crowley for his resolution, recognizing the progress the Kuwait Government has made in allowing the participation of women in politics, and to thank you for working in a bipartisan way on the resolution concerning the recent events in Uzbekistan.

And I urge and would hope that all of our Members would support both resolutions. And I ask for unanimous consent for them to be considered at this time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you. Without objection, thank you, my good friend. I have an amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk for House Concurrent Resolution 187, which without objection will be considered as read.

This amendment contains minor technical changes and updates, and the question occurs on the amendment. All those in favor say aye?

[A chorus of ayes.]

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. All those opposed say no.

[No response.]

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. The question occurs on the motion to report the resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 187, favorably as amended. All in favor say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. All opposed, no.

[No response.]

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. The motion is approved and the resolution is reported favorably. Without objection, the staff is directed to make all technical and conforming amendments.

The question occurs on the motion to report the resolution, House Resolution 343 favorably. All those in favor say aye?

[A chorus of ayes.]

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. All opposed, no.

[No response.]

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. The motion is approved and the resolution is reported favorably. The staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments. And thank you. The markup stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:44 p.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]