



Legislative Bulletin.....July 11, 2005

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Summary of the Resolutions Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don’t Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

**H.Con.Res. 168 – Condemning the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights
— as introduced (Hyde)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 168 resolves that Congress:

- “condemns the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea for the abduction and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights;
- “calls upon the North Korean Government to immediately cease and desist from carrying out abductions, release all victims of kidnapping and prisoners-of-war still alive in North Korea, and provide a full and verifiable accounting of all other cases;
- “recognizes that resolution of the nuclear issue with North Korea is of critical importance, however, this should not preclude United States Government officials from raising abduction cases and other critical human rights concerns in any future negotiations with the North Korean regime;
- “calls upon the United States Government not to remove the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea from the Department of State’s list of State Sponsors of Terrorism until such time that North Korea renounces state-sponsored kidnapping and provides a full accounting of all abduction cases; and
- “admonishes the Government of the People's Republic of China for the forced repatriation to North Korea of Han Man-taek, a South Korean prisoner-of-war and comrade-in-arms of the United States, and for its failure to exercise sovereign control over teams of North Korean agents operating freely within its borders.”

Additional Information: According to the resolution, “since the end of the Korean War, the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has kidnapped thousands of South Korean citizens and as many as a hundred Japanese citizens, including Rumiko Masumoto, Megumi Yokota, and Reverend Kim Dong-shik, and the forced detention and frequent murder of those individuals abducted by North Korea have caused untold grief and suffering to their families.” In 2002, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il admitted that agents of his government had abducted 13 Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s and assured that this would never happen again. Yet as recently as August 8, 2004, North Korean agents operating along the Chinese border kidnapped Ms. Jin Kyung-sook, a former North Korean refugee and South Korean passport-holder.”

North Korean abductions also occur abroad, such as with Mr. Lee Chae-hwan, a young MIT graduate student traveling in Austria, and Mr. Ko Sang-moon, a South Korean teacher kidnapped in Norway. According to the resolution, “For more than fifty years, North Korea has held South Korean prisoners-of-war captured during the Korean War, in clear violation of Article III of the Korean War Armistice Agreement signed on July 27, 1953, and the South Korean Ministry of National Defense estimates that 542 captives are still alive in North Korea.”

Committee Action: On May 26, 2005, the resolution was referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Res. 333 — Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan — *as introduced (Payne)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, July 11th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 333 states that “It is appropriate that the people of the United States, leaders and citizens alike, unite in prayer for the people of Darfur and reflect upon the situation in Darfur” and resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan;
- “encourages the people of the United States to observe that weekend by praying for an end to the genocide and crimes against humanity and for lasting peace in Darfur, Sudan; and
- “urges all churches, synagogues, mosques, and religious institutions in the United States to consider the issue of Darfur in their activities and to observe the National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection with appropriate activities and services.”

Additional Information: On July 22, 2004, Congress declared that genocide was taking place in Darfur, Sudan, and on September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell testified to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that “genocide has been committed in Darfur.”

On September 21, 2004, President George W. Bush stated to the United Nations General Assembly that “the world is witnessing terrible suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes my government has concluded are genocide.” The resolution notes that “Article 1 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, done at Paris December 9, 1948, and entered into force January 12, 1951, states that ‘[t]he Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish’.”

H.Res. 333 states that “fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, are protected in numerous international agreements and declarations. The United Nations Security Council, in Security Council Resolution 1591, condemned the ‘continued violations of the N’djameña Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 and the Abuja Protocols of 9 November 2004 by all sides in Darfur and the deterioration of the security situation and negative impact this has had on humanitarian assistance efforts’. Scholars estimate that as many as 400,000 have died from violence, hunger, and disease since the outbreak of conflict in Darfur began in 2003, and that as many as 10,000 may be dying each month, and it is estimated that more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced from their homes and remain in camps in Darfur and Chad.

Committee Action: On June 20, 2005, the resolution was introduced and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Res. 343 — Commending the State of Kuwait for granting women certain important political rights — *as introduced (Crowley)*

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, July 11, 2005, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 343 resolves, “That House of Representatives:

- “commends the Government and Parliament of the State of Kuwait for providing female citizens of Kuwait the right to vote and hold public office;
- “urges the full participation of Kuwaiti women in the political life of their country; and
- encourages the Government of Kuwait to continue taking positive steps to achieve full modernization of its political system and lasting democratic reform.

Additional Information: 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. According to the resolution, the rights of women are of paramount importance in international human rights, to be respected and promoted regardless of historical, cultural, or religious heritage [and] the active advancement of women’s rights throughout the world is and remains an important policy priority of the United States. The resolution also notes that State Department recognizes the May 16 vote as 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.

Committee Action: H.Res. 343 was introduced on June 27, 2005, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which took no formal action.

Cost to Taxpayers: None.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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