

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 595

Concerning the need to improve working conditions at the Han Young truck factory in Tijuana, Mexico.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 13, 1998

Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Concerning the need to improve working conditions at the Han Young truck factory in Tijuana, Mexico.

Whereas the United States has a moral obligation to ensure that its trading partners respect the basic democratic rights of their workers;

Whereas workers at the Han Young truck factory in Tijuana, Mexico, have reported deplorable working conditions, and Mexican safety inspectors have confirmed substantial health and safety violations;

Whereas, in April 1997, workers at the Han Young factory began to organize a union;

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Whereas workers who pursued union activities in the factory suffered reprisals for their organizing efforts, including threats, shift changes, harassment, and dismissals;

Whereas workers at the Han Young factory voted more than once to be represented by an independent union and went on strike on May 22, 1998, because the Han Young company refused to bargain with the union;

Whereas the United States National Administrative Office (NAO) in the Department of Labor conducted a two-part review of the conditions at the Han Young factory pursuant to its obligations under the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation;

Whereas the NAO found that Mexico's constitution and federal laws protect workers' freedom to organize and join unions of their choice, and found that the placement of obstacles to this freedom by local Conciliation and Arbitration Boards is not consistent with Mexico's obligations under article 3 of the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation;

Whereas the NAO found that the reports of the workers and safety inspectors are consistent and credible in describing a workplace polluted with toxic airborne contaminants, operating with unsafe machinery, strewn with electrical cables running through puddles of water, and exhibiting numerous other violations of minimum health and safety standards;

Whereas the NAO has been unable to ascertain whether fines against Han Young were imposed or collected in accordance with Mexican law; and

Whereas the NAO has recommended that the Secretary of Labor consult with Mexico's Secretary of Labor and So-

cial Welfare to address these issues: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) urges the Mexican government to do every-  
3       thing in its power to ensure that the rights of the  
4       Han Young workers are respected; and

5               (2) urges the President to pursue ministerial  
6       and diplomatic consultations with the Mexican gov-  
7       ernment in order to resolve the situation at the Han  
8       Young truck factory in Tijuana, Mexico.

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