

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 238

Commending the first democratic elections in Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia, and expressing support for the further democratic development and implementation of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Commending the first democratic elections in Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia, and expressing support for the further democratic development and implementation of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding.

Whereas for three decades there has been a continuous armed conflict in Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia;

Whereas violence between the Indonesian military and the Free Aceh Movement has resulted in an estimated 15,000 deaths in the region;

Whereas the tsunami on December 26, 2004, killed at least 165,000 people in Aceh, devastated the landscape, and led to the loss of livelihood for 600,000 people;

Whereas the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement signed a Memorandum of Understanding on August 15, 2005, in Helsinki;

Whereas the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), led by the European Union (EU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Norway, and Switzerland, has supported the implementation of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding successfully;

Whereas the Free Aceh Movement has demobilized its military troops and decommissioned its arms;

Whereas the Government of Indonesia has withdrawn its non-organic military and police forces from Aceh;

Whereas the Law on the Governing of Aceh (LoGA) was signed into law by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on August 1, 2006;

Whereas the general life situation of the Acehnese has improved significantly since the signing of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding and the Acehnese populate markets and celebrate festivities in public;

Whereas the first democratic and peaceful gubernatorial and district administrative elections in Aceh were held on December 11, 2006, and more than 80 percent of entitled Acehnese voted; and

Whereas Irwandi Yusuf, a former leader of the Free Aceh Movement, won the gubernatorial election with the highest support of more than 38 percent of total votes: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the first democratic elections in

3 Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia, in which

1 the Acehnese have shown their strong commitment
2 to democracy and peace, and congratulates Irwandi
3 Yusuf, the first democratic elected governor of Aceh;

4 (2) expresses its ongoing support for the fur-
5 ther democratic development of Aceh and the Hel-
6 sinki Memorandum of Understanding signed by the
7 Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Move-
8 ment on August 15, 2005;

9 (3) encourages both parties to live up to their
10 commitments under the Helsinki Memorandum of
11 Understanding, especially with regard to establishing
12 a Human Rights Court for Aceh and a Commission
13 of Truth and Reconciliation; and

14 (4) encourages the Secretary of State and the
15 Administrator of the United States Agency for
16 International Development to commit resources in
17 supporting the peace and building a strong civil soci-
18 ety in Aceh.

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