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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Welcoming the release of Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on November 13, 2010, and calling for a continued focus on securing the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Burma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Welcoming the release of Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi on November 13, 2010, and calling for a continued focus on securing the release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Burma.

Whereas Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been imprisoned in Burma for 15 of the last 21 years, and many members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) have been similarly jailed, tortured, or killed;

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi was first put under house arrest on July 20, 1989, and was offered freedom if she left the country, but refused;

Whereas in 1990, Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, the NLD, won the country's first election in decades by a landslide, but the military regime did not honor the election result;

Whereas even under house arrest, she demonstrated unwavering and determined political leadership, provided inspiration, and garnered respect from the people of Burma and democracy-loving people around the world;

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her nonviolent struggle against oppression, with the Norwegian Nobel Committee citing her as "one of the most extraordinary examples of civil courage in Asia in recent decades";

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the highest civilian awards in the United States, including the Presidential Medal of Honor in 2000 which recognizes those individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors" and, in 2008, the Congressional Medal of Honor for "her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma";

Whereas from broad sanctions to support for the democratic opposition for over a decade, the United States along with many countries and institutions around the world have united to place international pressure for democratic reform in Burma and the release of all Burmese political prisoners;

Whereas the week before the release of Aung San Suu Kyi were the highly-contested November 7 Burmese elections,

which President Obama declared, “The November 7 elections in Burma were neither free nor fair, and failed to meet any of the internationally accepted standards associated with legitimate elections. The elections were based on a fundamentally flawed process and demonstrated the regime’s continued preference for repression and restriction over inclusion and transparency”; and

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi is one of over 2,200 political prisoners and one of millions of Burmese struggling against military rule: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) welcomes the release of Burmese democracy
3 leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San
4 Suu Kyi;

5 (2) honors Burmese democracy leader Aung
6 San Suu Kyi for her tireless work in pursuit of
7 human rights and democracy in Burma;

8 (3) calls for Aung San Suu Kyi’s release to be
9 unconditional and final with her security guaranteed;

10 (4) calls on governments around the world, in-
11 cluding the nations of the European Union and the
12 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to
13 strengthen sanction regimes against Burma, with
14 the goal of denying the Burmese ruling junta hard
15 currency to continue its campaign of repression;

16 (5) calls on the United Nations Security Coun-
17 cil to immediately pass a resolution imposing multi-

1 lateral sanctions on Burma's military regime, includ-
2 ing a complete arms embargo, and to take other ap-
3 propriate action to respond to the growing threat the
4 State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) poses
5 in Burma and the region;

6 (6) calls for the Administration to fully imple-
7 ment the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act
8 (Public Law 110-286) to include financial sanctions
9 as well as the appointment of a United States Spe-
10 cial Coordinator for Burma;

11 (7) calls for the immediate and unconditional
12 release of all political prisoners and prisoners of con-
13 science in Burma, including Aung San Suu Kyi's
14 supporters in the National League for Democracy
15 and ordinary citizens of Burma, including ethnic mi-
16 norities, who publicly and courageously speak out
17 against the regime's many injustices; and

18 (8) recognizes that the release of Aung San Suu
19 Kyi alone does not ensure democratic progress for
20 the country unless accompanied by an end to crimes
21 against humanity and genuine national reconcili-
22 ation.