
HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR INTERNAL REBUILDING, RESETTLEMENT, AND
RECONCILIATION WITHIN SRI LANKA THAT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE
A LASTING PEACE.

1 WHEREAS, May 19, 2014, marks the five-year anniversary
2 of the end of the 26-year civil war between the Liberation
3 Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka;
4 and
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6 WHEREAS, the people of Sri Lanka suffered greatly as a
7 result of this conflict, the impact and aftermath of which has
8 been felt by all, especially by women, children, and families;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, the Government of Sri Lanka established a "Lessons
12 Learnt and Reconciliation Commission" (LLRC) to report whether
13 any person, group, or institution directly or indirectly bears
14 responsibility for incidents that occurred between February 2002
15 and May 2009 and to recommend measures to prevent the recurrence
16 of similar incidents in the future and promote further national
17 unity and reconciliation among all communities; and
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19 WHEREAS, the LLRC report acknowledges important events and
20 grievances that have contributed to decades of political
21 violence and war in Sri Lanka and makes constructive
22 recommendations on a wide range of issues, including the need to
23 credibly investigate widespread allegations of extrajudicial
24 killings; enforced disappearances; intentional targeting of
25 civilians and noncombatants; demilitarizing the North and the
26 country as a whole; reaching a political settlement with
27 minority communities on the meaningful decentralization of
28 power; and promoting and protecting the right to freedom of
29 expression for all through the enactment of a right to
30 information law and additional rule of law reforms; and



1 WHEREAS, the Government of Sri Lanka developed the National
2 Plan of Action to implement the recommendations of the LLRC and
3 has made significant progress within limited time in the
4 implementation of the National Plan of Action, notably in the
5 areas of demining, rehabilitation of ex-combatants, resettlement
6 of displaced persons, improvements of infrastructure and social
7 services in the North and East, as well as investigations into
8 complaints regarding persons who have disappeared during the
9 war; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Government of Sri Lanka expressed its
12 commitment to address the needs of all ethnic groups and has
13 recognized the necessity of a political settlement and
14 reconciliation for a peaceful and just society, which is a long-
15 term process that will need to be driven by the people of Sri
16 Lanka themselves; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the September 21, 2013, elections in Sri Lanka for
19 the Northern, Central, and North Western Provincial Councils
20 were an important step in fulfilling this commitment, elections
21 made possible through a sustained effort by the Government of
22 Sri Lanka to restore infrastructure in the North and put in
23 place a system for the conduct of the elections; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the elections allowed the people of Northern Sri
26 Lanka to exercise their political rights that had been withheld
27 from them for more than 20 years by the LTTE and resulted in a
28 clear victory for the provincial wing of the Tamil National
29 Alliance; and

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31 WHEREAS, Sri Lanka is enjoying rapid economic growth as an
32 important hub for shipping transport, technology, and tourism in
33 the South Asia region and is of great strategic importance to
34 the United States, due to its location, deep-water ports, and
35 proximity to the world's busiest shipping lanes, an importance
36 noticed and pursued by other significant world powers; and

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38 WHEREAS, Sri Lanka seeks to be a key United States partner
39 in the fight against terrorism and Indian Ocean piracy; and



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1 WHEREAS, internal rebuilding, resettlement, and
 2 reconciliation is necessary to ensure a lasting peace within Sri
 3 Lanka and is of the utmost importance not only to the people of
 4 Sri Lanka, but to the United States, and the world; now,
 5 therefore,

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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 9 Session of 2014, that this body expresses its support for the
 10 internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri
 11 Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
 15 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Speaker of
 16 the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's
 17 Congressional delegation, President of Sri Lanka, Ambassador of
 18 Sri Lanka to the United States, Acting Consul General of Sri
 19 Lanka to Hawaii, and Honorary Consul General of Sri Lanka to
 20 Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 07 2014

