

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 177

Expressing support for internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2011

Mr. GRIMM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

Whereas May 19, 2010, marked the one-year anniversary of the end of the 26-year conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka established a Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) to report whether any person, group, or institution directly or indirectly bears responsibility for incidents that occurred between February 2002 and May 2009 and to recommend measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future and promote further national unity and reconciliation among all communities;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed a panel of experts, including Marzuki Darusman, the former attorney general of Indonesia, Yazmin Sooka, a member of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Steven Ratner, a lawyer in the United States specializing in human rights and international law, to advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to human rights accountability;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka expressed its commitment to addressing the needs of all ethnic groups and has recognized, in the past, the necessity of a political settlement and reconciliation for a peaceful and just society;

Whereas the United States Government has yet to develop a comprehensive United States policy toward Sri Lanka that reflects the broad range of human rights, national security, and economic interests; and

Whereas progress on domestic and international investigations into reports of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other human rights violations during the conflict and promoting reconciliation would facilitate enhanced United States engagement and investment in Sri Lanka:  
Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) commends United Nations Secretary-Gen-  
3       eral Ban Ki-moon for creating the three-person  
4       panel to advise the Secretary-General on the imple-  
5       mentation of the commitment of the Government of  
6       Sri Lanka to human rights accountability;

1           (2) urges the Government of Sri Lanka, the  
2 international community, and the United Nations to  
3 establish an independent international accountability  
4 mechanism to look into reports of war crimes,  
5 crimes against humanity, and other human rights  
6 violations committed by both sides during and after  
7 the war in Sri Lanka and to make recommendations  
8 regarding accountability;

9           (3) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to allow  
10 humanitarian organizations, aid agencies, journal-  
11 ists, and international human rights groups greater  
12 freedom of movement, including in internally dis-  
13 placed persons camps; and

14           (4) insists that the President develop a com-  
15 prehensive policy towards Sri Lanka that reflects  
16 United States interests, including respect for human  
17 rights, democracy and the rule of law, economic in-  
18 terests, and security interests.

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