

SJRES 3

A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to human rights in Central Asia.

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jan 14, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on International Relations.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on International Relations. (May 5, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/3>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]

Party: Republican • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 14, 2003
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 10, 2003
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 11, 2003
Sen. Santorum, Rick [R-PA]	R · PA		Feb 24, 2003
Sen. Miller, Zell [D-GA]	D · GA		Mar 17, 2003
Sen. Sununu, John E. [R-NH]	R · NH		Mar 25, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	May 5, 2003
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Apr 9, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Declares the sense of the Congress that the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan should accelerate democratic reforms and fulfill their human rights obligations.

Includes among such reforms and actions: (1) releasing from prison all those jailed for peaceful political activism or the nonviolent expression of their political or religious beliefs; (2) fully investigating any credible allegations of torture and prosecuting those responsible; (3) permitting the free and unfettered functioning of independent media outlets, independent political parties, and nongovernmental organizations, whether officially registered or not; (4) permitting the free exercise of religious beliefs and ceasing the persecution of members of religious groups and denominations not registered with the state; (5) holding free, competitive, and fair elections; and (6) making publicly available documentation of their revenues and punishing those engaged in official corruption.

Declares that increased levels of U.S. assistance to the Central Asian governments made possible by their cooperation in the war in Afghanistan can be sustained only if there is substantial and continuing progress towards meeting these goals.

Calls for the President, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense to: (1) continue to raise specific cases of political and religious persecution with the Central Asian governments and urge greater respect for human rights and democratic freedoms; (2) consider progress in meeting such goals when determining diplomatic engagement and foreign assistance; (3) ensure that provisions of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act are fully implemented to ensure that no U.S. assistance benefits security forces in Central Asia implicated in human rights violations; (4) follow the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom by designating Turkmenistan a Country of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 and by making clear that Uzbekistan risks designation if conditions there do not improve; (5) press the Turkmenistan Government to respect the right of imprisoned opposition leader Boris Shikmuradov to due process and a fair trial and release democratic activists and their families from prison; (6) urge the Russian Government not to extradite to Turkmenistan members of that country's political opposition; (7) work with the Government of Kazakhstan to create a political climate free of intimidation and harassment and to reduce official corruption; and (8) support through U.S. assistance programs those individuals, non-governmental organizations, and media outlets in Central Asia working to build more open societies, support the victims of human rights abuses, and expose official corruption.

Actions Timeline

- **May 5, 2003:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **May 5, 2003:** Received in the House.
- **May 5, 2003:** Referred to the House Committee on International Relations.
- **May 1, 2003:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S5689-5691)
- **May 1, 2003:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment and an amended preamble by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S5690-5691)
- **May 1, 2003:** Passed Senate with an amendment and an amended preamble by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S5690-5691)
- **Apr 9, 2003:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Apr 9, 2003:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Lugar without amendment and with a preamble. Without written report.
- **Apr 9, 2003:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Lugar without amendment and with a preamble. Without written report.
- **Apr 9, 2003:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 63.
- **Jan 14, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 14, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (text of measure as introduced: CR S304-305)