

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 392

Conveying the sympathy of the Senate to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2004

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Conveying the sympathy of the Senate to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.

Whereas the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez has been plagued with the abduction, sexual assault, and brutal murders of more than 370 young women since 1993;

Whereas these abductions and murders have begun to spread south to the city of Chihuahua;

Whereas more than 90 of these murders show signs of being connected to 1 or more serial killers;

Whereas some of the victims are as young as 13 years old, and many were abducted in broad daylight in well-populated areas;

Whereas these murders have brought pain as the families and friends of the victims on both sides of the border struggle to cope with the loss of their loved ones;

Whereas many of the victims have yet to be positively identified;

Whereas the perpetrators of most of these heinous acts remain unknown;

Whereas the Mexican Federal Government has taken steps to prevent these abductions and murders, including setting up a commission to coordinate Federal and State efforts in Mexico, establishing a 40-point plan, appointing a special commissioner, and appointing a special prosecutor;

Whereas in 2003 the El Paso Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the El Paso Police Department began providing Mexican authorities with training in investigation techniques and methods;

Whereas the government of the State of Chihuahua has jurisdiction over these crimes;

Whereas Mexico is a party to the following international treaties that relate to abductions and murders: the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Declaration on Violence Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the

Child, the Convention of Belem do Para, the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance, and the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance; and

Whereas impunity for these crimes is a threat to the ability of Mexico to consolidate its growing democracy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns the abductions and murders of
3 young women in Ciudad Juarez and the city of Chi-
4 huahua in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, since
5 1993;

6 (2) expresses its sincerest condolences and
7 deepest sympathy to the families of the young
8 women killed in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico,
9 since 1993, many of whom appear to be victims of
10 1 or more serial murderers;

11 (3) recognizes the courageous struggle of the
12 victims' families in seeking justice for the victims;

13 (4) urges the President and Secretary of State
14 to continue to express concern over these abductions
15 and murders to the Government of Mexico and to re-
16 quest that the investigative and preventative efforts
17 of the Mexican Government become part of the bilat-
18 eral agenda between the Governments of Mexico and
19 the United States;

1 (5) urges the President and Secretary of State
2 to continue to express support for the efforts of the
3 victims' families to seek justice for the victims, to
4 express concern relating to the continued harass-
5 ment of these families and the human rights defend-
6 ers with which they work, and to express concern
7 with respect to impediments in the ability of the
8 families to receive prompt and accurate information
9 in their cases;

10 (6) supports multilateral efforts to create a
11 DNA database that would allow families to positively
12 identify the remains of the victims and encourages
13 the Secretary of State to facilitate United States
14 participation in such a DNA database;

15 (7) encourages the Secretary of State to con-
16 tinue to include in the annual Country Report on
17 Human Rights of the Department of State all in-
18 stances of improper investigatory methods, threats
19 against human rights activists, and the use of tor-
20 ture with respect to cases involving the murder and
21 abduction of young women in the State of Chi-
22 huahua;

23 (8) recommends that the United States Amba-
24 sador to Mexico visit Ciudad Juarez and the city of
25 Chihuahua to meet with the families of the victims,

1 women's rights organizations, and Mexican Federal
2 and State officials responsible for investigating these
3 crimes and preventing future such crimes;

4 (9) condemns the use of torture as a means of
5 investigation into these crimes;

6 (10) encourages the Secretary of State to urge
7 the Government of Mexico to ensure fair and proper
8 judicial proceedings for the individuals accused of
9 these abductions and murders and to impose appro-
10 priate punishment for those individuals subsequently
11 determined to be guilty of such crimes;

12 (11) condemns all senseless acts of violence in
13 all parts of the world and, in particular, violence
14 against women; and

15 (12) expresses the solidarity of the people of the
16 United States with the people of Mexico in the face
17 of these tragic and senseless acts.

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