## 107th CONGRESS 1st Session S. RES. 27

To express the sense of the Senate regarding the 1944 deportation of the Chechen people to central Asia, and for other purposes.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2001

Mr. HELMS (for himself and Mr. WELLSTONE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

APRIL 3, 2001 Reported by Mr. Helms, without amendment

> APRIL 6, 2001 Considered and agreed to

## RESOLUTION

- To express the sense of the Senate regarding the 1944 deportation of the Chechen people to central Asia, and for other purposes.
- Whereas for more than 200 years, the Chechen people have resisted the efforts of the Russian government to drive them from their land and to deny them their own culture;
- Whereas beginning on February 23, 1944, nearly 500,000 Chechen civilians from the northern Caucasus were arrested en masse and forced onto trains for deportation to central Asia;

- Whereas tens of thousands of Chechens, mainly women, children, and the elderly, died en route to central Asia;
- Whereas mass killings and the use of poisons against the Chechen people accompanied the deportation;
- Whereas the Chechen deportees were not given food, housing, or medical attention upon their arrival in central Asia;
- Whereas the Soviet Union actively attempted to suppress expressions of Chechen culture, including language, architecture, literature, music, and familial relations during the exile of the Chechen people;
- Whereas it is generally accepted that more than one-third of the Chechen population died in transit during the deportation or while living in exile in central Asia;
- Whereas the deportation order was not repealed until 1957;
- Whereas the Chechens who returned to Chechnya found their homes and land taken over by new residents who violently opposed the Chechen return; and
- Whereas neither the Soviet Union, nor its successor, the Russian Federation, has ever accepted full responsibility for the brutalities inflicted upon the Chechen people: Now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—
  (1) the United States should commemorate the
  57th anniversary of the brutal deportation of the
  Chechen people from their native land;
- 5 (2) the current war in Chechnya should be6 viewed within the historical context of repeated

1	abuses suffered by the Chechen people at the hands
2	of the Russian state;
3	(3) the United States Government should make
4	every effort to alleviate the suffering of the Chechen
5	people; and
6	(4) it is in the interests of the United States,
7	the Russian Federation, Chechnya, and the inter-
8	national community to find an immediate, peaceful,
9	and political solution to the war in Chechnya.

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