

Senate Joint Resolution 23

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Expresses legislative support for efforts of Indian non-Muslim minorities to establish autonomous homeland within Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Recognizes September 14, 2007, as Martyrs Day to acknowledge ethnic cleansing and campaigns of terror inflicted on non-Muslim minorities of Jammu and Kashmir.

JOINT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas the nation of India contains 28 states, the northernmost one of which is the state of
3 Jammu and Kashmir; and

4 Whereas the non-Muslim minorities of Jammu and Kashmir constitute more than 20 percent of
5 the population of that state; and

6 Whereas the non-Muslim minorities of Jammu and Kashmir have been subjected to ethnic per-
7 secution and violence over the past 17 years, due to efforts to establish Jammu and Kashmir as an
8 Islamic state governed by extremist principles, religious persecution and political subversion; and

9 Whereas this religious persecution and campaign of terror has forced nearly a million non-
10 Muslim residents of Jammu and Kashmir to flee their homes, with tens of thousands of these indi-
11 viduals living in exile all over the world, including in North America; and

12 Whereas Indian and international authorities have paid little attention to this extraordinary
13 human tragedy, allowing exiled communities to live in temporary shantytowns without access to
14 jobs, health care, opportunity or hope; and

15 Whereas the practice of establishing a semi-independent, geopolitically autonomous zone to
16 serve as a homeland for a persecuted ethnic minority has historic precedent in India, and serves as
17 a viable way to preserve the unique ethnic culture of Kashmiri minorities and basic human rights
18 for its members; and

19 Whereas to draw the attention of the world to the human tragedies being endured by the non-
20 Muslim minorities of Jammu and Kashmir, and to pay homage to thousands of Kashmiris who have
21 lost their lives in ethnic cleansing and religious persecution, September 14, 2007, is being observed
22 by many as Martyrs Day; and

23 Whereas many throughout the world, including residents of the State of Oregon, who believe in
24 fundamental principles of freedom of religion and human rights are observing Martyrs Day to ex-
25 press their condemnation of the treatment of non-Muslim minorities of Jammu and Kashmir; and

26 Whereas observing Martyrs Day increases public awareness and consciousness about the plight
27 and human rights abuses of the non-Muslim minority populations of Jammu and Kashmir and serves
28 as a call to establish an autonomous homeland within Jammu and Kashmir to protect these peoples
29 and their culture; now, therefore,

30 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, support the establishment of a
2 semi-independent geopolitically autonomous zone within the state of Jammu and Kashmir to serve
3 as a homeland for non-Muslim minorities of that state to protect them from ethnic cleansing, reli-
4 gious persecution and abuses of fundamental human rights, and further recognize September 14,
5 2007, as Martyrs Day, to condemn the religious persecutions and campaigns of terror inflicted on
6 non-Muslim Kashmiris.

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