

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4

Sponsored by Senator PROZANSKI (at the request of Dr. Jagan Kaul) (Presession filed.)

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**.

Condemns ethnic cleansing and religious persecution of non-Muslim minorities in State of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Recognizes September 14, 2015, as Martyrs Day.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Whereas the nation of India is composed of 29 states and seven union territories, the
2 northernmost state being the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and

3 Whereas according to census reports, the population of non-Muslim minorities in the Kashmir
4 Valley has decreased dramatically; and

5 Whereas non-Muslim minorities of the Kashmir region and adjacent areas have been subjected
6 to ethnic persecution, hate crimes and untold violence over the past quarter of a century due to
7 fundamentalist crusades by Islamic militants to convert Jammu and Kashmir into an Islamic state
8 governed by Sharia law and extremist principles, resulting in religious persecution and political
9 subversion; and

10 Whereas religious persecution and the campaign of terror has forced non-Muslim residents of
11 Jammu and Kashmir to flee their homes, with hundreds of thousands of these displaced peoples liv-
12 ing in exile all over the world, including in North America; and

13 Whereas Indian and international authorities have paid little attention to this extraordinary
14 human tragedy, making half-hearted efforts to provide relief that have produced no measurable re-
15 sults and have left exiles to live in temporary shantytowns without access to jobs, health care, de-
16 pendable amenities, opportunity or hope; and

17 Whereas the practice of establishing geopolitically autonomous states and union territories for
18 persecuted and neglected ethnic minorities who face discrimination has a historic precedent in India,
19 where even as recently as March 2014, the state of Telangana was created as India's 29th state to
20 protect the interests, ethnicity and culture of the people of that region; and

21 Whereas the creation of such a state for ethnic minorities of the Kashmir region would serve
22 as a viable way to preserve the unique ethnic culture and basic human rights of Kashmir minorities;
23 and

24 Whereas to draw the attention of the world to the human tragedies being endured by non-
25 Muslim minorities of Jammu and Kashmir, and to pay homage to thousands of Kashmiris who have
26 lost their lives due to ethnic cleansing and religious persecution, many throughout the world are
27 celebrating September 14 as Martyrs Day in memory of the many atrocities non-Muslim minorities
28 in Jammu and Kashmir have suffered; and

29 Whereas throughout the world and here in the State of Oregon, many who believe in the fun-
30 damental principles of freedom of religion and of human rights are observing Martyrs Day to express
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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 their condemnation of the treatment of non-Muslim minorities in Jammu and Kashmir; and

2 Whereas observing Martyrs Day increases public awareness of the plight of and human rights
3 abuses against the non-Muslim populations of Jammu and Kashmir, and serves as a call to establish
4 an autonomous homeland within Jammu and Kashmir to protect these people and their ethnicity and
5 culture; and

6 Whereas the United States has firmly opposed hate crimes and ethnic cleansing in Iraq, Bosnia,
7 Afghanistan and many other places worldwide, and has punished those responsible for religious
8 persecution of minorities; and

9 Whereas with a view to promote this important goal in the volatile regions of South Asia, the
10 same condemnation of hate crimes and ethnic cleansing should be extended in support of the victims
11 of radical Islam and jihadi terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir; now, therefore,

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

13 That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, condemn ethnic cleansing and
14 religious persecution everywhere in the world, including in the State of Jammu and Kashmir in
15 India; and be it further

16 Resolved, That we support the establishment of a geopolitically autonomous region within the
17 State of Jammu and Kashmir to serve as a homeland for exiled non-Muslim minorities of the
18 Kashmir region to protect them from ethnic cleansing, religious persecution, abuse of fundamental
19 human rights and official neglect and discrimination; and be it further

20 Resolved, That we recognize September 14, 2015, as Martyrs Day to condemn the religious per-
21 secution of and campaign of terror against non-Muslim Kashmiris.

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