

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H. RES. 239

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 16, 2021

Ms. Ocasio-Cortez (for herself, Ms. Tlaib, Mr. Gomez, and Mr. Meeks) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

- Whereas the region of Bengal in South Asia is home to an ancient civilization with a rich cultural and literary tradition;
- Whereas the 1947 partition of India created an East Bengal province, which became part of Pakistan, and in 1954, as part of the One-Unit program, East Bengal became East Pakistan;
- Whereas, in December 1970, Pakistan held its first election, and despite East Pakistan winning a majority of seats in Parliament, the West Pakistan-based military leadership refused to cede power to the majority and instead imposed martial law in East Pakistan;

- Whereas, on March 26, 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence from West Pakistan;
- Whereas, in December 1971, following a nine-month long war that resulted in millions of displaced people and deaths, the Pakistani Army surrendered to Indian and Bangladeshi allied forces;
- Whereas, on February 14, 1972, the late Senator Edward Kennedy at a speech at Dhaka University said, "The struggle of the people of Bangladesh . . . evokes the greatest memories of our past" and exemplifies a shared love of freedom with the American people; and
- Whereas, in August 2017, citing parallels between the displacement of Bengalis during the 1971 war, the Government of Bangladesh accepted more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees fleeing genocide in Burma: Now, therefore, be it
 - 1 Resolved, That the House of Representatives—
 - 2 (1) recognizes the people of Bangladesh on the 3 50th anniversary of their independence;
 - 4 (2) recognizes the historical significance of this 5 milestone to those of Bangladeshi heritage;
 - (3) recognizes the courage of freedom fighters in the struggle for independence and democracy;
- 8 (4) expresses support for the principles of 9 democratic governance to which the people of Ban-10 gladesh are committed; and

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1 (5) recognizes the contributions of Bangladesh 2 for hosting Rohingya refugees fleeing genocide in

3 Burma.

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