

**Suspend the Rules And Agree to the Resolution, H. Res. 177 with
Amendments**

(The amendments consist of a new preamble and a substitute text)

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 177

Expressing support for internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation
within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2011

Mr. GRIMM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for internal rebuilding, resettlement, and
reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to
ensure a lasting peace.

Whereas May 19, 2012, marked the three-year anniversary of
the end of the 26-year conflict between the Liberation Ti-
gers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri
Lanka;

Whereas the people of Sri Lanka suffered greatly as a result
of this conflict, the impact and aftermath of which has
been felt especially by women, children, and families;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka established a Lessons
Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) to report

whether any person, group, or institution directly or indirectly bears responsibility for incidents that occurred between February 2002 and May 2009 and to recommend measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future and promote further national unity and reconciliation among all communities;

Whereas the LLRC report was presented to the Sri Lankan Parliament on December 16, 2011, and officially translated into Sinhala and Tamil on August 16, 2012, and taking note of the LLRC report's possible contribution to the process of national reconciliation in Sri Lanka;

Whereas the LLRC report acknowledges important events and grievances that have contributed to decades of political violence and civil war in Sri Lanka and makes constructive recommendations on a wide range of issues, including the need to credibly investigate widespread allegations of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances; demilitarization of the north and the country as a whole; reach a political settlement with minority communities on the meaningful devolution of power; promote and protect the right to freedom of expression for all, including the enactment of a right to information law; and enact rule of law reforms;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, India, and other governments and inter-governmental organizations have called on the Government of Sri Lanka to implement the recommendations of its own LLRC Report;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka expressed its commitment to addressing the needs of all ethnic groups and has recognized, in the past, the necessity of a political settlement and reconciliation for a peaceful and just society;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka has developed the National Plan of Action to implement 82 of the 285 recommendations of the LLRC;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka has made progress on rehabilitation, resettlement of displaced persons, and improvement of infrastructure in the north;

Whereas Sri Lanka also has a long history of establishing commissions but failing to act upon the recommendations of those commissions; and

Whereas progress on domestic and international investigations into reports of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other human rights violations during the conflict and promoting reconciliation would facilitate enhanced United States engagement and investment in Sri Lanka: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to
3 build on its establishment of the Lessons Learnt and
4 Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) and that Com-
5 mission's constructive recommendations on issues of
6 paramount importance to Sri Lanka in a credible,
7 transparent, and expeditious manner;

8 (2) recognizes that the LLRC report failed to
9 adequately address issues of accountability for both
10 the government and the terrorist Liberation Tigers
11 of Tamil Eelam, for credible allegations of war
12 crimes and crimes against humanity;

1 (3) urges the Government of Sri Lanka, the
2 international community, and the United Nations to
3 establish an independent international accountability
4 mechanism to look into reports of war crimes,
5 crimes against humanity, and other human rights
6 violations committed by both sides during and after
7 the war in Sri Lanka and to make recommendations
8 regarding accountability;

9 (4) encourages the Government of Sri Lanka to
10 allow for greater media freedoms and humanitarian
11 organizations, journalists, and international human
12 rights groups greater access to the war-affected, in-
13 cluding rehabilitated ex-Liberation Tigers of Tamil
14 Eelam cadres, and those detained;

15 (5) acknowledges the end of the war and calls
16 on the Government of Sri Lanka to go through a
17 process of demilitarization throughout the country;
18 and

19 (6) acknowledges the importance for parties to
20 reach a political settlement on the meaningful devo-
21 lution of power.