

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1043 By: Blackburn

A Resolution relating to human rights and normalizing the United States' relationship with Vietnam; requesting that such normalization be halted until certain conditions are met; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Vietnam fell into the hands of the communist regime over twenty years ago on April 30, 1975, and since that time serious violations of human rights have been committed by Hanoi, such as religious suppression, speech prohibition and other violations; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, human rights have been a cornerstone of the democratic spirit; and

WHEREAS, Hanoi has never paid attention to human rights, but has only consolidated their totalitarian authority; and

WHEREAS, many of the human rights proponents and religious leaders and their followers have been imprisoned by this communist regime for attempting to speak for democracy and to worship as they believe; and

WHEREAS, the American Federation of Labor/Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO), U.S. Senator Bill Bradley, British Lord Avebury, and 30 human rights organizations from around the world have demanded the release of prisoners of conscience, but they have not been successful; and

WHEREAS, since May 5, 1995, Nancy Eby-Raphel, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, led the U.S. delegation to Hanoi for a talk on human rights. Hanoi made no concession to the U.S. demand on relaxing restriction on freedoms; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 1995, several United States Senators asked the current administration to halt the process of normalizing relations with Vietnam until the Vietnamese government immediately and unconditionally releases all prisoners of conscience; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the Oklahoma Legislature raise its collective voice in opposition to the United States normalizing its relationship with Vietnam, a country which suppresses very basic human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the United States of America halt any further efforts in normalizing its relationship with Vietnam until:

1. All prisoners of conscience in Vietnam, who are serving time in re-education camps for loving their country and their religious beliefs and not the communist regime, be immediately and unconditionally released; and

2. The Vietnamese people are entitled to exercise all the rights prescribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President of the United States, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Senate and to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 26th day of May,

1995.

Speaker

of the House of
Representatives