

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 420 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY JOSEPHS, GEORGE, COHEN, READSHAW, REICHLEY, MUNDY,  
SIPTROTH, YOUNGBLOOD, GINGRICH, DENLINGER, BRADFORD, RAPP,  
MURT AND MELIO, JULY 20, 2009

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Calling on the United Nations to facilitate the immediate and  
2 unconditional release of National League for Democracy leader  
3 Dr. Aung San Suu Kyi ~~from continued detention by the Burmese~~  
4 ~~military government~~ AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM  
5 CONTINUED DETENTION BY THE BURMESE MILITARY GOVERNMENT;  
6 NOTING THE RELEASE OF JOHN WILLIAM YETTAW; AND CALLING ON THE  
7 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO IMPOSE STRICT ECONOMIC  
8 SANCTIONS AGAINST BURMA (MYANMAR).



9 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of  
10 Pennsylvania recognize and condemn the Burmese (MYANMAR)  
11 military junta's unlawful and cruel treatment of more than 2,000  
12 political prisoners, including Dr. Suu Kyi; and



13 WHEREAS, Burma's (MYANMAR'S) military government has  
14 subjected the Nobel Peace Prize laureate to house arrest since  
15 1989; and



16 WHEREAS, Dr. Suu Kyi was initially detained for pro-reform  
17 demonstrations as a founder of the National League for  
18 Democracy; and

19 WHEREAS, DR. SUU KYI WAS NAMED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S  
20 AMBASSADOR OF CONSCIENCE ON JULY 28, 2009; AND



1 WHEREAS, ~~Myanmar's~~ BURMA'S (MYANMAR'S) 1975 State Protection  
2 Act empowers the government to hold persons for up to five years  
3 without trial; and

4 WHEREAS, The government has illegally extended Dr. Suu Kyi's  
5 detention, providing for her repeated release and reconfinement;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Suu Kyi's detention period beginning in May 2003  
8 was illegally extended for one year on May 27, 2008, and was  
9 officially lifted on May 26, 2009; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Suu Kyi ~~is now an inmate of Insein Prison,~~  
11 ~~facing trial and conviction~~ WAS CONVICTED ON AUGUST 11, 2009,  
12 AND IS APPEALING HER CONVICTION AT YANGON DIVISIONAL COURT for  
13 violating the terms of her house arrest; and

14 WHEREAS, The charges stem from an incident on May 14, 2009,  
15 when John William Yettaw, an American who illegally entered  
16 Burma (MYANMAR), swam to Dr. Suu Kyi's waterfront home and  
17 sheltered there, pleading exhaustion; and

18 WHEREAS, UNITED STATES SENATOR JIM WEBB, CHAIRMAN OF THE EAST  
19 ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
20 FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITING BURMA (MYANMAR), SECURED THE  
21 RELEASED ON AUGUST 16, 2009, OF JOHN WILLIAM YETTAW ON  
22 HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS; AND

23 WHEREAS, MR. YETTAW, A UNITED STATES MILITARY VETERAN, HAD  
24 BEEN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS OF HARD LABOR FOR ILLEGALLY  
25 ENTERING DR. SUU KYI'S HOUSE; AND

26 WHEREAS, BURMA'S (MYANMAR'S) GOVERNMENT DID NOT HONOR SENATOR  
27 WEBB'S REQUEST OF AMNESTY FOR DR. SUU KYI; AND

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Suu Kyi's own health is deteriorating as her  
29 confinement has been illegally extended; and

30 WHEREAS, Dehydration, low blood pressure and dangerous weight

1 loss are some of the physical conditions Dr. Suu Kyi is believed  
2 to have developed; and

3 WHEREAS, Security forces detained Dr. Suu Kyi's personal  
4 physician, Dr. Tin Myo Win, after having denied him entry to her  
5 home in May 2009; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States ~~State~~ Department OF STATE has said ←  
7 that Burmese (MYANMAR) authorities are pursuing unjustified and ←  
8 indefensible charges against Dr. Suu Kyi; and

9 ~~WHEREAS, Dr. Suu Kyi's extended detainment violates~~ ←  
10 ~~international law; and~~

11 ~~WHEREAS, Dr. Suu Kyi's extended detainment violates Burma's~~  
12 ~~domestic legislation; and~~

13 WHEREAS, Various governments, international agencies and  
14 nongovernmental organizations have called for the immediate  
15 release of Dr. Suu Kyi; ~~therefore be it~~ AND ←

16 WHEREAS, INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE CALLED FOR THE  
17 IMPOSITION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE MILITARY REGIME OF  
18 BURMA (MYANMAR) TO RESTRICT TRADE AND ARMS SUPPLIES; THEREFORE  
19 BE IT

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
21 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call on the United Nations to  
22 facilitate the immediate and unconditional release of National  
23 League for Democracy leader Dr. Aung Suu Kyi from continued  
24 detention by the Burmese military government; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ←  
26 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA NOTE THE RELEASE OF JOHN WILLIAM  
27 YETTAW, WHO WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS OF HARD  
28 LABOR; AND BE IT FURTHER

29 RESOLVED, THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
30 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, CONCERNED BY THE HARSH PUNISHMENT

1 AND REPRESSION EXERCISED BY THE BURMA (MYANMAR) MILITARY REGIME,  
2 CALL ON THE UNITED NATIONS TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ALL  
3 POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE; AND BE IT  
4 FURTHER

5 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
6 Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Ambassador Susan Rice in care  
7 of the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York,  
8 140 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017 AND TO THE UNITED  
9 STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE. 