

HR30 INTRODUCED



1 35GQZV-1
2 By Representative Crawford
3 RFD: RULES
4 First Read: 23-Mar-23
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HR_____ ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO FORMALLY REVIEW THE "STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN; TO OFFICIALLY EXAMINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF NAVY LIEUTENANT RIDGE ALKONIS; AND TO ENSURE THAT AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBERS ARE BEING PROPERLY TREATED AND ADEQUATELY PROTECTED WHILE SERVING IN JAPAN.

WHEREAS, there are over 100,000 American service members and dependents stationed in Japan, more than any other place in the world other than the United States; and

WHEREAS, active-duty Alabamians are, and will continue to be, stationed abroad in Japan while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Status of Forces Agreements are designed to ensure adequate and fair legal treatment of American service members stationed abroad; and

WHEREAS, in practice, the United States-Japan Status of Forces Agreement does not appear to provide adequate legal protection for American service members; as there are reports that Japan regularly violates the Status of Forces



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26 Agreement by detaining American service members without
27 adequate cause or necessity prior to charges; and

28 WHEREAS, there are reports that Japanese authorities
29 consistently deny legal counsel to service members during
30 police interrogations and fail to provide adequate
31 translation assistance during interrogations and trials,
32 which violates U.S. Department of Defense policy regarding
33 the legal rights of service members overseas as outlined in
34 Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5820.4G and Army
35 Regulation 27-50; and

36 WHEREAS, the case of Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis
37 embodies the reported issues surrounding the United
38 States-Japan Status of Forces Agreement, as Lieutenant
39 Alkonis experienced prejudicial treatment during Japanese
40 police detainment and trial; and

41 WHEREAS, there are numerous reports of Lieutenant
42 Alkonis receiving extremely suspect legal advice and
43 inadequate support from United States Navy personnel during
44 legal proceedings; and

45 WHEREAS, there is evidence of the United States Navy
46 knowingly misleading members of the United States Congress
47 regarding Lieutenant Alkonis's case; and

48 WHEREAS, there is sufficient evidence to reasonably
49 suspect that Lieutenant Alkonis is wrongfully detained; and

50 WHEREAS, the United States Congress through the United



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51 States House Committee on Armed Services is responsible for
52 conducting oversight of the United States Navy and ensuring
53 that international agreements are in the best interests of
54 the American people and abided to by the parties entered
55 therein; now therefore,

56 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
57 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we encourage the United States
58 Congress and the National Security Council to:

59 (a) Conduct a formal review of the Status of Forces
60 Agreement between the United States and Japan to ensure that
61 the agreement is in the best interest of the United States
62 and adequately protects American service members in
63 accordance with constitutional rights and United States
64 Department of Defense policy; and

65 (b) Conduct an official investigation into the
66 circumstances and dealings surrounding the investigation,
67 trial, and conviction of Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis to
68 ensure that Lieutenant Alkonis was treated fairly by Japan
69 and that the United States Navy provided fair and adequate
70 support; and

71 (c) Refer Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis's case to the
72 Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs to be
73 designated as a wrongfully detained case.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon adoption of this
75 resolution, an appropriate copy be provided by the clerk of



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76 this body to the majority leader of the United States House
77 of Representatives, the Speaker of the United States House
78 of Representatives, the Chair of the United States House
79 Committee on Armed Services, the Chair of the United States
80 House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services, the
81 Chair of the United States House Committee on Foreign
82 Relations, the Chair of the United States House Committee on
83 Foreign Affairs, the Chair of the United States House
84 Committee on the Judiciary, the National Security Advisor,
85 and the members of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.
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