

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 92

Introduced by Assembly Member Hagman

August 26, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 92—Relative to the release of convicted Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 92, as introduced, Hagman. Release of convicted Lockerbie bomber.

This measure would declare that the people of California stand united in sympathy and support for the Lockerbie Bombing victims' families, for fairness and justice, and in strong opposition to the irresponsible actions of the Scottish Government in releasing Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi, a convicted mass murderer.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Abdelbaset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi is a Libyan
2 terrorist who was convicted on 270 counts of murder on January
3 31, 2001, for his part in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over
4 Lockerbie, Scotland on December 21, 1988; and
5 WHEREAS, On December 21, 1988, Pan Am flight 103, a
6 Boeing 747 named "Clipper Maid of the Seas," was destroyed by
7 a bomb, killing all 243 passengers and 16 crew members, in what
8 has come to be referred to as the "Lockerbie Bombing"; and
9 WHEREAS, Eleven more victims were killed on the ground by
10 large sections of the plane that fell in and around the town of
11 Lockerbie; and

1 WHEREAS, One hundred eighty of the victims, exactly
2 two-thirds of all the victims of the Lockerbie Bombing, were
3 American citizens, and seven of those victims were from
4 California: Jerry Don Avritt, a 46-year-old flight engineer from
5 Westminster; Surinder Mohan Bhatia, a 51-year-old businessman
6 from Los Angeles; Stacie Denise Franklin, a 20-year-old flight
7 attendant from San Diego; Matthew Kevin Gannon, a 34-year-old
8 foreign service officer from Los Angeles; Paul Isaac Garret, a
9 41-year-old flight attendant from Napa; Barry Joesph Valentino,
10 a 28-year-old exhibit designer from San Francisco; and Jonathan
11 White, a 33-year-old accountant from North Hollywood; and

12 WHEREAS, After being convicted on 270 counts of murder for
13 his part in the bombing, Abdelbaset was sentenced to life
14 imprisonment; and

15 WHEREAS, Abdelbaset was recently released by the Scottish
16 Government and allowed to return to Libya, after being diagnosed
17 with terminal prostate cancer and given a life expectancy of less
18 than three months; and

19 WHEREAS, The release of Abdelbaset, ordered by the Scottish
20 Cabinet Secretary of Justice Kenny MacAskill, is morally
21 reprehensible and flies in the face of justice; and

22 WHEREAS, Abdelbaset lacked compassion for the innocent
23 victims of the Lockerbie Bombing and their families, and, in light
24 of this fact, compassion for Abdelbaset is inappropriate; and

25 WHEREAS, The early release of a known terrorist and mass
26 murderer sets a dangerous precedent and opens the window for an
27 even more dangerous and deadly terrorist attack in the name of
28 “martyrdom”; and

29 WHEREAS, Abdelbaset has shown no regret for his actions and
30 was greeted in Libya to a hero’s welcome, both of which are highly
31 disrespectful of the Lockerbie Bombing victims’ families; now,
32 therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the people of California stand united in
35 sympathy and support for the Lockerbie Bombing victims’ families,
36 for fairness and justice, and in strong opposition to the irresponsible
37 actions of the Scottish Government in releasing Abdelbaset Ali
38 Mohmed Al Megrahi, a convicted mass murderer.

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