

**Introduced by Senators Alpert, Kopp, Lockyer, Schiff,
Vasconcellos, and Watson**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Baca, Baldwin,
Davis, Gallegos, Honda, Knox, Machado, Napolitano,
Villaraigosa, and Wayne)

April 27, 1998

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 90—Relative to safety of
journalists in Mexico.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 90, as introduced, Alpert. Safety of journalists in
Mexico.

This measure would provide that the Legislature
commends Mexican journalists for their courageous
commitment to exposing the activities of powerful drug
cartels, and that, in order to promote the safety of journalists
on both sides of the border between California and Mexico, it
is the desire of the Legislature that California law
enforcement work in collaboration with Mexican law
enforcement to develop mechanisms for full cooperation
when either government is conducting an investigation into
an attack on the press.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The recent assassination attempt on
2 Tijuana journalist Jesús Blancornelas by members of the
3 Arellano Félix drug cartel has focused attention on the
4 peril of Mexican journalists who report on the activities
5 of powerful organized drug rings; and

1 WHEREAS, A growing number of Mexican journalists
2 are courageously willing to expose drug trafficking and
3 government corruption, and by doing so, place
4 themselves in danger of physical assault; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1990, 60 reporters in Mexico have
6 been targets of violent attacks, and 14 Mexican journalists
7 have been murdered since 1984; and

8 WHEREAS, The Blancornelas case is a tragic example
9 of how drug trafficking and its associated violence have
10 inextricable links on both sides of the border; and

11 WHEREAS, These links include the multibillion dollar
12 cross-border drug trade and the palpable threat the drug
13 cartels pose to Mexico's vital interests, as well as the
14 personal, social, and economic havoc wrought by
15 narcotics in the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Further examples of the binational nature
17 of this issue include the fact that Mexican drug traffickers
18 have been known to recruit United States gang members
19 in cities all along the border to work as henchmen in
20 Mexico, including one of Blancornelas' would-be
21 assassins, David Barrón Corona, who grew up in the San
22 Diego area, where he was a member of a local street gang;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Any hope of successfully combating drug
25 trafficking and the violence that goes with it will require
26 the best efforts of Mexico and the United States working
27 together in an alliance of cross-border cooperation,
28 applying a cross-border strategy; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*
30 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature
31 commends Jesús Blancornelas and other Mexican
32 journalists for their courageous commitment to exposing
33 the activities of powerful drug cartels, and that, in order
34 to promote the safety of journalists on both sides of the
35 border between California and Mexico, it is the desire of
36 the Legislature that California law enforcement work in
37 collaboration with Mexican law enforcement to develop
38 mechanisms for full cooperation when either
39 government is conducting an investigation into an attack
40 on the press; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
2 copies of this resolution to representatives of the
3 government of Mexico, the President and Vice President
4 of the United States, the United States Congress, and
5 representatives of federal, state, and local law
6 enforcement involved in preventing criminal activity
7 along the California and Mexican border.

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