

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 90

Adopted in Senate May 18, 1998

Secretary of the Senate

Adopted in Assembly July 27, 1998

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This resolution was received by the Secretary of
State this____ day of _____, 1998,
at ____o'clock __M.

Deputy Secretary of State

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RESOLUTION CHAPTER _____

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 90, 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.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature commends Jesús Blancornelas and other 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; and be it further

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



Attest:

Secretary of State

