

**AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE PRINT OF H.R.
1960
OFFERED BY MR. TURNER OF OHIO**

Amend section 1244 to read as follows:

1 **SEC. 1244. STATEMENT OF CONGRESS ON DEFENSE CO-**
2 **OPERATION WITH GEORGIA.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The Republic of Georgia is a highly valued
5 ally of the United States and has repeatedly dem-
6 onstrated its commitment to advancing the mutual
7 interests of both countries, including the deployment
8 of Georgian forces as part of the NATO-led Inter-
9 national Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan
10 and the Multi-National Force in Iraq.

11 (2) The peaceful transfer of power as the result
12 of the free and fair parliamentary elections in Geor-
13 gia in October 2012 represents a major accomplish-
14 ment toward the Georgian people's creation of a free
15 society and full democracy.

16 (3) However, since the October 2012 par-
17 liamentary elections the new Georgian Government
18 has taken a series of measures against former offi-
19 cials and members of the current political opposition

1 that appear to be motivated by political consider-
2 ations.

3 (4) Over 100 former Georgian Government offi-
4 cials have been charged with criminal violations
5 since the October 2012 parliamentary elections.

6 (5) Similar charges have been filed against
7 members of the political opposition, including Vano
8 Merabishvili, the Secretary General of the United
9 National Movement.

10 (6) The arrest of the leader of an opposition
11 party is especially troubling, particularly its chilling
12 effect on political freedom prior to the presidential
13 election scheduled for October 2013.

14 (7) The Georgian Government has taken insuf-
15 ficient action to prevent further violence against
16 members of the United National Movement and to
17 punish offenders.

18 (8) These actions call into question the Geor-
19 gian Government's continued progress toward the
20 creation of a free and democratic society in which
21 basic freedoms, including freedom for political oppo-
22 sition, are guaranteed.

23 (b) STATEMENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress declares
24 that—

1 (1) the United States remains committed to as-
2 sisting the people of Georgia in establishing a free
3 and democratic society in their country;

4 (2) the measures taken by the Georgian Gov-
5 ernment against former officials and political oppo-
6 nents, apparently in part motivated by political con-
7 siderations, may have a significant negative impact
8 on cooperation between the United States and Geor-
9 gia, including efforts to build a stronger relationship
10 in political, economic, and security matters, as well
11 as progress on integrating Georgia into international
12 organizations;

13 (3) the United States must be unambiguous
14 when democratic backsliding occurs in a key ally
15 after a peaceful and democratic transfer of power
16 between political parties; and

17 (4) the people of the United States and the
18 Members of Congress express their deepest condo-
19 lences to the Georgian people on the tragic loss of
20 seven soldiers of Georgia in a suicide bombing on
21 June 6, 2013, and the deaths of three soldiers killed
22 in another suicide bombing on May 13, 2013, while
23 they were supporting United States and NATO
24 forces in Afghanistan.

