

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 324

Expressing support for the people of Sri Lanka in the wake of the tsunami and the assassination of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and urging support and respect for free and fair elections in Sri Lanka.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2005

Mr. McCAIN (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the people of Sri Lanka in the wake of the tsunami and the assassination of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and urging support and respect for free and fair elections in Sri Lanka.

Whereas, on December 26, 2004, Sri Lanka was struck by a tsunami that left some 30,000 dead and hundreds of thousands of people homeless;

Whereas the United States and the world community recognized the global importance of preventing that tragedy from spiraling into an uncontrolled disaster and sent aid to Sri Lanka to provide immediate relief;

Whereas the massive tsunami reconstruction effort in Sri Lanka creates significant challenges for the country;

Whereas the democratic process in Sri Lanka is further challenged by the refusal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a group that the Secretary of State has designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, to renounce violence as a means of effecting political change;

Whereas, on August 12, 2005, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakhsman Kadirgamar was assassinated at his home in Colombo in a brutal terrorist act that has been widely attributed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam by officials in Sri Lanka, the United States, and other countries;

Whereas democratic elections are scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka on November 17, 2005; and

Whereas the United States has an interest in a free and fair democratic process in Sri Lanka, and the peaceful resolution of the insurgency that has afflicted Sri Lanka for more than two decades: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses its support for the people of Sri
3 Lanka as they recover from the devastating tsunami
4 that occurred on December 26, 2004, and the assas-
5 sination of the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister
6 Lakhsman Kadirgamar on August 12, 2005;

7 (2) expresses its support for the courageous de-
8 cision by the democratically-elected Government of
9 Sri Lanka, following the assassination of Foreign
10 Minister Kadirgamar, to remain in discussions with
11 the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in an attempt

1 to resolve peacefully the issues facing the people of
2 Sri Lanka; and

3 (3) urges all parties in Sri Lanka to remain
4 committed to the negotiating process and to make
5 every possible attempt at national reconciliation.

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