

112TH CONGRESS
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S. RES. 316

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Tunisia's peaceful Jasmine Revolution.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Tunisia's peaceful Jasmine Revolution.

Whereas, on January 14, 2011, a peaceful mass protest movement in Tunisia successfully brought to an end the authoritarian rule of President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali;

Whereas Tunisia's peaceful "Jasmine Revolution" was the first of several movements throughout the Middle East and North Africa and inspired democracy and human rights activists throughout the region and around the world;

Whereas Tunisia, in the wake of Ben Ali's resignation, began a transition to democracy that has been broadly inclusive, consensus-based, and civilian-led;

Whereas, on October 23, 2011, Tunisia conducted the first competitive, multi-party democratic election of the Arab Spring, which involved dozens of political parties and hundreds of independent candidates competing for a 217-member National Constituent Assembly;

Whereas more than 50 percent of all eligible voters and nearly 90 percent of registered voters participated in the October 23 election;

Whereas Tunisia's Independent Electoral Commission welcomed and accredited a robust domestic and international election observer presence, including 3 independent delegations from the United States;

Whereas election observers have broadly praised the October 23 election as free, fair, and consistent with international standards;

Whereas roughly 25 percent of the seat in the National Constituent Assembly were won by women;

Whereas the newly-elected National Constituent Assembly is tasked with drafting a new constitution to guide Tunisia's transition towards a representative democracy that reflects the aspirations of the Tunisian people;

Whereas the Jasmine Revolution was largely a reaction to long-accumulated economic grievances, ongoing high unemployment and poor economic conditions sustain the potential to drive future political protestations;

Whereas the United States and Tunisia have enjoyed friendly relations for more than 200 years; and

Whereas the United States was among the first countries to recognize Tunisian independence in 1956: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) congratulates the people of Tunisia for
3 holding, on October 23, 2011, the first competitive,
4 multi-party democratic elections since the outbreak
5 of popular revolutions throughout the Middle East
6 and North Africa in 2011;

7 (2) commends the Tunisian independent elec-
8 toral commission for—

9 (A) successfully conducting a free, fair,
10 transparent, and credible election on October
11 23, 2011; and

12 (B) welcoming independent international
13 and domestic election observers and granting
14 them unrestricted access to polling and count-
15 ing stations;

16 (3) congratulates all newly-elected members,
17 and the parties with which they are affiliated, of the
18 National Democratic Constituent Assembly;

19 (4) affirms the national interest of the United
20 States in a successful and irreversible transition to
21 democracy in Tunisia, including—

22 (A) respect for the rule of law;

23 (B) independent media;

24 (C) a vibrant civil society; and

1 (D) universal rights and freedoms, includ-
2 ing equal rights for all citizens, freedom of
3 speech, and human rights;

4 (5) affirms the national interest of the United
5 States in Tunisia’s economic prosperity and develop-
6 ment, including through increased foreign direct in-
7 vestment, tourism, entrepreneurship, technical co-
8 operation, and strengthened trade ties;

9 (6) urges increased United States engagement
10 and cooperation with the Tunisian government and
11 people, including—

12 (A) Tunisia’s democratic institutions;

13 (B) civil society;

14 (C) schools and universities;

15 (D) independent media; and

16 (E) the private sector; and

17 (7) reaffirms the unwavering friendship between
18 the people of the United States and the people of
19 Tunisia.

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