

Whereas, on December 12, 2003, Congress passed the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175) in order to, among other purposes, hold the Government of Syria accountable for its actions and as expression of support consistent with these aims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses solidarity and support for the people of Syria as they seek to exercise universal rights and pursue peaceful democratic change;

(2) strongly condemns and deplores the human rights abuses of the Government of Syria, including the use of arbitrary and lethal violence and deployment of military forces against peaceful demonstrators;

(3) strongly condemns and deplores the Government of Syria's extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, and arbitrary and mass arrests against civilians in Syria;

(4) strongly condemns and deplores the deliberate cut-off of water, electricity, food, telecommunications, and other basic services to civilian population centers in Syria;

(5) strongly condemns the Government of Iran for assisting the Government of Syria in its campaign of violence and repression against the people of Syria;

(6) warns that international crimes are being committed by the Government of Syria against its people, for which the responsible officials must be held accountable;

(7) finds that the Government of Syria, led by Bashar al-Assad, through its campaign of violence and gross human rights abuses, has lost legitimacy and expresses support for the people of Syria to determine their future for themselves;

(8) commends President Obama for authorizing targeted sanctions on human rights abusers in Syria, including United States visa bans and asset freezes, and using that authority to designate 3 individuals;

(9) urges the President to act swiftly to expand the list of sanctioned persons to include all individuals responsible for gross human rights abuses in Syria, including Bashar al-Assad;

(10) urges the President to speak out directly, and personally, to the people of Syria about the situation in their country;

(11) urges the President to work, in conjunction with international partners, to ensure access of humanitarian relief organizations, medical workers, and international media to affected areas of Syria, and to impose consequences on the Government of Syria and its leaders if access by these organizations continues to be impeded;

(12) urges the President to work, in conjunction with international partners, to ensure access by the people of Syria to accurate news and information, as well as information and social networking technologies;

(13) urges the President to continue to work with the European Union, the Government of Turkey, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and other allies and partners to bring an end to human rights abuses in Syria, hold the perpetrators accountable, and support the aspirations of the people of Syria;

(14) encourages United States officials, including through the United States Embassy in Damascus, to engage with civil society in Syria, including human rights and democracy activists, political dissidents, and opposition leaders;

(15) urges the President to work with our allies and partners at the United Nations Security Council to condemn and hold accountable human rights abusers in Syria and to support the human rights of the people of Syria; and

(16) urges the United Nations Human Rights Council—

(A) to swiftly implement United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution S-16/1 and to ensure that the international investigation into violations by the Government of Syria of international human rights law called for in the resolution is undertaken immediately; and

(B) reinforce the crucial need for the United Nations General Assembly to reject Syria's candidacy for membership on the Human Rights Council and terminate the consideration of Syria's candidacy.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 2 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Diverting Non-urgent Emergency Room Use: Can It Provide Better Care and Lower Costs?" on May 11, 2011, at 10 a.m., in 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH AND CENTRAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 10 a.m., to

hold a Near Eastern and South and Central Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, "Human Rights and Democratic Reform in Iran."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 10:15 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The AT&T-Mobile Merger: Is Humpty Dumpty Being Put Back Together Again?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 11, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1 p.m., Thursday, May 12, 2011, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 47 on the Executive Calendar; that there be 1 hour for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on Calendar No. 47; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.