

S. 1055, a bill to restrict the exportation of certain defense articles to the Philippine National Police, to work with the Philippines to support civil society and a public health approach to substance abuse, to report on Chinese and other sources of narcotics to the Republic of the Philippines, and for other purposes.

S. 1118

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1118, a bill to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

S. 1161

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventative health services, and for other purposes.

S. 1835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1835, a bill to provide support to States to establish invisible high-risk pool or reinsurance programs.

S. 2038

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2038, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2152, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for assistance for victims of child pornography, and for other purposes.

S. 2159

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2159, a bill to require covered harassment and covered discrimination awareness and prevention training for Members, officers, employees, interns, fellows, and detailees of Congress within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter, to require a biennial climate survey of Congress, to amend the enforcement process under the Office of Congressional Workplace

Rights for covered harassment and covered discrimination complaints, and for other purposes.

S. 2184

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2184, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve veterans' health care benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2200

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2200, a bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System, and for other purposes.

S. 2219

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2219, a bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by override crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 139

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 139, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 359—COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH FOR ITS COMPASSION DURING THE ROHINGYA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND COMMENDING POPE FRANCIS FOR HIS MESSAGE OF PEACE

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 359

Whereas Bangladesh has taken in Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution in Burma since the 1970s;

Whereas at least 300,000 Rohingya refugees were still in Bangladesh prior to August 25, 2017;

Whereas an August 25, 2017, attack on security posts in Burma by the military group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army resulted in a brutal and methodical reprisal by the Burmese military on Rohingya villages;

Whereas more than 624,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since August 25, 2017, alone, most located in or near the coastal city of Cox's Bazar;

Whereas the Rohingya refugee crisis is the fast-growing refugee crisis in the world;

Whereas the Government of Bangladesh has accepted nearly 1,000,000 Rohingya refugees in total despite facing their own domestic challenges;

Whereas the Government of Bangladesh has notably allowed full access for international relief organizations;

Whereas, on September 22, 2017, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged before the United Nations General Assembly an end to the violence against the Rohingya and full implementation in Burma of the recommendations made by Kofi Annan's Advisory Commission on the Rakhine State;

Whereas, on November 23, 2017, the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Burma signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a repatriation agreement;

Whereas the Memorandum of Understanding on a repatriation agreement is modeled after a flawed 1992–1993 repatriation pact between Bangladesh and Burma, and does not resolve critical questions on the potential repatriation process for Rohingya refugees, including verification of residency, where refugees would be permitted to return, and whether they would enjoy equal access and rights;

Whereas, on November 25, 2017, the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali said that Bangladesh would support the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees being involved in any process to repatriate Rohingya refugees to Burma;

Whereas Pope Francis, who has been recognized for his humility, dedication to the poor, and commitment to dialogue and reconciliation, has previously denounced the "persecution of our Rohingya brothers" who were being "tortured and killed, simply because they uphold their Muslim faith";

Whereas Pope Francis traveled to Burma on November 27, 2017, and urged "a peace based on respect for the dignity and rights of each member of society, respect for each ethnic group and its identity";

Whereas Pope Francis, in a visit to Bangladesh on November 30, 2017, recognized the generosity of Bangladeshis in caring for Rohingya refugees and called on the international community to "take decisive measures to address this grave crisis, not only by working to resolve the political issues that have led to the mass displacement of people, but also by offering immediate material assistance to Bangladesh in its effort to respond effectively to urgent human needs"; and

Whereas the United Nations has estimated a need of \$434,000,000 to respond to the Rohingya refugee crisis: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Government of Bangladesh for its admirable compassion and tolerance in accepting Rohingya refugees;

(2) commends the United Nations agencies, nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners, and all aid workers providing relief to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and urges the Government of Bangladesh to continue to help coordinate critical humanitarian work and ensure ease of access for those carrying out such efforts;

(3) urges the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Burma to consult and coordinate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, and NGO partners on any and all safe and voluntary repatriation efforts;

(4) urges the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of Burma to address the flaws of the November 23, 2017, Memorandum of Understanding on repatriation through consultation and agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(5) urges all parties involved in the repatriation process to reject any actions which could continue or worsen the harsh conditions faced by Rohingya refugees, including the confinement of the Rohingya in camps, contained ghettos, or villages where movement is restricted in Burma, or on the flood-

prone Bhashan Char island in the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh, or any other location that would result in further isolation; and

(6) commends Pope Francis for his thoughtful remarks about the future of Burma that respects rule of law, the democratic order, and the dignity and rights of all of its people.

SENATE RESOLUTION 360—CALLING FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY COMMITTED BY THE BURMESE MILITARY AGAINST THE ROHINGYA IN BURMA

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 360

Whereas actions by the military of Burma, known as the Tatmadaw, including continuing assaults on personnel and territory controlled by armed ethnic organizations, military offensives immediately preceding and following national peace conferences, and human rights abuses against noncombatant civilians in conflict areas, undermine the confidence in establishing a credible nationwide ceasefire agreement to end Burma's civil war;

Whereas Burmese military officials have a long-standing history of targeting ethnic groups and armed ethnic organizations in Burma, in addition to the Rohingya, and whereas there are ongoing conflicts currently in the Shan, Kachin, and Rakhine states;

Whereas August 25, 2017, attacks on security posts in Burma by the military group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army resulted in a brutal, systematic, and disproportionate reprisal by the Burmese military and security forces on Rohingya villages;

Whereas more than 624,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since the Burmese military commenced its scorched-earth campaign, with the burning of villages and local monuments, and reports of widespread rape, starvation, killing, and forcible deportation;

Whereas Burmese military officials have promulgated fabrications about the Rohingya to sow negative public perception of the minority ethnic group, including that they are not Burmese, that they are uniformly implicated in terrorist activities and controlled by international terrorist groups with the intention of creating an Islamic State, that they attacked their own people and burned down their own villages in order to gain international sympathy, and that they are fleeing to Bangladesh for economic reasons or to create the appearance of ethnic cleansing;

Whereas the Government of Burma has consistently denied access to the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar established to investigate human rights violations around the country;

Whereas the Commander in Chief of the Burmese military, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, has made statements communicating his antipathy for the Rohingya people, including on March 27, 2017, where he reportedly said that “[t]he Bengalis in Rakhine state are not Myanmar citizens and they are just people who come and stay in the country,” and on September 2, 2017, where he reportedly said that the ongoing military operations against the Rohingya were aimed at “unfinished business” from World War II;

Whereas a Human Rights Watch report entitled, “‘All of My Body Was Pain’: Sexual Violence Against Rohingya Women and Girls in Burma,” documented the Burmese military's widespread acts of sexual violence against women and girls since August 25, 2017;

Whereas Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court includes murder, forced deportation, rape, and persecution among its definition of “crimes against humanity”;

Whereas, on September 11, 2017, in his opening statement for the United Nations Human Rights Council's 36th session, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein reiterated his concern about the pattern of gross violation of human rights of the Rohingya in Burma, calling the persecution a “textbook case of ethnic cleansing”;

Whereas, on October 23, 2017, the Department of State suspended travel waivers for Burmese military leaders, found that all Burmese military units and officers involved in operations in northern Rakhine State are ineligible for United States assistance programs, rescinded invitations for Burmese security leaders to travel to United States-sponsored programs, and pressed for access for the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar to hold responsible those who have committed violence against the Rohingya;

Whereas, on November 3, 2017, the international human rights organization Human Rights Watch called for the United Nations Security Council to refer Burma to the International Criminal Court in light of Burma's failure to investigate mass atrocities against the Rohingya;

Whereas, on November 6, 2017, the United Nations Security Council issued Presidential Statement SC/13055 calling on Burma to “end the excessive military force and intercommunal violence that had devastated the Rohingya community in Rakhine State” in Burma;

Whereas, on November 16, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee approved draft resolution A/C.3/72/L.48 calling for an end to the abuse of human rights against the Rohingya by Burmese authorities, accountability for the perpetrators, and unrestricted access for United Nations investigators in Burma;

Whereas, on November 22, 2017, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson declared that the Burmese military's crackdown “constitutes ethnic cleansing against the Rohingyas”;

Whereas, on November 28, 2017, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called on Burma to report within six months on rapes and sexual violence against Rohingya women and girls by its security forces in northern Rakhine State and further to take measures to punish soldiers responsible for these acts;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council held a Special Session on December 5, 2017, where it adopted a resolution strongly condemning the alleged systematic and gross violations of human rights and abuses committed against the Rohingya in Burma and requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to track the progress concerning the human rights situation of Rohingya people; and

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein recommended on December 5, 2017, the establishment of “a new impartial and independent mechanism, complementary to the work of the Fact-Finding Mission, to assist individual criminal investigations of those responsible”;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the adoption of the resolution (A/HRC/RES/S-27/1) on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Burma by the United Nations Human Rights Council on December 5, 2017;

(2) condemns the Burmese military for its atrocities against the Rohingya, which constitute ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity;

(3) reaffirms the longstanding international prohibitions and norms against the use of ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in any circumstance and calls on the United Nations to pass resolutions condemning the human rights violations by Burmese security forces against the Rohingya;

(4) urges the Government of Burma to allow for full, unhindered humanitarian access to the affected areas, and to allow the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar to examine the human rights violations by military and security forces in Burma and others abuses, with a particular focus on the situation in Rakhine State;

(5) urges State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi to fully implement the Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State;

(6) urges the Government of Burma to take immediate steps to close internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and the Rohingya ghetto at Aung Mingalar in Sittwe while respecting the rights and dignity of populations currently residing in these camps, and to further lift restrictions on freedom of movement of Rohingya living in villages throughout northern Rakhine State;

(7) calls on the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to impose targeted sanctions and travel restrictions against senior leaders of the Burmese military implicated in atrocities, including its multiple holding companies and banks;

(8) urges the international community to assist with the economic development of the Rakhine State, one of the poorest states in Burma, in which poverty exacerbates tensions between ethnic groups;

(9) urges the Government of Burma to conduct a comprehensive and transparent investigation—with the support of a credible international third party—to examine abuses against the Rohingya and hold perpetrators accountable;

(10) urges the United Nations to establish an independent mechanism to assist individual criminal investigations of those responsible for atrocity crimes against the Rohingya and refer those responsible to the International Criminal Court;

(11) calls on the United Nations Security Council to impose a comprehensive arms embargo against Burma; and

(12) calls upon the nations of the world to revoke travel visas for Burmese Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and all other members of the Burmese military responsible for the ethnic cleansing campaign and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I have 12 request for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate: