

reporting on the Myanmar military's campaign against the Rohingya, and Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were doing fact-checking and interviewing eyewitnesses to these and other events;

Whereas, on December 12, 2017, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested by police and later charged with illegally possessing secret government documents under the colonial era Official Secrets Act;

Whereas Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been in custody from December 12, 2017, to the present, including before, during, and after their trial;

Whereas, one of the key prosecution witnesses in the trial, Police Captain Moe Yan Naing, said in open court on April 20, 2018, that he and others were ordered by the Myanmar police chief to "trap" Wa Lone by inviting the journalist to meet them at a restaurant and to give him "secret documents"—a meeting that Wa Lone attended in the company of his colleague, Kyaw Soe Oo, which led to the immediate arrest of the two journalists;

Whereas Police Captain Moe Yan Naing was subsequently sentenced to one year in jail for violating police discipline;

Whereas, on September 3, 2018, Yangon northern district judge Ye Lwin ruled that Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo breached the colonial-era Official Secrets Act and sentenced them each to seven years in prison with hard labor;

Whereas 83 Myanmar civil society organizations have signed a statement condemning the verdict;

Whereas the people of Myanmar, with assistance from the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, have successfully grown their cadre of ethical and hard hitting journalists, journalists who are adhering to the utmost professional standards and able to uncover the abuses being committed in their own country, and these journalists deserve the international community's support and praise for taking on the risky job of fostering press freedom in their country, however nascent it is;

Whereas United States Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green released a statement calling the convictions "an enormous setback for democracy and the rule of law in Burma" and "urge[d] the Government of Burma to protect journalists and press freedom, which are the bedrocks of democracy and peace";

Whereas Vice President Mike Pence tweeted his concern over the sentence against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo for "doing their job reporting on the atrocities being committed on the Rohingya people";

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley described the conviction as "another terrible stain on the Burmese government" and called for "their immediate and unconditional release";

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability and transparency and therefore promotes adherence to the rule of law and enforcement of universally recognized human rights by all people; and

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance and activism in civil society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for all the convictions against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo to be nullified, for the similar changes against many other journalists currently awaiting trial to be dropped, and for the immediate and unconditional release of these journalists;

(2) expresses concern about the Government of Myanmar's crackdown on journalists and press freedom throughout the country;

(3) reaffirms the central role that independent and professional journalism plays in strengthening democratic governance, upholding the rule of law, mitigating conflict, and informing public opinion around the world;

(4) urges the Secretary of State to make a determination whether the actions by the Myanmar military constitute crimes against humanity or genocide and to work with interagency partners to impose targeted sanctions on Myanmar military officials responsible for these heinous acts through existing authorities; and

(5) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to reaffirm the importance of a free press in strengthening democratic governance, upholding the rule of law, mitigating conflict, and informing public opinion around the world; and

(B) to engage immediately and at the highest levels with the Government of Myanmar, including by encouraging Aung San Suu Kyi to use her influence to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, as United States leadership is critical to this issue.

SENATE RESOLUTION 636—RECOGNIZING SUICIDE AS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER AS "NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH"

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 636

Whereas suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the "CDC"), 1 person dies by suicide every 12.3 minutes, resulting in nearly 45,000 deaths each year in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 members of the Armed Forces on active duty, members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are not on active duty, or veterans die by suicide each day, resulting in more than 7,000 deaths each year;

Whereas the suicide rate in the United States has steadily increased every year from 1999 through 2016;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 1,100,000 suicide attempts each year in the United States;

Whereas more than half of individuals who die by suicide did not have a known mental health condition;

Whereas, according to the CDC, many factors contribute to suicide among individuals with and without known mental health conditions, including challenges related to relationships, substance abuse, physical health, and stress regarding work, money, legal problems, or housing;

Whereas, according to the CDC, suicide results in an estimated \$44,600,000,000 in combined medical and work-loss costs in the United States each year;

Whereas the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality hinders suicide prevention by discouraging at-risk individuals from seeking life-saving help and

further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

Whereas September is an appropriate month to designate as "National Suicide Prevention Month" because September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day, a day recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes suicide as a serious and preventable national and State public health problem;

(2) supports the designation of September as "National Suicide Prevention Month";

(3) declares suicide prevention as a priority;

(4) acknowledges that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities;

(5) promotes awareness that there is no single cause of suicide; and

(6) supports strategies to increase access to high-quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 637—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS "NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH"

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. DAINES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 637

Whereas, in September 2018, "National Kinship Care Month" is observed;

Whereas, nationally, 2,700,000 children are living in kinship care with grandparents or other relatives;

Whereas, nationally, 140,000 children in foster care are placed with grandparents or other relatives, with more than 2,560,000 kinship children supported outside of the foster care system;

Whereas the percentage of kinship foster children has increased more than 11 percent since 2006;

Whereas the number of non-relative foster parents continues to decrease and child welfare agencies are increasingly reliant on kinship families;

Whereas children in kinship care experience improved placement stability, higher levels of permanency, and decreased behavioral problems;

Whereas kinship caregivers provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable households for vulnerable children;

Whereas grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural, and suburban households in every State and territory of the United States have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for children during times in which parents are unable to do so;

Whereas many kinship caregivers give up their retirement years to assume parenting duties for children;

Whereas grandparents and other relatives are increasingly providing caring homes for children because of the opioid crisis;

Whereas, because of parental substance use disorders and other adverse childhood experiences, children in kinship care frequently have trauma-related conditions;

Whereas kinship care homes offer a refuge for traumatized children;

Whereas kinship care enables a child—