

anything other than legitimate military targets; and

(ii) what services or articles were used in violation of AECA, and an explanation for why the President has not submitted the required certification under section 3 of AECA (22 U.S.C. 2753) for continued export of defense articles and services to countries that have violated AECA;

(C) a description and assessment of the actions the United States Government would take to ensure end use monitoring protocols for all weapons sold or transferred to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen;

(D) an assessment of any impact or adverse effect to Israel's qualitative military edge of security assistance provided by the United States or other countries; and

(E) a description of actions the United States Government is taking to address allegations of detention, torture, or forced disappearances of United States citizens by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bernadette Roberts, a State Department fellow in Senator COLLINS' office, be granted floor privileges through August 2, 2019.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kevin Deibler, a Defense fellow in Senator ROUNDS' office, be granted floor privileges through December 13, 2019.

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

CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND JUSTICE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 104, S. Res. 81.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 81) calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

S. RES. 81

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was a Russian statesman, who over twenty-five years of public service served as Member of Parliament, Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod Region, and First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov throughout his life showed an unwavering commitment to the ideals of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law, and to upholding the rights and dignity of Russian citizens;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was a powerful voice in opposition to the authoritarianism and corruption of Vladimir Putin's government, publicizing its abuses, leading street protests against

election fraud and the war on Ukraine, and successfully advocating for international sanctions on human rights violators;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was co-chairman of a leading opposition party, won election to the Yaroslavl Regional Duma in 2013, and was planning to run for the Russian Parliament in 2016 and challenge Vladimir Putin for the presidency in 2018;

Whereas, on the evening of February 27, 2015, Boris Nemtsov was shot in the back and killed as he walked across Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge near the Kremlin in Moscow;

Whereas, on March 7 and 8, 2015, Russian authorities arrested five individuals, all of them natives of the Chechen Republic, on suspicion of carrying out the assassination, while a sixth suspect allegedly blew himself up during the attempted arrest;

Whereas the defendants were tried at the Moscow District Military Court, which on June 29, 2017, found them guilty of carrying out the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, and on July 13, 2017, sentenced them to different prison terms;

Whereas, at the time of the assassination, the now-convicted gunman, Zaur Dadayev, was serving as a Lieutenant in the Internal Troops of the Interior Ministry of the Russian Federation and as Deputy Battalion Commander in the "Sever" ("North") Regiment stationed in the Chechen Republic, under the command of the Internal Troops Commander, General Viktor Zolotov, and the Kremlin-backed head of the Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov;

Whereas Ramzan Kadyrov has called Lieutenant Zaur Dadayev a "true patriot" and has publicly referred to Boris Nemtsov as an "enemy of Russia";

Whereas by Decree No. 115 issued on March 8, 2015, President Vladimir Putin awarded Ramzan Kadyrov the Order of Honor;

Whereas, according to reports published in RBC newspaper on January 20, 2016, General Alexander Bastrykin, chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, has on two occasions prevented investigators from indicting Major Ruslan Geremeyev, Battalion Commander in the "Sever" ("North") Regiment of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation stationed in the Chechen Republic and a close associate of Ramzan Kadyrov and Russian State Duma Member Adam Delimkhanov, as an organizer in the assassination;

Whereas, according to reports published in Novaya Gazeta newspaper on December 9, 2016, operatives of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation in the Chechen Republic have failed to serve Major Ruslan Geremeyev with a summons for questioning as a witness, reporting to their superiors that on the sole occasion they attempted to do so, "nobody opened the door";

Whereas, despite requests from the legal team representing Boris Nemtsov's family, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and the Moscow District Military Court have refused to question high-ranking persons of interest, including Ramzan Kadyrov, General Viktor Zolotov, and Adam Delimkhanov;

Whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has, to this day, not issued any indictments against the organizers or masterminds of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, with the exception of Major Ruslan Geremeyev's driver, Ruslan Mukhudinov, who is named alongside "other unidentified persons";

Whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and the Moscow District Military Court have refused to classify the assassination of Boris Nemtsov under Article 277 of the Criminal Code as "encroachment on the life of a statesman or a public figure," choosing instead Article 105 that deals with common domestic murders;

Whereas, throughout the proceedings at the Moscow District Military Court, the judge re-

peatedly disallowed questions relating to political motives behind the assassination;

Whereas the Federal Protective Service of the Russian Federation has refused to release video footage from the security cameras on Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge from the night of the assassination, claiming in a letter to State Duma Member Dmitry Gudkov on November 6, 2015, that the bridge next to the Kremlin is "not a protected object";

Whereas, on May 18, 2017, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe appointed Lithuanian Member of Parliament Emanuelis Zingeris as its special rapporteur on the need to shed light on the background of the murder of Boris Nemtsov, with a mandate to review and report on the case and on the progress of the official Russian investigation;

Whereas, on May 24, 2018, the Russian Foreign Ministry informed Emanuelis Zingeris that he is forbidden from entering the Russian Federation;

Whereas, at its twenty-seventh annual session held on July 7–11, 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) adopted a resolution urging Russian authorities to "undertake a new, full and thorough investigation into the February 2015 assassination of Boris Nemtsov";

Whereas, on July 8, 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held a public event to discuss the need for OSCE oversight of the official Russian investigation into the assassination of Boris Nemtsov;

Whereas the United States and the Russian Federation are full members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

Whereas the OSCE Moscow Document has established that "issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. . . are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned";

Whereas, on February 27, 2018, Washington, D.C. designated the street in front of the Embassy of the Russian Federation as "Boris Nemtsov Plaza" to honor Mr. Nemtsov; and

Whereas, on February 22, 2019, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, George Tsereteli, appointed Swedish Member of Parliament and Vice President of the Assembly Margareta Cederfelt as the rapporteur on the investigation of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, with a mandate to review and report on the case and on the progress of the official Russian investigation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the life of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov and his work to advance democracy and human rights in Russia;

(2) condemns Vladimir Putin and his regime for targeting political opponents and working to cover up the assassination of Boris Nemtsov;

(3) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation, to raise the case of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov and underscore the necessity of bringing the organizers and masterminds to justice;

(4) supports the efforts by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly to initiate oversight of the official Russian investigation into the assassination of Boris Nemtsov;

(5) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to allow an impartial international investigation of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov and to cooperate with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in their ongoing inquiries over this case;

(6) calls on the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to use their authority

under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112-208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) to designate individuals whom they determine to have been involved in the assassination of Boris Nemtsov as perpetrators, organizers, or masterminds, on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, freezing their assets and making them ineligible to receive United States visas;

(7) calls on the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, to prepare and submit to Congress a report detailing the circumstances of the February 27, 2015, assassination of Boris Nemtsov, including the list of individuals whom they determine to have been involved in the assassination as perpetrators, organizers, or masterminds, and identifying what measures, if any, have been taken by the Government of the Russian Federation to investigate this crime and bring its perpetrators, organizers, and masterminds to justice, and evaluating the effectiveness of such measures; and

(8) urges the Secretary of State to take all possible steps to—

(A) investigate the business activities of Ramzan Kadyrov and any entities controlled by Ramzan Kadyrov outside the Russian Federation; and

(B) determine whether any such activities, or any entities facilitating such activities, are in violation of the sanctions imposed on Ramzan Kadyrov pursuant to the authorities provided by the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112-208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note).

Mr. DAINES. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 81), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 81

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was a Russian statesman, who over twenty-five years of public service served as Member of Parliament, Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod Region, and First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov throughout his life showed an unwavering commitment to the ideals of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law, and to upholding the rights and dignity of Russian citizens;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was a powerful voice in opposition to the authoritarianism and corruption of Vladimir Putin's government, publicizing its abuses, leading street protests against election fraud and the war on Ukraine, and successfully advocating for international sanctions on human rights violators;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was co-chairman of a leading opposition party, won election to the Yaroslavl Regional Duma in 2013, and was planning to run for the Russian Parliament in 2016 and challenge Vladimir Putin for the presidency in 2018;

Whereas, on the evening of February 27, 2015, Boris Nemtsov was shot in the back and killed as he walked across Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge near the Kremlin in Moscow;

Whereas, on March 7 and 8, 2015, Russian authorities arrested five individuals, all of them natives of the Chechen Republic, on suspicion of carrying out the assassination, while a sixth suspect allegedly blew himself up during the attempted arrest;

Whereas the defendants were tried at the Moscow District Military Court, which on June 29, 2017, found them guilty of carrying out the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, and on July 13, 2017, sentenced them to different prison terms;

Whereas, at the time of the assassination, the now-convicted gunman, Zaur Dadayev, was serving as a Lieutenant in the Internal Troops of the Interior Ministry of the Russian Federation and as Deputy Battalion Commander in the "Sever" ("North") Regiment stationed in the Chechen Republic, under the command of the Internal Troops Commander, General Viktor Zolotov, and the Kremlin-backed head of the Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov;

Whereas Ramzan Kadyrov has called Lieutenant Zaur Dadayev a "true patriot" and has publicly referred to Boris Nemtsov as an "enemy of Russia";

Whereas by Decree No. 115 issued on March 8, 2015, President Vladimir Putin awarded Ramzan Kadyrov the Order of Honor;

Whereas, according to reports published in RBC newspaper on January 20, 2016, General Alexander Bastrykin, chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, has on two occasions prevented investigators from indicting Major Ruslan Geremeyev, Battalion Commander in the "Sever" ("North") Regiment of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation stationed in the Chechen Republic and a close associate of Ramzan Kadyrov and Russian State Duma Member Adam Delimkhanov, as an organizer in the assassination;

Whereas, according to reports published in Novaya Gazeta newspaper on December 9, 2016, operatives of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation in the Chechen Republic have failed to serve Major Ruslan Geremeyev with a summons for questioning as a witness, reporting to their superiors that on the sole occasion they attempted to do so, "nobody opened the door";

Whereas, despite requests from the legal team representing Boris Nemtsov's family, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and the Moscow District Military Court have refused to question high-ranking persons of interest, including Ramzan Kadyrov, General Viktor Zolotov, and Adam Delimkhanov;

Whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has, to this day, not issued any indictments against the organizers or masterminds of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, with the exception of Major Ruslan Geremeyev's driver, Ruslan Mukhudinov, who is named alongside "other unidentified persons";

Whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and the Moscow District Military Court have refused to classify the assassination of Boris Nemtsov under Article 277 of the Criminal Code as "encroachment on the life of a statesman or a public figure," choosing instead Article 105 that deals with common domestic murders;

Whereas, throughout the proceedings at the Moscow District Military Court, the judge repeatedly disallowed questions relating to political motives behind the assassination;

Whereas the Federal Protective Service of the Russian Federation has refused to release video footage from the security cameras on Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge from the night of the assassination, claiming in a letter to State Duma Member Dmitry Gudkov on November 6, 2015, that the bridge next to the Kremlin is "not a protected object";

Whereas, on May 18, 2017, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe appointed Lithuanian Member of Parliament Emanuelis Zingeris as its special rapporteur on the need to shed light on the background of the murder of Boris Nemtsov, with a mandate to review and report on the case and on the progress of the official Russian investigation;

Whereas, on May 24, 2018, the Russian Foreign Ministry informed Emanuelis Zingeris that he is forbidden from entering the Russian Federation;

Whereas, at its twenty-seventh annual session held on July 7-11, 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) adopted a resolution urging Russian authorities to "undertake a new, full and thorough investigation into the February 2015 assassination of Boris Nemtsov";

Whereas, on July 8, 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held a public event to discuss the need for OSCE oversight of the official Russian investigation into the assassination of Boris Nemtsov;

Whereas the United States and the Russian Federation are full members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

Whereas the OSCE Moscow Document has established that "issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. . . are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned";

Whereas, on February 27, 2018, Washington, D.C. designated the street in front of the Embassy of the Russian Federation as "Boris Nemtsov Plaza" to honor Mr. Nemtsov; and

Whereas, on February 22, 2019, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, George Tsereteli, appointed Swedish Member of Parliament and Vice President of the Assembly Margareta Cederfelt as the rapporteur on the investigation of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, with a mandate to review and report on the case and on the progress of the official Russian investigation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the life of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov and his work to advance democracy and human rights in Russia;

(2) condemns Vladimir Putin and his regime for targeting political opponents and working to cover up the assassination of Boris Nemtsov;

(3) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation, to raise the case of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov and underscore the necessity of bringing the organizers and masterminds to justice;

(4) supports the efforts by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly to initiate oversight of the official Russian investigation into the assassination of Boris Nemtsov;

(5) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to allow an impartial international investigation of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov and to cooperate with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in their ongoing inquiries over this case;

(6) calls on the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to use their authority under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112-208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) to designate individuals whom they determine to have been involved in the assassination of Boris Nemtsov as perpetrators, organizers, or masterminds, on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, freezing their assets and making them ineligible to receive United States visas;

(7) calls on the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, to prepare and submit to Congress a report detailing the circumstances of the February 27, 2015, assassination of Boris Nemtsov, including the list of individuals whom they determine to have been involved in the assassination as perpetrators, organizers, or masterminds, and identifying what measures, if any, have been taken by the Government of the Russian Federation to investigate this crime and bring its perpetrators, organizers, and masterminds to justice, and evaluating the effectiveness of such measures; and

(8) urges the Secretary of State to take all possible steps to—

(A) investigate the business activities of Ramzan Kadyrov and any entities controlled by Ramzan Kadyrov outside the Russian Federation; and

(B) determine whether any such activities, or any entities facilitating such activities, are in violation of the sanctions imposed on Ramzan Kadyrov pursuant to the authorities provided by the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112-208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note).

CONDEMNING THE EASTER SUNDAY TERRORIST ATTACKS IN SRI LANKA, OFFERING SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS, TO THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, AND TO THE PEOPLE AND NATION OF SRI LANKA, AND EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR SRI LANKA

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 105, S. Res. 184.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 184) condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Com-

mittee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas, on April 21, 2019, Sri Lanka suffered a horrific series of coordinated terrorist attacks that killed more than 250 people and injured more than 500 additional people;

Whereas the attacks targeted Christian churches, in which innocent men, women, and children were celebrating Easter Sunday;

Whereas the attacks targeted several locations frequented by foreign tourists, resulting in the deaths of over 40 people from nations other than Sri Lanka, including five American citizens, including Dieter Kowalski, Amelie Linsey, Daniel Linsey, and Kieran Shafritz de Zoysa;

Whereas Sri Lanka has determined that a local Islamist militant group perpetrated this horrifying attack and is responsible for the resulting loss of life, injury, and destruction;

Whereas the use of nine suicide bombers in multiple locations demonstrates a high degree of coordination and planning;

Whereas growing evidence links the Islamic State to these attacks, demonstrating this terrorist organization's continued reach and capability to inflict terror, violence, and brutality around the world, despite its loss of physical territory;

Whereas religious freedom is a foundational and universal right of all people, and religious freedom and tolerance are important to the flourishing of multi-religious societies like Sri Lanka;

Whereas Sri Lanka has worked towards a lasting peace, ethnic and religious harmony, and prosperity for all;

Whereas the rights of all religious minorities must be protected, including the rights of Christians, who, among other religious communities, have faced increased violence in recent years from terrorist groups around the world;

Whereas the United States values its partnership with Sri Lanka and seeks to build on that partnership by pursuing shared goals in the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States is home to a large Sri Lankan diaspora, who make significant contributions to American society; and

Whereas American law enforcement officials and military personnel are supporting the Sri Lankan Government's investigation of this attack: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns, in the strongest terms, the terrorist attacks perpetrated by violent Islamist extremists against innocent civilians on Easter Sunday;

(2) condemns the use of violence against people of religious faith, including in their places of worship;

(3) offers its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the victims, their families and friends, and to the nation of Sri Lanka;

(4) reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka and its support for the United States partnership with the nation of Sri Lanka;

(5) notes, on this 10th anniversary of the end of Sri Lanka's civil war, the importance of national unity and encourages the Government of Sri Lanka to foster such unity, including religious and ethnic tolerance;

(6) supports efforts to ensure the protection of all Sri Lankans against retaliatory attacks as the country recovers from this tragedy;

(7) reaffirms its commitment to religious freedom and the importance of protecting the rights of all religious minorities, including Christians;

(8) calls attention to the continued and serious threat posed by the Islamic State and other international terrorist organizations; and

(9) calls upon the United States Government and all other governments to continue the fight against violent extremism.

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION OF PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION AS AN AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE.

Nothing in this resolution may be construed as an authorization for use of military force.

Mr. DAINES. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 184), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 184

Whereas, on April 21, 2019, Sri Lanka suffered a horrific series of coordinated terrorist attacks that killed more than 250 people and injured more than 500 additional people;

Whereas the attacks targeted Christian churches, in which innocent men, women, and children were celebrating Easter Sunday;

Whereas the attacks targeted several locations frequented by foreign tourists, resulting in the deaths of over 40 people from nations other than Sri Lanka, including five American citizens, including Dieter Kowalski, Amelie Linsey, Daniel Linsey, and Kieran Shafritz de Zoysa;

Whereas Sri Lanka has determined that a local Islamist militant group perpetrated this horrifying attack and is responsible for the resulting loss of life, injury, and destruction;

Whereas the use of nine suicide bombers in multiple locations demonstrates a high degree of coordination and planning;

Whereas growing evidence links the Islamic State to these attacks, demonstrating this terrorist organization's continued reach and capability to inflict terror, violence, and brutality around the world, despite its loss of physical territory;

Whereas religious freedom is a foundational and universal right of all people, and religious freedom and tolerance are important to the flourishing of multi-religious societies like Sri Lanka;

Whereas Sri Lanka has worked towards a lasting peace, ethnic and religious harmony, and prosperity for all;

Whereas the rights of all religious minorities must be protected, including the rights of Christians, who, among other religious communities, have faced increased violence in recent years from terrorist groups around the world;

Whereas the United States values its partnership with Sri Lanka and seeks to build on that partnership by pursuing shared goals in the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States is home to a large Sri Lankan diaspora, who make significant contributions to American society; and