

growth, some indigenous and ethnic minority communities benefitted little from improved economic conditions, even though such communities formed a majority of the population in certain areas, including the Northwest and Central Highlands and portions of the Mekong Delta;

Whereas the 2018 Human Rights Report states that, although Vietnamese law prohibits discrimination against ethnic minorities, such social discrimination was longstanding and persistent, notably in the Central Highlands;

Whereas the 2018 Human Rights Report documents that land rights protesters have reported regular instances of government authorities physically harassing and intimidating them at land expropriation sites around the country, or arresting local residents for “causing public disorder”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) references in its 2019 Annual Report (the “2019 USCIRF Report”) the accounts of Montagnards being publicly berated and humiliated for their affiliation with the unrecognized Evangelical Church of Christ;

Whereas the 2019 USCIRF Report documents that one-quarter of prisoners of conscience were minority religious groups, including the Montagnards;

Whereas the 2019 USCIRF Report estimates that 10,000 individuals in the Central Highlands are refused ID cards, household registration, and birth certificates by local authorities in retaliation for refusing to renounce their faith; and

Whereas USCIRF has recommended every year since 2002 that Vietnam be designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) due to “systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of the Montagnards who fought loyally and bravely with United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and who continue to suffer persecution in Vietnam as a result of this relationship;

(2) condemns ongoing actions by the Government of Vietnam to suppress basic human rights and civil liberties for all its citizens;

(3) calls on the Government of Vietnam to allow human rights groups access to all regions of the country and to end restrictions of basic human rights, including the right for Montagnards to practice their Christian faith freely, the right to land and property, freedom of movement, the right to retain ethnic identity and culture, and access to an adequate standard of living; and

(4) urges the President and Congress to develop policies that support Montagnards and other marginalized ethnic minority and indigenous populations in Vietnam and reflect United States interests and commitment to upholding human rights and democracy abroad.

SENATE RESOLUTION 370—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH” AND OCTOBER 23, 2019, AS “UNITY DAY”

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 370

Whereas 1 in 5 students report being bullied and nearly 16 percent of students report being cyberbullied;

Whereas students who experience bullying are at an increased risk for poor school adjustment, sleep difficulties, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas National Bullying Prevention Month was founded in 2006 by the National Bullying Prevention Center of the PACER Center and has been held during the month of October each year since;

Whereas National Bullying Prevention Month is a nationwide campaign that seeks to educate the public about, and raise awareness of, bullying prevention;

Whereas individuals, families, schools, school districts, communities, and many others have hosted thousands of events to spread the message of National Bullying Prevention Month;

Whereas Unity Day was started by the National Bullying Prevention Center in October 2011 and is the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month;

Whereas Unity Day has been held on the third or fourth Wednesday of each October since 2011 and will be recognized in 2019 on October 23;

Whereas the goal of Unity Day is to bring together youth, parents, educators, businesses, and community members across the United States to emphasize—

- (1) a message of uniting for kindness, acceptance, inclusion, and mutual respect;
- (2) that all students deserve to be safe in school, online, and in their communities;
- (3) that there is value in celebrating the differences between people; and
- (4) that compromise and tolerance are important in communication;

Whereas Unity Day has been highlighted on national television shows and in public service announcements, films, and public displays of art and expression; and

Whereas Unity Day is often celebrated by—

- (1) wearing orange, the official color of Unity Day;
- (2) holding student and teacher led discussions at schools;
- (3) organizing efforts at community centers; and
- (4) expressing support for Unity Day through art, music, dance, and social media:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2019 as “National Bullying Prevention Month”;

(2) designates October 23, 2019, as “Unity Day”; and

(3) acknowledges that the prevention of bullying of children should be a national priority.

SENATE RESOLUTION 371—RE-AFFIRMING THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN AND CALLING ON ALL PARTIES TO UPHOLD THEIR COMMITMENTS TO PEACE AND DIALOGUE AS OUTLINED IN THE 2018 REVITALIZED PEACE AGREEMENT

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 371

Whereas the United States recognized South Sudan as a sovereign, independent state on July 9, 2011, following its secession from Sudan;

Whereas the United States played a key role in helping draft the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that laid the groundwork

for the 2011 referendum on self-determination, through which the people of South Sudan overwhelmingly voted for independence;

Whereas the people and Government of the United States have a deep and abiding interest in South Sudan’s political stabilization and post-conflict development;

Whereas stability in Sudan is critical to peace and security in the region, including for South Sudan, and the United States Government remains committed to fostering Sudan’s peaceful transition, as reflected by the passage of Senate Resolution 188 (116th), which “encourag[es] a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan”;

Whereas, since the onset of the civil war in South Sudan in December 2013, nearly 400,000 South Sudanese citizens are estimated to have been killed, 1,900,000 have been internally displaced, and 2,300,000 have fled the country and registered as refugees;

Whereas the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) signed on September 12, 2018 by the political parties of South Sudan, affirms the Parties’ commitment to the permanent ceasefire and forbids human rights violations and restrictions on humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the R-ARCSS establishes two phases of implementation, a Pre-Transitional Period until May 12, 2019, which was subsequently extended to November 12, 2019, followed by the establishment of a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) for three years;

Whereas the six-month extension of the deadline to form the RTGoNU was granted to allow additional time to complete critical Pre-Transitional tasks, including agreement on the number and boundaries of states and important security arrangements;

Whereas the R-ARCSS stipulates that the signatories will create an enabling political, administrative, operational, and legal environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection;

Whereas the people of South Sudan continue to suffer from a humanitarian crisis, with the United Nations reporting that over 6,300,000 people, more than half the population, were classified as severely food insecure at the peak of the lean season in 2019, including an estimated 10,000 who faced famine conditions, and despite slight improvements in food security during the harvest, the number of children under age five who are acutely malnourished is projected to rise to 1,300,000 in early 2020;

Whereas humanitarian organizations are providing lifesaving assistance to more than 5,300,000 South Sudanese people and are providing other vital support services such as medical care to survivors of sexual violence and facilitating access to education to over 690,000 children;

Whereas religious and faith-based organizations have played a key role in the peace process and humanitarian response efforts in support of the people of South Sudan;

Whereas at least 112 humanitarian aid workers have been killed since the start of the conflict in 2013, including at least 15 in 2018;

Whereas the United States Department of State 2018 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in South Sudan states that both the government and opposition forces engaged in serious human rights abuses by perpetrating extrajudicial killings, including ethnically based targeted killings of civilians, and by engaging in arbitrary detentions, torture, rape, beatings, and looting of property;

Whereas, on March 15, 2019, the United Nations Security Council extended the mandate