

in peaceful demonstrations, in a ruling Human Rights Watch has described as “an outrageous violation of the right to peaceful protest”;

Whereas Anastasia Shevchenko, an activist in the Open Russia movement, has been held under house arrest since January 23, 2019, on the charge of belonging to an “undesirable” organization and has been designated by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience;

Whereas Yuri Dmitriev, a historian and the leader of the Memorial Human Rights Center’s branch in the Republic of Karelia who has worked to document mass burial sites from Stalin-era executions, is being held in pretrial detention on charges of child pornography that Human Rights Watch has described as “bogus” and part of an ongoing “smear campaign”;

Whereas Dennis Christensen, a Jehovah’s Witness and a citizen of Denmark, was sentenced to 6 years’ imprisonment on February 6, 2019, in a decision condemned by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom as part of the broader pattern of the Government of the Russian Federation “engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom”;

Whereas, on February 10, 2020, a court in Penza sentenced 7 activists to prison terms ranging from 6 to 18 years for participation in what authorities alleged was a terrorist organization called “Network” after a trial marked by incommunicado detention, torture, and other ill treatment to extract confessions, in what Human Rights Watch has described as an example of the Russian authorities “abusing counterterrorism laws to silence critics and deny fundamental human rights”;

Whereas, on June 18, 2018, the Department of State affirmed that “the United States is deeply concerned by the growing number of individuals . . . identified by credible human rights organizations as political and religious prisoners held by the Government of the Russian Federation” and called on the Government of the Russian Federation “to release all those identified as political or religious prisoners immediately and cease its use of the legal system to suppress dissent and peaceful religious practice”;

Whereas, on January 28, 2020, 43 parliamentarians from 16 European countries introduced a resolution in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calling for the appointment of a rapporteur “to examine the growing crisis with politically motivated imprisonments in the Russian Federation”;

and

Whereas, according to the Memorial Human Rights Center, the number of political prisoners in the Russian Federation has increased more than 6-fold since 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for those unjustly imprisoned in the Russian Federation;

(2) condemns the practice of politically motivated imprisonment in the Russian Federation, which violates the commitments of the Russian Federation to international obligations with respect to human rights and the rule of law;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release political prisoners, including Alexey Pichugin, Konstantin Kotov, Anastasia Shevchenko, Yuri Dmitriev, and Dennis Christensen;

(4) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation, to raise individual cases of political prisoners held by the Russian Federation and to press for their release; and

(5) urges the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to use their au-

thority under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112–208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note), the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note), and other applicable provisions of law to designate for the imposition of sanctions officials of the Government of the Russian Federation who are responsible for human rights abuses in the form of politically motivated imprisonment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA IN THEIR PEACEFUL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND USE THE TOOLS UNDER UNITED STATES LAW TO INCREASE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF DANIEL ORTEGA

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 525

Whereas the government of Daniel Ortega has concentrated power and brought about the progressive deterioration of democratic conditions in Nicaragua;

Whereas recent elections in Nicaragua, including the 2016 presidential election, have been marred by irregularities and characterized by significant restrictions on the participation of opposition political parties and the absence of credible international and local electoral observers;

Whereas Nicaraguan security forces, paramilitary, police, and other actors working under the direction of the Ortega regime committed gross violations of human rights and acts of repression, resulting in more than 325 deaths, over 2,000 injuries, and at least 800 arbitrary detentions during the peaceful protests that took place in 2018, according to the Organization of American States;

Whereas a report by the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts, appointed by the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, determined that the Ortega regime used deliberate, lethal force against protesters and committed acts of torture that meet the international legal standard of crimes against humanity;

Whereas an estimated 82,000 Nicaraguans fled the country between April 2018 and October 2019, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

Whereas the Government and people of Costa Rica have graciously accepted nearly 70,000 Nicaraguans, including enrolling children in public primary schools, allowing access to legal employment, and making efforts to strengthen the capacity of Costa Rica’s asylum system;

Whereas the Ortega government failed to comply with its commitment to release all political prisoners, releasing just 392 people, of which 286 were released to house arrest with charges still pending;

Whereas Nicaragua’s Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy alleges that there remain over 150 political prisoners held in Nicaraguan prisons as of November 29, 2019;

Whereas a United States citizen and Navy veteran, 57-year-old Eddy Montes, was shot and killed while in the custody of the Nicaraguan police at La Modelo Prison on May 16, 2019;

Whereas the government of Daniel Ortega has severely restricted freedom of the press by closing five local television stations, attacking independent radio stations, arbitrarily detaining journalists, and arbitrarily restricting print supplies from entering the country;

Whereas, beginning on November 14, 2019, Nicaraguan police conducted attacks on churches throughout the country, cut water to hunger strikers barricaded inside a church in Masaya, and arrested 13 people attempting to bring them water;

Whereas doctors, lawyers, academics, and other professionals in Nicaragua face persecution and, in some cases torture, based on suspicion of aiding or sympathizing with protestors;

Whereas the Ortega regime has violated the economic and political rights of indigenous communities, Afro-descendant populations, rural campesinos, land rights defenders, and individuals living in the Caribbean Autonomous Regions of Nicaragua;

Whereas, on November 27, 2018, Executive Order 13851 was issued, which blocks the property of certain persons involved in the Nicaraguan crisis, and its application was expanded by the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the Treasury on September 4, 2019;

Whereas the bipartisan Nicaragua Human Rights and Anticorruption Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–335; commonly referred to as the “NICA Act”) was signed into law on December 20, 2018, imposing restrictions on lending to the Nicaraguan government by international financial institutions and requiring the President to sanction non-United States persons implicated in egregious human rights abuses and corruption in Nicaragua;

Whereas the NICA Act expresses the support of Congress for a negotiated solution to the Nicaraguan crisis and includes an annual certification to waive sanctions if the Ortega government takes steps to restore democratic governance and uphold human rights;

Whereas, in the absence of such steps, the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury have imposed targeted sanctions on Nicaraguan officials and entities, including First Lady and Vice President Rosario Murillo, Daniel Ortega’s sons, Rafael Ortega Murillo and Laureano Ortega Murillo, and Nicaragua’s Banco Corporativo (Bancorp);

Whereas, in June 2019, the Government of Canada imposed sanctions on 12 members of the Government of Nicaragua engaged in gross and systemic human rights violations; and

Whereas, in advance of any future election, the Government of Nicaragua urgently needs to undertake electoral reforms, including the appointment of independent new magistrates to the Supreme Electoral Council, the restoration of a 50 percent plus one threshold for the presidential election, the establishment of a second round of voting if the electoral threshold is not reached, the establishment of a detailed electoral calendar, and stronger observation by political parties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Nicaragua to immediately release all political prisoners without conditions and cease all acts of violence, repression, and intimidation against dissenting voices in Nicaragua;

(2) urges the Ortega government to respect Nicaraguans’ constitutional rights and implement the electoral reforms mentioned

above in order to permit the holding of free, fair, and transparent elections;

(3) encourages the United States Government to align United States sanctions with diplomatic efforts to advance electoral reforms that could lead to free, fair, and transparent elections in Nicaragua;

(4) expresses full support for the people of Nicaragua, Nicaraguan independent media, and Nicaraguan civil society organizations that are working for a peaceful return to democratic order in Nicaragua;

(5) supports the efforts of the United States Government to apply pressure on the Ortega government in order to hold accountable those actors involved in human rights abuses, acts of significant corruption, and the undermining of democratic institutions in Nicaragua;

(6) urges the international community to hold the Ortega government accountable for human rights abuses and to restrict its access to foreign financing unless or until it allows for free, fair, and transparent elections monitored by credible international and local electoral observers; and

(7) urges the United States Government to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for the death of Eddy Montes, a United States citizen and Navy veteran, who was shot and killed while in the custody of the Nicaraguan police at La Modelo Prison on May 16, 2019.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1327. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1328. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1329. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1330. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1331. Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1332. Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1333. Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1334. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1335. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1336. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1337. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1338. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1339. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1340. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1341. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1342. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1343. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1344. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1327. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 18. SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY AND ASSISTANCE.

Section 1003 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16393) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “, and may require the Director of a single-purpose research facility,” and inserting “(as defined in section 2) and the Director of each single-purpose research facility”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “increase” and inserting “encourage”; and

(ii) by striking “collaborative research,” and inserting “research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities, including product development,”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “procurement and collaborative research” and inserting “the activities described in paragraph (1)”;

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “facilities,” before “training”; and

(ii) by striking “procurement and collaborative research activities” and inserting “the activities described in paragraph (1)”;

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking “for the program under subsection (b)” and inserting “and metrics for the programs under subsections (b) and (c)”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(C) SMALL BUSINESS VOUCHER PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means—

“(i) the Director of each National Laboratory; and

“(ii) the Director of each single-purpose research facility.

“(B) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ‘National Laboratory’ has the meaning given the term in section 2.

“(C) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means the program established under paragraph (2).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, working with the Office of Technology Transitions and the Technology Transfer Coordinator appointed under section 1001(a), and in consultation with the Directors, shall establish a program to provide small business concerns with vouchers under paragraph (3)—

“(A) to achieve the goal described in subsection (a)(1); and

“(B) to improve the products, services, and capabilities of small business concerns in the mission space of the Department.

“(3) VOUCHERS.—Under the program, the Directors are authorized to provide to small business concerns vouchers to be used at National Laboratories and single-purpose research facilities for—

“(A) research, development, demonstration, technology transfer, or commercial application activities; or

“(B) any other activities that the applicable Director determines appropriate.

“(4) EXPEDITED CONTRACTING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, working with the Directors, shall establish a streamlined approval process for expedited contracting between—

“(i) small business concerns selected to receive a voucher under the program; and

“(ii) the National Laboratories and single-purpose research facilities.

“(B) DECISIONMAKING AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate decisionmaking authority at the National Laboratories and single-purpose research facilities with respect to the expedited contracting described in subparagraph (A).

“(5) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall require cost-sharing in accordance with section 988.”; and

(4) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2008” and inserting “\$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

At an appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . INCREASE AND STREAMLINE RECOVERY OF UNCLAIMED ASSETS OWED TO THE UNITED STATES.

Section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j)(1) The Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Secretary’) may locate and recover unclaimed assets of the United States Government on behalf of any executive, judicial, or legislative agency in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law concerning the depositing or collection of Federal payments, including section 3302(b), the Secretary may retain a portion of the amounts recovered under this subsection to cover the administrative and operational costs of the Secretary associated with locating and recovering assets of the United States Government.”.

SA 1328. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: