

house, or a residence hall that is not adequately protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system, an automatic fire alarm system, or an adequate smoke alarm;

Whereas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, college students are taking more courses online and spending more time indoors, thus increasing the need for fire safety and prevention education;

Whereas fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas college students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education while in college;

Whereas educating young individuals in the United States about the importance of fire safety is vital to help ensure that young individuals engage in fire-safe behavior during college and after college; and

Whereas developing a generation of adults who practice fire safety may significantly reduce future loss of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”; and

(2) encourages administrators of institutions of higher education and municipalities across the United States—

(A) to provide educational programs about fire safety to all students of institutions of higher education in September and throughout the school year;

(B) to evaluate the level of fire safety provided in both on-campus and off-campus student housing; and

(C) to ensure fire-safe living environments through—

(i) fire safety education;

(ii) the installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms; and

(iii) the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

SENATE RESOLUTION 724—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED IMPRISONMENT OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD AND CALLING ON GOVERNMENTS FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF WOMEN WHO ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 724

Whereas Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the right to liberty and security of person, Article 9 protects against arbitrary arrest or detention, and Article 18 guarantees the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;

Whereas women across the world face enormous risks to advance human rights and pursue progress for their communities, including—

(1) discriminatory policies and attitudes;

(2) repressive governments;

(3) abusive authorities; and

(4) critical threats to their health, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas women activists across the world are being unjustly detained in order to silence their voices and end their activism;

Whereas women journalists are being unjustly detained for speaking truth to power and exposing corruption and abuses by governments and other authorities;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic presents a severe threat to women who are detained unjustly and who are often housed in overcrowded prisons with limited access to medical care, which can convert unjust prison sentences into death sentences for vulnerable detained women;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has waged a brutal campaign to suppress political dissent and vibrant ethnic minority communities;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has suppressed and detained human rights legal professionals, including Li Yuhan, who has been severely mistreated in detention and who went on a hunger strike in 2018;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has subjected Uyghurs in Xinjiang to mass surveillance, forced labor, forced birth control, forced sterilization, and extrajudicial internment, including—

(1) Rahile Dawut, a professor of traditional Uyghur culture;

(2) Gulmira Imin, a former website administrator and government employee; and

(3) Nigare Abdushukur, who was sentenced to 19 years imprisonment after inquiring about her mother’s detention;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has targeted Tibetans for celebrating their heritage, including—

(1) Bonkho Kyi, who was detained for organizing a picnic celebration for His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s 80th birthday; and

(2) Yeshe Choedron, who was sentenced in 2008 to 15 years imprisonment after participating in protests;

Whereas in Iran, human rights defenders have been steadfast in their advocacy despite repeated abuse and arrest by authorities, including currently detained human rights activists—

(1) Nasrin Sotoudeh, who spoke out against the death penalty and laws forcing women to wear hijabs and who is currently on a hunger strike and is in critical condition;

(2) Atena Daemi, a human rights activist who is serving an additional 2 years in prison and facing 74 lashes for participating in a peaceful sit-in protest in Evin prison; and

(3) Narges Mohammadi, vice president of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders, who has experienced severe health conditions and lung disease while in prison and has suffered from worsening COVID-19 symptoms since June 29, 2020;

Whereas Iranian authorities have also recently arrested and imprisoned environmentalists working for the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, including Sepideh Kashami and McGill University graduate Niloufar Bayani, who previously worked for the United Nations Environment Programme;

Whereas Turkey is the world’s second worst jailer of journalists, with 47 journalists imprisoned in 2019, including—

(1) Hatice Duman, owner and editor at Atilim, which published editorials condemning President Erdogan’s policies; and

(2) Aysenur Parildak and Hanim Büsra Erdal, journalists for Zaman, which authorities claim has ties to Fethullah Gülen;

Whereas in Egypt, President Sisi has attempted to quash dissent by jailing and abusing human rights defenders, including—

(1) Mahienour el-Masry, a human rights lawyer accused of spreading “false news”;

(2) Esraa Abdel Fattah, a human rights activist and reporter who was reportedly beaten, hung from handcuffs, and choked with her clothes by authorities; and

(3) Sanaa Seif, who was detained while filing a complaint at the Public Prosecutor’s office regarding her assault outside Cairo’s Tora prison, which houses her brother, who is a political activist;

Whereas Burundian authorities arrested and convicted 4 journalists at Iwacu, Burun-

di’s last remaining independent newspaper, including Christine Kamikazi and Agnès Ndirubusa, after a flawed trial, for allegedly attempting to undermine state security;

Whereas Saudi Arabian women’s rights and human rights activists Loujain al-Hathloul, Nassima al-Sada, Samar Badawi, Nouf Abdulaziz, and Maya’a al-Zahrani all remain wrongfully imprisoned;

Whereas in the Philippines, Senator Leila de Lima remains unjustly imprisoned for her vocal criticism of extrajudicial killings carried out during President Duterte’s “war on drugs”;

Whereas in Eritrea, political dissident Aster Fissehatsion has been held incommunicado without charge or trial since 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports women who are being unjustly detained around the world;

(2) affirms that a government should never detain its citizens for exercising the rights of freedom of assembly, association, and speech;

(3) calls on governments that are unjustly detaining women for exercising their fundamental rights to immediately and unconditionally release these political prisoners; and

(4) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with foreign governments—

(A) to raise individual cases of women political prisoners; and

(B) press for their immediate release.

SENATE RESOLUTION 725—ESTABLISHING THE SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 725

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

(a) COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Senate the Senate Human Rights Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(2) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

(A) serve as a forum for bipartisan discussion of international human rights issues and promotion of internationally recognized human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(B) raise awareness of international human rights violations through regular briefings and hearings; and

(C) collaborate with congressional committees and other congressional entities, the executive branch, human rights entities, and nongovernmental organizations to promote human rights initiatives within the Senate.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—The Commission shall not—

(A) have legislative jurisdiction;

(B) have authority to take legislative action on any bill or resolution; or

(C) encroach upon the jurisdiction of any standing, select, or special committee of the Senate.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—Any Senator may become a member of the Commission by submitting a written statement to that effect to the Commission.

(5) CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Two members of the Commission shall be appointed to serve as co-chairpersons of the Commission, as follows: