

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 552

Calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence of wrongdoing or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. BERGMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence of wrongdoing or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan.

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of a personal friend on December 22, 2018;

Whereas Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December 28, 2018, and charged him with espionage;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and continues to be held there more than eight months after his arrest;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court has extended Paul Whelan’s pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas officials from the United States Embassy in Moscow have routinely had their topics of discussion with Paul Whelan severely limited by the Federal Security Service;

Whereas even Paul Whelan’s Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, “[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we’ve seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.”;

Whereas the United States Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, “If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.”; and

Whereas Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-

3 eration to present credible evidence on the allega-

1 tions against Paul Whelan or immediately release
2 him from detention;

3 (2) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
4 eration to provide unrestricted consular access to
5 Paul Whelan while he remains in detention;

6 (3) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
7 eration to ensure Paul Whelan is afforded due proc-
8 ess and universally recognized human rights;

9 (4) encourages the President and the Secretary
10 of State to continue to press the Government of the
11 Russian Federation at every opportunity and urge
12 the Russian Government to guarantee a fair and
13 transparent judicial process without undue delay in
14 accordance with its international legal obligation;
15 and

16 (5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul
17 Whelan and expresses hope that their ordeal can
18 soon be brought to an end.

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