

of course, extend our deepest condolences to their families and loved ones and just note that their sacrifice in chronicling the daily suffering of the people of Homs stands as a testament to journalism's highest standards.”;

Whereas 13 opposition activists in Syria were killed during a weeklong attempt to rescue 4 foreign journalists, 2 of whom were injured, who were trapped in Homs as a result of the bombardment by the Government of Syria that killed Marie Colvin and Remi Ochlik;

Whereas videographer Anas al-Tarsha, who documented unrest in the besieged city of Homs, was killed by a mortar round while filming the bombardment of the city's Qarabees district on February 24, 2012;

Whereas, from 1992 through 2010, zero journalists were killed in Syria according to the Committee to Protect Journalists; and

Whereas the Government of Syria has continued to arbitrarily arrest and detain prominent Syrian journalists and bloggers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Syria to immediately open the country up to independent and foreign journalists and immediately end its media blackout;

(2) condemns in the strongest possible terms the Government of Syria's abuse, intimidation, and violence towards journalists, videographers, and bloggers;

(3) calls on the Government of Syria to immediately release all journalists, videographers, and bloggers who have been detained, arrested, or imprisoned;

(4) pays tribute to the journalists who have lost their lives while reporting on the conflict in Syria;

(5) commends the bravery and courage of journalists who continue to operate in harm's way;

(6) supports the people of Syria seeking access to a free flow of accurate news and other forms of information;

(7) recognizes the critical role that technology plays in helping independent journalists report the facts on the ground;

(8) condemns all acts of censorship and other restrictions on freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression in Syria;

(9) strongly condemns all nations that assist or enable the Government of Syria's ongoing repression of the media; and

(10) reaffirms the centrality of press freedom to efforts by the United States Government to support democracy and promote good governance around the world.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF SENATE IN SUPPORT OF NATO AND NATO SUMMIT BEING HELD MAY 20 THROUGH 21, 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 349, S. Res. 395.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 395) expressing the sense of the Senate in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the NATO summit to be held in Chicago, Illinois, from May 20 through 21, 2012.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations without

amendment and an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

[Omit the part printed in boldface brackets and insert the part printed in italic.]

S. RES. 395

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty, signed April 4, 1949, in Washington, District of Columbia, which created the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this preamble as “NATO”), proclaims: “[Members] are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. They seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area. They are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security.”;

Whereas NATO has been the cornerstone of transatlantic security cooperation and an enduring instrument for promoting stability in Europe and throughout the world for over 60 years;

Whereas the NATO summit in Chicago, Illinois, is an opportunity to enhance and more deeply entrench those principles, which continue to bind the alliance together and guide our efforts today;

Whereas the new Strategic Concept, approved in Lisbon, [Spain] Portugal in November 2010, affirms that all NATO members “are determined that NATO will continue to play its unique and essential role in ensuring our common defence and security” and that NATO “continues to be effective in a changing world, against new threats, with new capabilities and new partners”;

Whereas the Chicago Summit will mark a critical turning point for NATO and a chance to focus on current operations, future capabilities, and the relationship between NATO and partners around the world;

Whereas the Chicago Summit will be the first NATO summit held in the United States since the 50th anniversary summit was held in Washington, District of Columbia, in 1999 and the first NATO summit held outside of Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said, “Chicago is a city built upon diversity, and on determination. Those are values that underpin NATO too.”;

Whereas the Chicago Summit presents an opportunity to show to the world the Heartland of the United States—the site of the first elevated railway, the first skyscraper in the world, the busiest futures exchange in the world, and the starting point for historic Route 66;

Whereas the thousands of visitors to the Chicago Summit will have the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the city of Chicago, the 77 distinct neighborhoods in Chicago, and the State of Illinois; and

Whereas the contributions of generations of immigrants have made the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois what they are today and the ancestral homelands of the immigrants now contribute to making NATO the organization it is today;

Mr. REID. I ask that we now have a vote on this matter, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (No. 395) was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action

or debate; and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

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

S. RES. 395

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty, signed April 4, 1949, in Washington, District of Columbia, which created the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this preamble as “NATO”), proclaims: “[Members] are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. They seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area. They are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security.”;

Whereas NATO has been the cornerstone of transatlantic security cooperation and an enduring instrument for promoting stability in Europe and throughout the world for over 60 years;

Whereas the NATO summit in Chicago, Illinois, is an opportunity to enhance and more deeply entrench those principles, which continue to bind the alliance together and guide our efforts today;

Whereas the new Strategic Concept, approved in Lisbon, Portugal in November 2010, affirms that all NATO members “are determined that NATO will continue to play its unique and essential role in ensuring our common defence and security” and that NATO “continues to be effective in a changing world, against new threats, with new capabilities and new partners”;

Whereas the Chicago Summit will mark a critical turning point for NATO and a chance to focus on current operations, future capabilities, and the relationship between NATO and partners around the world;

Whereas the Chicago Summit will be the first NATO summit held in the United States since the 50th anniversary summit was held in Washington, District of Columbia, in 1999 and the first NATO summit held outside of Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said, “Chicago is a city built upon diversity, and on determination. Those are values that underpin NATO too.”;

Whereas the Chicago Summit presents an opportunity to show to the world the Heartland of the United States—the site of the first elevated railway, the first skyscraper in the world, the busiest futures exchange in the world, and the starting point for historic Route 66;

Whereas the thousands of visitors to the Chicago Summit will have the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the city of Chicago, the 77 distinct neighborhoods in Chicago, and the State of Illinois; and

Whereas the contributions of generations of immigrants have made the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois what they are today and the ancestral homelands of the immigrants now contribute to making NATO the organization it is today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the service of the brave men and women who have served to safeguard the freedom and security of the United States and the whole of the transatlantic alliance;

(2) honors the sacrifices of United States personnel, allies of the North American

Treaty Organization (referred to in this resolution as “NATO”), and partners in Afghanistan;

(3) remembers the 63 years NATO has served to ensure peace, security, and stability in Europe and throughout the world;

(4) reaffirms that NATO, through the new Strategic Concept, is oriented for the changing international security environment and the challenges of the future;

(5) urges all NATO members to take concrete steps to implement the Strategic Concept and to utilize the NATO summit in Chicago, Illinois, to address current NATO operations, future capabilities and burden-sharing issues, and the relationship between NATO and partners around the world;

(6) conveys appreciation for the steadfast partnership between NATO and the United States; and

(7) expresses support for the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago.

PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN SUDAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 350, S. Res. 397.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 397) promoting peace and stability in Sudan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

[Strike all after the enacting clause and the preamble (the part in boldface brackets) and insert the part printed in italic.]

S. RES. 397

[Whereas conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has been ongoing since June 2011 in Sudan’s border state of South Kordofan and since September 2011 in the border state of Blue Nile, resulting in a humanitarian crisis;

[Whereas the Government of Sudan has refused repeated requests by the United States Government, the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, nongovernmental organizations, and others to allow humanitarian access to the conflict areas;

[Whereas the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a memorandum of understanding in Addis Ababa on February 12, 2012, agreeing to respect each other’s sovereignty and refrain from launching any attack against the other, including bombardment;

[Whereas the United Nations estimates that more than 130,000 refugees have fled South Kordofan and Blue Nile for South Sudan, Ethiopia, and elsewhere since June 2011, and hundreds of thousands more have been internally displaced or severely affected by conflict;

[Whereas the Government of Sudan bombed the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan on November 10, 2011;

[Whereas both the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North have reportedly prevented civilians from leaving Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan;

[Whereas the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), funded by the United States Agency for International Development, estimated in March 2012 that conflict-affected areas of South Kordofan would deteriorate further in coming weeks to Phase 4 emergency levels of food insecurity (one step before being classified as a famine), due mainly to conflict and government policies that have limited cultivation, displaced the population, restricted trade, and refused access for international humanitarian assistance;

[Whereas the United Nations Security Council issued a statement on February 14, 2012, expressing deep and growing alarm with the rising levels of malnutrition and food insecurity in some areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, calling on the Government of Sudan to allow immediate access to United Nations personnel, and urging the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities and return to talks to address the issues that have fueled the current conflict;

[Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appealed urgently to donors in February 2012 for \$145,000,000 to assist refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile;

[Whereas President Barack Obama released a statement in June 2011 calling on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North to agree immediately to a ceasefire, end restrictions on humanitarian access and United Nations movements, and agree on security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States through direct, high-level negotiations as opposed to the use of force;

[Whereas President Obama released a statement on February 2, 2012, strongly condemning the bombing by the Armed Forces of Sudan of civilian populations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in Sudan, which stated that aerial attacks on civilian targets are unjustified, unacceptable, and a violation of international law and compound the ongoing crisis in these areas;

[Whereas neither South Kordofan nor Blue Nile were able to complete the popular consultation process with the Government of Sudan as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) before violence broke out;

[Whereas, despite the independence of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, many key issues between Sudan and South Sudan remain unresolved, including transit fees for oil pipeline use, citizenship, the status of Abyei, and border demarcation;

[Whereas the goal of democratic governance reform in Sudan as envisioned in the CPA has not been met;

[Whereas, in addition to the growing conflict-induced humanitarian and human rights crisis in Sudan’s southern border states, the humanitarian crisis and ongoing insecurity in Darfur continues; and

[Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that more than 4,000,000 people in Sudan remain internally displaced, and in 2011, though for the first time since the Darfur conflict began, more Darfuris voluntarily returned to their homes (87,000) than were newly displaced (70,000), and additional tens of thousands are being displaced in southern Sudan:] Now, therefore, be it

Whereas conflict between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has been ongoing since June 2011 in Sudan’s border state of Southern Kordofan and since September 2011 in the border state of Blue Nile, resulting in a humanitarian crisis;

Whereas the Government of Sudan has refused repeated requests by the United States Government, the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, nongovernmental organizations, and others to allow humanitarian access to the conflict areas;

Whereas the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan signed a memorandum of understanding on non-aggression and cooperation in Addis Ababa on February 12, 2012, agreeing to respect each other’s sovereignty and refrain from launching any attack against the other, including bombardment;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that more than 130,000 refugees have fled Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile for South Sudan, Ethiopia, and elsewhere since June 2011, and hundreds of thousands more have been internally displaced or severely affected by conflict;

Whereas the Government of Sudan bombed the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan on November 10, 2011;

Whereas both the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North have reportedly prevented civilians from leaving Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan;

Whereas the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), funded by the United States Agency for International Development, estimated in March 2012 that conflict-affected areas of Southern Kordofan would deteriorate further in coming weeks to Phase 4 emergency levels of food insecurity (one step before being classified as a famine), due mainly to conflict and government policies that have limited cultivation, displaced the population, restricted trade, and refused access for international humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council issued a statement on February 14, 2012, expressing deep and growing alarm with the rising levels of malnutrition and food insecurity in some areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, calling on the Government of Sudan to allow immediate access to United Nations personnel, and urging the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities and return to talks to address the issues that have fueled the current conflict;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appealed urgently to donors in February 2012 for \$145,000,000 to assist refugees from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile;

Whereas President Barack Obama released a statement in June 2011 calling on the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North to agree immediately to a ceasefire, end restrictions on humanitarian access and United Nations movements, and agree on security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States through direct, high-level negotiations as opposed to the use of force;

Whereas President Obama released a statement on February 2, 2012, strongly condemning the bombing by the Armed Forces of Sudan of civilian populations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in Sudan, which stated that aerial attacks on civilian targets are unjustified, unacceptable, and a violation of international law and compound the ongoing crisis in these areas;

Whereas neither Southern Kordofan nor Blue Nile were able to complete the popular consultation process with the Government of Sudan as stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) before violence broke out;

Whereas, despite the independence of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, many key issues between Sudan and South Sudan remain unresolved, including transit fees for oil pipeline use, citizenship, the status of Abyei, and border demarcation;

Whereas the goal of democratic governance reform in Sudan as envisioned in the CPA has not been met;