

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ROMONIA S. DIXON TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOMINATION OF VICTORIA ANN HUGHES TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOMINATION OF RICHARD CHRISTMAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOMINATION OF ERIC P. LIU TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOMINATION OF DEAN A. REUTER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NOMINATION OF SHAMINA SINGH TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 133, 134, 135, 206, 207, and 208; that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The clerk will report the nominations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Romonia S. Dixon, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2018; Victoria Ann Hughes, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2016; Richard Christman, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board

of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2017; Eric P. Liu, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring December 27, 2017; Dean A. Reuter, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring September 14, 2016; and Shamina Singh, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2019.

VOTE ON DIXON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Romonia S. Dixon, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2018? The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HUGHES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Victoria Ann Hughes, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2016?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CHRISTMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Richard Christman, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2017?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LIU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Eric P. Liu, of Washington, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring December 27, 2017?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON REUTER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Dean A. Reuter, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring September 14, 2016?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SINGH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Shamina Singh, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2019?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

The Senator from Tennessee.

SYRIAN WAR CRIMES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 117, S. 756.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 756) to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 756) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 756

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) March 2015 marks the fourth year of the ongoing conflict in Syria.

(2) On December 17, 2014, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2191 "expressing outrage at the unacceptable and escalating level of violence and the killing of more than 191,000 people, including well over 10,000 children" and approximately 1,000,000 injured in Syria.

(3) More than half of Syria's population is displaced as of March 2015, with more than 7,600,000 internally displaced and more than 3,700,000 refugees in neighboring countries.

(4) On February 19, 2015, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reported to the Security Council that "parties to the conflict are failing to live up to their international legal obligations to protect civilians" and called for action to ensure the unfettered delivery of humanitarian relief, an end to the use of denial of services as a weapon of war, and a response to "the relentless and indiscriminate attacks on civilians, including through the use of barrel bombs".

(5) On February 27, 2014, the Department of State issued its 2013 Human Rights Report on Syria, which described President Bashar al Assad's use of "indiscriminate and deadly force" in the conflict, including the August 21, 2013, use of "sarin gas and artillery to target East Ghouta and Moadamiya al-Sham, suburbs of Damascus, which killed over 1,000 people".

(6) The 2014 United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Annual Report states that in Syria "terrorist organizations espouse violence and the creation of an Islamic state with no space for religious diversity and have carried out religiously-motivated attacks and massacres against Alawite, Shi'a and Christian civilians."

(7) On February 4, 2015, the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) adopted a decision expressing serious concern about the findings "with a high degree of confidence" of an OPCW fact-finding mission