

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 320

Congratulating the people of Burma on their commitment to peaceful elections.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

DECEMBER 10, 2015

Reported by Mr. CORKER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

DECEMBER 16, 2015

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people of Burma on their commitment to peaceful elections.

Whereas Burma conducted general elections on November 8, 2015, the country's first national vote since a civilian government was introduced in 2011 that ended nearly 50 years of military rule;

Whereas the people of Burma have, by their vigorous participation in electoral campaigning and public debate, strengthened the foundations of a free and democratic way of life;

Whereas preliminary reports indicate that voter turnout exceeded 80 percent;

Whereas international observers have reported that election day was largely free and fair and conducted in an orderly and peaceful fashion despite broader structural concerns such as the disenfranchisement of the Rohingya;

Whereas the ruling military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party suffered a dramatic loss at the polls, and the National League for Democracy won a sizable majority in both chambers of Burma's Union Parliament, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and will select Burma's next President;

Whereas Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has symbolized the struggle for freedom and democracy in Burma and has actively supported democratic reform through her leadership of the National League for Democracy;

Whereas the National League for Democracy espouses a policy of nonviolent movement towards multi-party democracy in Burma, supports national reconciliation, and endorses strengthening democratic institutions, protecting human rights, implementing free market economic reforms, and reinforcing rule of law;

Whereas President Thein Sein and Commander-in-Chief Min Aug Hlaing made public commitments to respect the election results and vowed to abide by the law to ensure an orderly and prompt transition to a new government; and

Whereas the continued democratic development of Burma is a matter of fundamental importance to the advancement of United States interests in Southeast Asia and is sup-

ported by the United States Senate: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) congratulates the people of Burma for embracing democracy through their participation in the
3 November 8, 2015, general elections, and for their
4 continuing efforts in developing a free, democratic
5 society that respects internationally recognized
6 human rights;

7 (2) recognizes the National League for Democracy's victory as a reflection of the will of the Burmese people;

8 (3) calls on the Union Solidarity and Development Party to undertake a peaceful transfer of
9 power and abide by the law to ensure an orderly and
10 prompt transition to a new government;

11 (4) encourages all parties to pursue national reconciliation talks and work together in the spirit
12 of national unity to seek what is best for the country;

13 (5) recognizes that while the Government of
14 Burma has made important progress towards democratization, there remain serious challenges and
15 impediments to the realization of full democratic and
16 civilian government, including the reservation of
17 unelected seats for the military and the disenfran-

1 chisement of groups of people including the
2 Rohingya;

3 (6) expresses hope that newly elected members
4 of parliament will contribute to the ongoing political
5 transformation and will herald a new generation of
6 responsible democratic leadership in Burma;

7 (7) calls on the Government of Burma to sup-
8 port meaningful efforts to reform the 2008 Constitu-
9 tion of Burma, with the full and unfettered partici-
10 pation of all the people of Burma and in a manner
11 that promotes and protects democratic development
12 of Burma and safeguards against arbitrary inter-
13 ference by the military;

14 (8) calls on the Government of Burma to re-
15 lease all political prisoners;

16 (9) supports negotiations between the Govern-
17 ment of Burma and ethnic groups and organizations
18 toward a genuine national ceasefire;

19 (10) encourages the President of the United
20 States, in close and timely consultation with Con-
21 gress, to continue to support efforts to promote gen-
22 uine democratic transition and to ensure that any
23 changes in United States policy toward Burma, in-
24 cluding the consideration of any potential relaxation

1 of restrictions, are aligned with support for a gen-
2 uine and sustainable democratic transition; and

3 (11) reaffirms that the people of the United
4 States will continue to stand with the people of
5 Burma in support of democracy, partnership, and
6 peace.

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