

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 320

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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

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## 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 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 supported by the United States Senate: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2                    (1) congratulates the people of Burma for em-  
3        bracing democracy through their participation in the

1 November 8, 2015, general elections and for their  
2 continuing efforts in developing a free, democratic  
3 society that respects internationally recognized  
4 human rights;

5 (2) recognizes the National League for Democ-  
6 racy's victory as a reflection of the will of the Bur-  
7 mese people;

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

12 (4) encourages all parties to pursue national  
13 reconciliation talks and work together in the spirit  
14 of national unity to seek what is best for the coun-  
15 try;

16 (5) recognizes that while the Government of  
17 Burma has made important progress towards de-  
18 moocratization, there remain important impediments  
19 to the realization of full democratic and civilian gov-  
20 ernment, including the reservation of unelected seats  
21 for the military and the disenfranchisement of  
22 groups of people including the Rohingya;

23 (6) expresses hope that newly elected members  
24 of parliament and a prompt and orderly transition

1 to a new government will herald a new generation of  
2 responsible leadership in Burma;

3 (7) calls on the Government of Burma to sup-  
4 port meaningful efforts to reform the 2008 Constitu-  
5 tion of Burma, with the full and unfettered partici-  
6 pation of the people of Burma and in a manner that  
7 promotes and protects democratic development of  
8 Burma and safeguards against arbitrary interference  
9 by the military;

10 (8) supports negotiations between the Govern-  
11 ment of Burma and ethnic-based peoples and organi-  
12 zations;

13 (9) encourages the President of the United  
14 States to take further steps toward normalization of  
15 relations with Burma and consider the potential re-  
16 laxation of restrictions should the Union Solidarity  
17 Development Party respect the election results and  
18 proceed with a prompt and orderly transition in  
19 power; and

20 (10) reaffirms that the people of the United  
21 States will continue to stand with the people of  
22 Burma in support of democracy, partnership, and  
23 peace.

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