

Whereas the current atmosphere of intimidation and fear calls into question the viability of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the support and respect of the United States for the welfare, human rights, and dignity of the people of Cambodia;

(2) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia to immediately cease and desist from its systematic campaign to undermine democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Cambodia;

(3) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia to immediately release all political prisoners and drop all politically motivated charges against opponents of the government;

(4) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia to demonstrate through words and deed the government's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Cambodia;

(5) calls upon the King of Cambodia to play a more active and constructive role in protecting the constitutional rights of all Cambodian citizens; and

(6) urges international donors and multilateral organizations, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the United Nations, to hold Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia fully accountable for actions that undermine the investment of international donors in the democratic and economic development of Cambodia.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 77—TO PROVIDE FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 77

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2006, at 3:30 P.m., in closed session, to receive an operations and intelligence briefing on Iraq.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 25, 2006, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Proposals To Reform the National Flood Insurance Program."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing on nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing on nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., to hold a hearing on nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, January 25, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., for a hearing titled, "Lobbying Reform: Proposals and Issues."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted for the remainder of the 109th Congress to Reed O'Connor, a detailee from the Department of Justice who works on my Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Citizenship.

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

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 77 which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 77) to provide for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President on the State of the Union.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 77) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 77

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO ESCORT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with the like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2006.

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

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LONGHORNS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 352 which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 352) commending the University of Texas at Austin Longhorns football team for winning the 2005 Bowl Championship Series national championship.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 352) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 352

Whereas the Longhorns won the BCS national championship game, defeating the University of Southern California by a score of 41-38 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California on January 4, 2006;

Whereas the Longhorns have now won four football national titles;

Whereas this historic victory—the 800th win in school history—marks the culmination of an undefeated, 13-0 season;

Whereas, by scoring 652 points during their undefeated season, the Longhorns set an NCAA record for points scored in a single season;

Whereas the University of Texas now owns the longest-active winning streak in the Nation at 20 games;

Whereas, under the leadership of Coach Mack Brown, the Longhorns claimed the Big 12 Conference South Division title, won the Big 12 Conference championship, and earned their eighth consecutive bowl game berth;

Whereas the Longhorns boast seven All-Americans, including Will Allen, Justin Blalock, Aaron Harris, Michael Huff, Jonathan Scott, Rodrigue Wright, and Vince Young;

Whereas quarterback Vince Young—a Heisman Trophy finalist, recipient of the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, and the Maxwell Award winner—was named the Most Valuable Player of the Rose Bowl;

Whereas, Vince Young scored three touchdowns and gained 467 total yards in the championship game, and he became the first player in NCAA history to rush for more than 1,000 yards and pass for more than 3,000 in the same season;

Whereas the Longhorns were captained by Ahmard Hall, David Thomas, Rodrigue Wright, and Vince Young at the Rose Bowl;

Whereas Ahmard Hall, the male 2005 Big 12 Sportsperson of the Year, served his country as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps for four years—serving tours in Kosovo and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan—prior to joining the team as a walk-on in 2003 and ultimately rising to the position of starting fullback and team captain;

Whereas the entire Longhorns team should be commended for its inspirational work, determination, and success;

Whereas the University of Texas at Austin has a long tradition of athletic and academic excellence; and

Whereas the Longhorns have brought great honor to themselves, their university, and the great State of Texas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Texas at Austin Longhorns football team for winning the 2005 Bowl Championship Series national championship;

(2) congratulates the team for completing an undefeated, 13-0 season; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to make available to the University of Texas at Austin an enrolled copy of this resolution for appropriate display.

CONCERN FOR JUSTICE IN CAMBODIA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Senate Resolution 353, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The resolution (S. Res. 353) expressing concern with the deliberate undermining of democratic freedoms and justice in Cambodia by Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia.

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

Mr. FRIST. Today, the Prime Minister of Cambodia dropped the criminal defamation lawsuits against five government critics and human rights advocates.

Along with the administration, I welcome the Prime Minister's decision and applaud his efforts to recognize the

right of free political exchange. I am hopeful that today's action represents progress and a greater commitment to human rights and civil society on the part of the ruling authority.

In recent months, we have had cause for alarm that the Government of Cambodia is engaged in a campaign of political persecution and intimidation. Prime Minister Hun Sen and his apparatus have consistently and blatantly violated basic democratic principles, the rule of law, and human rights as enshrined in the Cambodian Constitution.

Tonight, the Senate stands unified in calling upon Prime Minister Sen and the government of Cambodia: To immediately cease and desist from its systematic campaign to undermine democracy, the rule of law, and human rights; to immediately release all political prisoners and drop all politically motivated charges against opponents of the government; and to demonstrate through word and deed the government's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights;

We also call upon the King of Cambodia to play a more active and constructive role in protecting the constitutional rights of Cambodian citizens. And we urge international donors and multilateral organizations, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the United Nations, to hold the Prime Minister and his government fully accountable for actions that undermine the investment of international donors in the democratic and economic development of Cambodia.

I would like to thank Senator MCCONNELL and Senator MCCAIN for their leadership and commitment to the people of Cambodia. They deserve special recognition for their unflagging support.

Let me close with a report today in the International Herald Tribune. At a recent gathering of 800 impoverished farmers and townspeople in a village south of the capitol of Phnom Penh, an elderly Cambodian woman asked:

I have a question for government. You talk about democracy, but how much right do the people of Cambodia have to speak out? If we speak out, will we be arrested like Kem Sokha?

I put that question to Prime Minister Hun Sen. Will the people be allowed to speak out as free citizens in an open and just democracy? The people of Cambodia want to know. And on their behalf, the U.S. Senate demands an answer.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 353) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 353

Whereas the United States affirms its support and respect for the welfare, human rights and dignity of the people of Cambodia;

Whereas, under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen, the Government of Cambodia has engaged in a systematic campaign to undermine the democratic opposition, stifle critics of the Government, and silence and intimidate civil society in Cambodia;

Whereas, despite constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression and association in Cambodia, Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia have consistently and blatantly violated basic democratic principles, the rule of law, and human rights in Cambodia;

Whereas the United States, the United Nations, and other international donors have publicly expressed concern with Prime Minister Hun Sen's authoritarian conduct (including inappropriate influence and control over the judiciary) and the official corruption and climate of impunity that exist in Cambodia today;

Whereas evidence of the campaign to undermine the democratic opposition in Cambodia is found in the revocation of parliamentary immunity of opposition leaders Sam Rainsy, Chea Poch, and Cheam Channy, and the 7-year prison sentence of Cheam Channy for allegedly forming "a secret army to overthrow the government" and 18-month sentence in absentia of Sam Rainsy on charges of allegedly defaming Prime Minister Hun Sen;

Whereas evidence of the campaign to stifle critics of the Government of Cambodia is found in the detention and charges of criminal defamation of radio journalist Mom Sonando and Rong Chhum, president of the Cambodian Independent Teachers Association;

Whereas the decision by Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia on January 25, 2006, to drop all charges against Mom Sonando, Rong Chhum, Kem Sokha, and Pa Nguon is a welcome step, but does little to alleviate the underlying climate of intimidation in Cambodia;

Whereas evidence of the campaign to silence and intimidate civil society is found in the arrest and detention of human rights activist Kem Sokha, Yeng Virak, and Pa Nguon on charges of criminal defamation;

Whereas other champions of democracy in Cambodia, including former parliamentarian Om Radsady and labor leader Chea Vichea, were brutally murdered in Cambodia, and no one has been brought to justice for committing these heinous crimes;

Whereas Cambodia is a donor dependant country, and more than \$2,000,000,000 has been invested by donors in the democratic development of that country; and

Whereas the current atmosphere of intimidation and fear calls into question the viability of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the support and respect of the United States for the welfare, human rights, and dignity of the people of Cambodia;

(2) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia to immediately cease and desist from its systematic campaign to undermine democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Cambodia;

(3) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia to immediately release all political prisoners and drop all politically motivated charges against opponents of the government;

(4) calls on Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Government of Cambodia to demonstrate through words and deed the government's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Cambodia;