

of 45 degrees west longitude, catches and catch rates remain very low;

Whereas many scientists believe that mixing occurs between the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock and the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock, and as such, poor management and noncompliance with recommendations for one stock are likely to have an adverse effect on the other stock; and

Whereas additional research on stock mixing will improve the understanding of the relationship between eastern and western bluefin tuna stocks and other fisheries, which will assist in the conservation, recovery, and management of the species throughout its range: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States delegation to the 16th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, should—

(1) pursue a meaningful assessment of Commission member compliance with the “Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean” (Recommendation 06-05), including seeking detailed explanations from Commission members that have failed to effectively implement the terms of the recommendation;

(2) pursue the adoption by the Commission of measures designed to eliminate non-compliance, including, as appropriate, deducting a portion of a future quota for a party to compensate for such party exceeding its quota in prior years, and where appropriate, steps should be taken to link non-compliance with reductions in fishery or market access;

(3) seek a temporary suspension of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, including all trade, if significant progress toward establishing science-based management measures, improving monitoring and control measures, and addressing compliance issues is not made at the Commission this year;

(4) seek to strengthen the conservation and management of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna by making recommendations to halt the decline of the stock and begin to rebuild it, including reducing annual harvest levels so that they do not exceed recommendations of the Standing Committee and expanding the time and area closure for the Mediterranean purse seine fleet to include May, June, and July; and

(5) pursue additional research on the relationship between the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stocks and the extent to which the populations intermingle.

CONDEMNING STONING IN SOMALIA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 711, 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. 711) condemning the tragic and senseless death by stoning of a 13-year-old girl from Somalia.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 711) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 711

Whereas a child from Somalia, identified as Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow, was raped by 3 men, and when her family reported the rape to authorities of the al-Shabaab militia that control the city of Kismayu, Somalia, she was accused of adultery and ordered to be stoned;

Whereas, in October 2008, Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow was stoned to death by 50 militant men before 1,000 witnesses in a public stadium;

Whereas al-Shabaab, some of whose members are affiliated with al Qaeda, is a violent and brutal extremist group that has used intimidation and committed human rights violations to undermine the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and threaten activists in civil society working to bring about peace through political dialogue and reconciliation;

Whereas, on February 29, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice designated al-Shabaab as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) and placed the organization on the list of specially designated global terrorists established under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and initiated under Executive Order 13224;

Whereas the 2007 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Somalia, released on March 11, 2007, by the Department of State, cited the “poor human rights situation” in Somalia, including “unlawful and politically motivated killings, official impunity, and discrimination and violence against women”;

Whereas stoning is a grave and serious violation of human rights law, in which the victim is killed in an especially brutal way;

Whereas stoning is practiced particularly on girls and women accused of adultery;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has condemned the death of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow and called on the United States Government to join other states in speaking out decisively in international fora against such grave human rights abuses; and

Whereas the United States Government continues to support the efforts of those working to transform the troubled region of Somalia through commitment to sound human rights practices, democratic and representative government, economic recovery, and lasting peace and reconciliation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the tragic and senseless death by stoning of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow;

(2) urges the international community to join the Senate in speaking out against this brutal act; and

(3) urges the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia—

(A) to undertake robust efforts to protect women and children and to prevent acts of institutionalized violence against women in Somalia;

(B) to work to strengthen the rule of law as part of the effort by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to establish its authority;

(C) to promote equal and fair treatment of women; and

(D) to end the culture of impunity in Somalia.

CONGRATULATING THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES ON WINNING THE 2008 WORLD SERIES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 712, 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. 712) congratulating the Philadelphia Phillies on winning the 2008 World Series.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to submit a resolution congratulating the Philadelphia Phillies on winning the 2008 World Series. On October 29, 2008, the Phillies defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 4 to 3 in Game 5 to secure a World Series title for the first time since 1980 and second time in team history.

This historic victory was the culmination of a hard-fought 2008 regular season and an exhilarating postseason run for the Phillies. On September 27, the Phillies beat the Washington Nationals to clinch the National League East Division for the second consecutive year. They would go on to defeat the Milwaukee Brewers and Los Angeles Dodgers in the Division Series and National League Championship Series, respectively, to advance to their first World Series since 1993.

In the World Series, the Phillies faced a young and talented Tampa Bay Rays team, led by Manager, and Pennsylvania native, Joe Maddon. With strong performances from their starting pitchers, an outstanding bullpen and well-timed hitting, the Phillies beat the Rays in five games to clinch the title.

On behalf of the Senate and as an ardent Phillies fan myself, I congratulate the Philadelphia Phillies on winning the 2008 World Series and bringing to my hometown of Philadelphia a major sports championship for the first time in 25 years. In particular, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to manager Charlie Manuel, who, since taking the helm as manager in 2005, has guided this young Phillies team to become the best in Major League Baseball. Further due special recognition is 24-year-old pitcher Cole Hamels, who was named the Most Valuable Player for both the National League Championship Series and World Series with a 4-0 record and 1.80 earned run average in the postseason.

Also deserving of much praise are the 2008 American League Championship Rays. Though they had endured 10 consecutive losing seasons and the worst record in baseball last season, the Rays won their division and the 2008 American League Championship Series. The Rays have a bright future and I wish them continued success.

Finally, and perhaps more importantly, I congratulate all Phillies fans, who could finally enjoy that parade

down Broad Street they so well deserve. Philadelphia sports fans have consistently demonstrated their love for and devotion to Philadelphia teams, even after 25 years without winning a major sports championship. While we have a reputation of being somewhat rough around the edges, Philadelphia fans are enthusiastic about sports and fiercely loyal to our teams. We also have a reputation for not resting on our laurels and demanding a lot from those players and coaches privileged to wear our teams' uniforms. I therefore urge my Phillies to keep fighting and bring home another title next year.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions, to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 712) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 712

Whereas, on October 29, 2008, the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Tampa Bay Rays to win the 2008 World Series;

Whereas the 4 to 3 Phillies victory in Game 5 of the Fall Classic secured for Philadelphia a World Series title for the first time since 1980, and for the second time in team history;

Whereas the Tampa Bay Rays deserve congratulations for a stellar 2008 season, in which, after 10 consecutive losing seasons, they posted a regular season record of 97-65 and won the American League Championship Series;

Whereas Tampa Bay Rays Manager and Hazelton, Pennsylvania-native Joe Maddon established himself as among the premier managers in Major League Baseball during the 2008 season, and aptly was named American League Manager of the Year;

Whereas Philadelphia sports fans have consistently demonstrated their love for, and devotion to, Philadelphia teams, even after 25 years without winning a major sports championship;

Whereas, since taking the helm as manager in 2005, Phillies Manager Charlie Manuel has guided the young Phillies team to become the best in Major League Baseball;

Whereas recently retired General Manager Pat Gillick, who joined the Phillies in 2006, played an integral role in assembling the World Series-winning team;

Whereas 24-year old pitcher Cole Hamels was named the Most Valuable Player for both the National League Championship Series and the World Series, with a 4-0 record and 1.80 Earned Run Average in the post-season;

Whereas starting pitchers Cole Hamels, Brett Myers, Joe Blanton, and Souderton, Pennsylvania-native Jamie Moyer delivered outstanding performances throughout the post-season;

Whereas the Phillies' bullpen distinguished itself as among the greatest in Major League Baseball, particularly closer Brad Lidge, who finished the 2008 season with 48 out of 48 save opportunities, including the final game of the World Series;

Whereas the Phillies were led by a talented and tough group of players including: 2006 MVP Ryan Howard; All-Star Chase Utley; 2007 MVP and 2007 and 2008 Gold Glove winner Jimmy Rollins; third baseman Pedro

Feliz; veteran outfielder Pat Burrell; 2008 Gold Glove winner, the "Flyin' Hawaiian", Shane Victorino; outfielder Jayson Werth; and catcher Carlos Ruiz;

Whereas numerous reserve players made significant contributions to the Phillies' World Series title run, including Geoff Jenkins, Chris Coste, Eric Bruntlett, Greg Dobbs, and Matt Stairs; and

Whereas more than 1,000,000 fans packed the streets of Philadelphia on October 31, 2008 for a parade along Market and Broad Streets ending at Citizens Bank Park;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Philadelphia Phillies for winning the 2008 World Series;

(B) the Phillies manager, coaches, and support staff, whose commitment to the Phillies franchise has sustained this proud organization and allowed the team to reach the pinnacle of success in 2008;

(C) all Phillies fans, whose tenacity, perseverance, and enthusiasm are matched only by that of the team to which the fans are dedicated; and

(D) the Tampa Bay Rays on an outstanding 2008 season; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Phillies manager Charlie Manuel;

(B) Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro, Jr.;

(E) Phillies advisor Pat Gillick.

CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 713, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 713) calling on all parties to the escalating violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to implement an immediate ceasefire and work with the support of the international community toward a comprehensive and lasting solution to this crisis.

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

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my deep concern about the rapidly deteriorating situation in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Over recent weeks, eastern Congo has been making international headlines since new fighting broke out between the Congolese military and rebels loyal to General Laurent Nkunda. The rebels overran several government military bases and major towns as they surrounded the strategic city of Goma. Meanwhile, the Congolese military—a feckless force that often rapes and pillages the very people it is meant to protect—retreated, leaving UN peacekeepers to fend off the rebels' advance and attempt to protect civilians. Fortunately, the rebels stopped before marching on Goma, but the situation remains extremely volatile.

I traveled last year to the very region, North Kivu Province, where this violence is taking place and saw firsthand the grave suffering of people who have lived through a decade of conflict and humanitarian crisis. The numbers are staggering: an estimated 5.4 million deaths over the last decade and 1,500 people still dying each day. In addition, millions have been displaced from their homes, living in squalid camps where children are subject to forced recruitment and women suffer unspeakable levels of sexual violence.

In my travels to many parts of Africa over the years, the suffering of women and girls in eastern Congo particularly stands out. I met with women and girls who had been gang raped, often leaving them with irreparable physical and psychological damage. I met with women who had lost their husbands, their homes, and their livelihoods and yet against all odds they refused to give up—if only for the sake of their children. There may be no worse place to be female than eastern Congo. And yet it is the strength of these women that continues to give hope.

The renewed fighting in eastern Congo is worrisome not only because it will further exacerbate this humanitarian tragedy, but also because it risks engulfing the neighboring countries in a new regional war. Last month, the Congolese Government accused Rwanda of sending troops across the border in support of Nkunda's forces. The rebels in turn have recently alleged that Angolan and even Zimbabwean troops are supporting the Congolese military. Despite vows by these governments to avoid another regional conflict, tensions remain high. It is not hard to imagine a minor incident sparking a repeat of 1998 when at least six neighboring countries were drawn into Congo's war.

Such a scenario would destabilize the Great Lakes region of Africa. Over recent years, the United States and our international partners have made significant investments—both financial and diplomatic—to assist in consolidating peace and restoring the rule of law in this region. No one wants to see those investments lost and the progress made reversed, and we may not have to. If we take bold and strategic action now, we can prevent a new regional conflict and revive the peace process in eastern Congo.

I was pleased that our top diplomat for Africa, Jendayi Frazer, traveled to the region with high-level diplomats from the UK and France 2 weeks ago. In addition, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon convened an emergency summit of regional leaders in Nairobi. But this diplomatic engagement must remain consistent and get all key actors, including Rwanda, to commit to a clear roadmap for implementing the already signed peace agreements. To be successful, we must also establish monitoring and verification mechanisms to hold the parties accountable and challenge the continued culture of impunity.