

Whereas armed groups move freely among Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder, banditry, forced recruitment, mass displacement, gender-based violence, and other crimes undermining regional security and exacerbating a cross-border humanitarian crisis;

Whereas, on July 31, 2007, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), authorizing a joint United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and protect civilians;

Whereas only one-third of UNAMID peacekeepers have been deployed to the region and those deployed remain under-equipped to protect civilians and are the target of deliberate attacks by armed militias;

Whereas a new joint African Union-United Nations chief mediator, Burkina Faso's foreign minister, Djibril Bassole, has been appointed to reignite stalled peace talks between the parties in Darfur and help establish a cessation of hostilities;

Whereas fighting erupted in Sudan's oil-rich Abyei region on May 13 and 21, 2008, leaving 18 civilians dead and giving rise to concerns about a breakdown of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which could ruin progress made over the last three years toward lasting peace in southern Sudan and ensnare the wider region into overlapping conflicts;

Whereas the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court charged the President of Sudan on July 14, 2008, with orchestrating genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur, elevating hopes for accountability but also fears of retaliation against peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, and civilians;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has long-standing economic and military ties with Sudan, giving it significant influence on the Government of Sudan;

Whereas, from August 8 to August 24, 2008, China will host the Olympic Summer Games, the most venerated and prestigious international sporting event;

Whereas there is a tradition of an Olympic Truce, originating in ancient Greece, to ensure the safety of athletes traveling to the ancient Olympic Games, the importance of which was reaffirmed in 2003 by the United Nations;

Whereas the Olympic Truce traditionally begins one week before the Olympic Games and extends one week after the end of the Paralympic Games;

Whereas, on October 16, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution G/A 62/L.2, "Building a better and more peaceful world through sport," which urges Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, during the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, and to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to use sport as an instrument to promote peace, dialogue, and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the Olympic Games period; and

Whereas the situation in Sudan and the neighboring region remains highly volatile as the Olympics approach: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its continued support and sympathy for the hundreds of thousands of civilians of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic who have been affected by the ongoing violence and regional instability;

(2) recognizes the unique opportunity presented by the Olympics and calls on the United Nations, the African Union, and other international leaders to use it to promote

peace, dialogue, and reconciliation in areas of conflict and commends those Olympic and Paralympic athletes seeking to advance that cause;

(3) recognizes the close relationship between the Governments of People's Republic of China and Sudan, and strongly urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its full influence to press the Government of Sudan to commit to a cessation of hostilities, allow the full deployment of UNAMID peacekeeping forces, and engage in good faith in efforts to rejuvenate peace talks;

(4) calls upon the Government of Sudan and other armed actors in the region to immediately adopt a cessation of hostilities, during which they allow unfettered humanitarian access and the full deployment of UNAMID peacekeeping forces as well as engage in good faith efforts to rejuvenate peace talks;

(5) welcomes the efforts of the new joint African Union-United Nations mediator, Mr. Djibril Bassole, to revive a comprehensive peace process with all stakeholders to end the violence, demobilize militias, and promote voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees;

(6) urges the President and the international community to ensure that mediation efforts are supported and backed by credible leverage through targeted pressure and an enforced arms embargo;

(7) calls upon the United Nations and African Union to use the opportunity presented by a cessation of hostilities to fully deploy and equip UNAMID as well as strengthen the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to better monitor the Abyei region; and

(8) encourages the United Nations Secretary-General and other international leaders to publicly promote the principles reflected in the Olympic Truce among all the warring parties in Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic, and other areas of conflict around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 633—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE DETERIORATION OF RESPECT FOR PRIVACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA BEFORE THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES IN BEIJING

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. BUNNING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 633

Whereas, on July 13, 2001, the International Olympic Committee announced the awarding of the 2008 Olympic Games to Beijing, People's Republic of China;

Whereas, prior to that announcement, the bidding documents submitted by the Government of the People's Republic of China to the International Olympic Committee stated, "We are confident that the Games coming to China not only promotes our economy, but also enhances . . . human rights.";

Whereas those documents also stated, "There will be no restrictions on journalists in reporting on the Olympic Games. . . . There will be no restriction concerning the use of media material produced in China and intended principally for broadcast outside.";

Whereas Beijing's Action Plan for the Olympics states, "In the preparation for the Games, we will be open in every aspect to the rest of the country and the whole world.";

Whereas, on April 23, 2002, after the Olympic Games had been awarded to Beijing, the

President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, said, "We are convinced that the Olympic Games will improve the human rights record [in China].";

Whereas, on March 13, 2008, the United States Department of State released the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices;

Whereas the report on the People's Republic of China states that in 2007 the Government of the People's Republic of China "tightened restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, particularly in anticipation of and during sensitive events, including increased efforts to control and censor the Internet";

Whereas that report also states that in 2007 authorities of the People's Republic of China "monitored telephone conversations, facsimile transmissions, e-mail, text messaging, and Internet communications";

Whereas, on July 29, 2008, Amnesty International released a report entitled "People's Republic of China: The Olympics Countdown—Broken Promises", which finds, regarding the promises of the Government of the People's Republic of China to the International Olympic Committee in 2001, "[T]here has been no progress towards fulfilling these promises, only continued deterioration. . . . In fact, the crackdown on human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers has intensified because Beijing is hosting the Olympics.";

Whereas, that report also states, "Chinese journalists continue to operate in a climate of official censorship and control, with many still languishing in jail for reporting on issues deemed politically sensitive. Internet controls have been increasingly tightened as the Olympics approach with control, regulation and censorship extending to various categories of internet users, including Internet Service Providers, bloggers and website owners. Numerous websites have been closed down for providing information deemed sensitive by the authorities. Internet users who post such information risk detention, prosecution and imprisonment.";

Whereas, in April 2008, the Government of the People's Republic of China issued an order requiring hotels to allow the Public Security Bureau to install hardware devices and new software programs on the hotel networks that are designed to send sensitive information about users, including foreign visitors and journalists, to the Public Security Bureau;

Whereas, on July 29, 2008, Agence France-Presse reported that "China will censor the Internet used by foreign media during the Olympics . . . reversing a pledge to offer complete media freedom at the games", citing confirmation by Sun Weide, spokesman for the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee;

Whereas the Olympic Charter states that the mission of the International Olympic Committee is "to promote a positive legacy from the Olympic Games to the host cities and host countries";

Whereas, on December 25, 2007, the Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, stated, "The Games can act as a catalyst and contribute to the opening of a society."; and

Whereas, on March 23, 2008, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, stated that the Olympic Games are a "force for good": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) to rescind the order requiring hotels to allow the Public Security Bureau to install hardware and software on the hotel networks; and

(B) to refrain from targeting, on the basis of information collected from Internet monitoring, any individual who visits websites related to politics or human rights or who expresses opinions related to politics or human rights in electronic communication;

(2) expresses grave concern regarding the deterioration of respect for human rights in the People's Republic of China leading up to the Beijing Olympics;

(3) notes that the behavior of the Government of the People's Republic of China violates several international conventions to which the country is a signatory, violates the Government's commitments to the International Olympic Committee, and is contrary to longstanding Olympic tradition and spirit; and

(4) remains concerned for the safety and privacy of international visitors and journalists traveling to the People's Republic of China for the Beijing Olympics, in particular visitors and journalists involved in documenting human rights abuses and promoting human rights improvements.

SENATE RESOLUTION 634—RECOGNIZING JULY 30, 2008, AS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HUMAN NEEDS

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 634

Whereas on April 26, 1968, after viewing the CBS Emmy-award winning documentary "Hunger in America," Senator George McGovern introduced a resolution to establish a Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs;

Whereas the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was enacted on July 30, 1968;

Whereas Senator George McGovern served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs from 1968 to 1977;

Whereas July 30, 2008, marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, which later became the foundation of the current Subcommittee on Nutrition and Food Assistance, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, and General Legislation Jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;

Whereas Senator George McGovern was committed to exposing the failure of Federal food assistance programs to reach citizens lacking in adequate quantities and quality of food;

Whereas Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole worked tirelessly in their respective roles on the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs to develop a bipartisan Federal response to hunger;

Whereas the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs played a key role in educating Congress, the Federal government, and the Nation at large about the magnitude of hunger in the United States;

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was vital to reforming the Federal food stamp program,

culminating in the passage of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), which made the program more efficient and more accessible to those most in need by finally eliminating the requirement that Americans pay for a portion of their food stamps;

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was essential to expanding the school lunch program established under the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and permanently establishing the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), the child and adult care food program under section 17 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), and the summer food service program for children under section 13 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1761);

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was instrumental in the establishment of the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) (WIC);

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry remains committed to continuing the important work begun by Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole of providing a Federal response to hunger;

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry provided a record-level amount of nutrition funding in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 1651) to reform and strengthen Federal nutrition assistance programs;

Whereas, through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 1651), the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry made key improvements to the food stamp program, including—

(1) increasing the food purchasing ability of low-income households by accounting for food cost inflation;

(2) increasing the minimum benefit;

(3) encouraging retirement and education savings; and

(4) allowing families to account for child care costs in calculating food assistance;

Whereas, through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246; 122 Stat. 1651), the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry helped to strengthen the domestic food assistance safety net by providing significant funding to increase commodity purchases for local area food banks;

Whereas, in 2008, more than 28,000,000 people in the United States participate in the food stamp program;

Whereas, in 2008, more than 17,500,000 low-income children receive free or reduced-price meals through the national school lunch program;

Whereas despite Federal food assistance programs, 35,500,000 people in the United States, including 12,600,000 children, continue to live in households considered to be food insecure;

Whereas children who live in households lacking access to sufficient food are more likely to be in poorer physical health than children from food secure households; and

Whereas children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of food insecurity because undernutrition can have adverse impacts on emotional health, behavior, school performance, and cognitive development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes July 30, 2008, as the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution

establishing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs;

(2) recognizes the substantial contributions the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs made in ensuring that effective and efficient Federal food assistance programs were accessible to those most in need;

(3) recognizes that hunger continues to be an issue plaguing the United States; and

(4) supports the continued efforts of Federal, State, and local governments and private non-profit organizations to eradicate hunger in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 635—MAKING MINORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. McCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 635

Resolved, That the following be the minority membership on the following committee for the remainder of the 110th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation: Mrs. Hutchison, Mr. Stevens, Mr. McCain, Ms. Snowe, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ensign, Mr. Sununu, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Thune, Mr. Wicker.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5254. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3322, to provide tax relief for the victims of severe storms, tornados, and flooding in the Midwest, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

SA 5255. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3335, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5256. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3186, to provide funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5257. Mr. PRYOR (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5938, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide secret service protection to former Vice Presidents, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5254. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3322, to provide tax relief for the victims of severe storms, tornados, and flooding in the Midwest, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Finance; as follows:

On page 15, line 11, insert "or by any instrumentality of the State" after "located".

SA 5255. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3335, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: