

the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in the 1990s”;

Whereas the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has asserted that passage of the law could discourage countries in Europe from contributing additional troops to help combat terrorism in the region;

Whereas President Karzai has instructed the Government of Afghanistan and members of the clergy to review the law and change any articles that are not in keeping with Afghanistan’s Constitution and Islamic Sharia;

Whereas the law includes provisions that are fundamentally incompatible with the obligations of the Government of Afghanistan under various international instruments to which it is a party;

Whereas Afghanistan is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which establishes the principle of nondiscrimination, including on the basis of sex, and states that men and women are entitled to equal rights to marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution;

Whereas Afghanistan became a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, done at New York December 16, 1966, and entered into force January 3, 1976 (ICESCR), which emphasizes the principle of self-determination, in that men and women may freely determine their political status as well as their economic, social, and cultural development;

Whereas article 22 of the Constitution of Afghanistan (2003) prohibits any kind of discrimination between and privilege among the citizens of Afghanistan and establishes the equal rights of all citizens before the law;

Whereas the international community and the United States have a long-standing commitment to and interest in working with the people and Government of Afghanistan to reestablish respect for fundamental human rights and protect women’s rights in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the provisions in the Shi’ite Personal Status Law that restrict women’s rights are inconsistent with those goals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) urges the Government of Afghanistan to revise the Shi’ite Personal Status Law, including its provisions on marital rape and women’s freedom of movement, to ensure its consistency with internationally recognized rights of women, including those contained in treaties to which Afghanistan is a party;

(2) supports the decision by President Karzai to analyze the draft law and strongly urges him not to publish it until it has been revised to be consistent with internationally recognized rights of women;

(3) encourages the Secretary of State, the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, and the United States Ambassador to Afghanistan to consider and address the status of women’s rights and security in Afghanistan to ensure that these rights are not being eroded through unjust laws, policies, or institutions; and

(4) encourages the Government of Afghanistan to solicit information and advice from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and women-led nongovernmental organizations to ensure that current and future legislation and official policies protect and uphold the equal rights of women, including through national campaigns to lead public discourse on the importance of women’s status and rights to the overall stability of Afghanistan.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the following items, en bloc: Calendar No. 65, H.R. 663; Calendar No. 66, H.R. 918, Calendar No. 67, H.R. 1284; and Calendar No. 68, H.R. 1595.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

YVONNE INGRAM-EPHRAIM POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 663) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12877 Broad Street in Sparta, Georgia, as the “Yvonne Ingram-Ephraim Post Office Building”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

STAN LUNDINE POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 918) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 East 3rd Street in Jamestown, New York, as the “Stan Lundine Post Office Building”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MAJOR ED W. FREEMAN POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 1284) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main street in McLain, Mississippi, as the “Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BRIAN K. SCHRAMM POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1595) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the “Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building”, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONDEMNING THE ACTIONS OF THE BURMESE STATE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 160.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 160) condemning the actions of the Burmese State Peace and Development Council against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to note passage of a Senate resolution on Burma. This resolution reflects the U.S. Senate’s unequivocal condemnation of the show trial currently being conducted by Burmese officials against Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. It is bad enough that Suu Kyi has been imprisoned for 13 of the past 19 years. Now the Burmese regime, the State Peace and Development Council, has come up with the flimsiest of pretexts to try to detain her further. It appears the regime will do anything to consolidate its grip on power. One suspects that the regime wants Suu Kyi behind bars at least until elections under its sham constitution are held in 2010.

I am gratified that this resolution reflects the strong, bipartisan view of the Senate on this matter. This resolution, which was authored by Senator GREGG, is cosponsored by Senators FEINSTEIN, DURBIN, MCCAIN, BROWNBACK, LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, BENNETT, BOND and me. It is also cosponsored by the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senators KERRY and LUGAR. A clearer signal from this chamber about Suu Kyi could hardly be sent.

As I noted earlier in the week, the members of the Senate have been and will continue to monitor the trial of Suu Kyi with deep concern.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, this morning Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appeared before the State Department, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee to discuss the fiscal year 2010 budget request for America’s international affairs programs and operations. We had a productive discussion on the numerous and extraordinary challenges that our Nation faces in the world today.

During the hearing, I brought up the plight of Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who faces criminal charges stemming from an uninvited visit by an American citizen to her compound in Rangoon, a compound on which she has spent 13 of the last 19 years under house arrest. These charges are absurd and have been roundly, and appropriately, condemned by the international community.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident but merely the latest attempt by General Than Shwe and the State Peace and Development Council to persecute Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party.

I regret that General Than Shwe has made clear his complete and total disinterest in improving Burma’s relationship with the United States. It is apparent that any open hand will be met with a clenched fist.

The resolution my colleagues and I offer today recognizes the continued injustices in Burma, and it states unequivocally that we deplore and condemn the show trial of Suu Kyi. The resolution sends a clear message to Suu Kyi and her supporters that the Senate remains squarely on the side of freedom and justice in Burma.

I agree with Secretary Clinton that more can and should be done on a bilateral and multilateral basis to secure the release of Suu Kyi and all prisoners of conscience in Burma today. The resolution calls for the Secretary to reinvigorate such efforts, and I intend to continue to work with her in support of human rights in Burma.

Mr. REID. 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. 160) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 160

Whereas the military regime in Burma, headed by General Than Shwe and the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), has carried out a longstanding and brutal campaign of persecution against Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters in the National League for Democracy, ethnic minorities, and ordinary citizens of Burma who publicly and courageously speak out against the regime's many injustices, abuses, and atrocities;

Whereas the military regime in Burma is solely responsible for failing to provide for the basic needs of the people of Burma and has restricted the activities and movement of United Nations agencies and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations operating in Burma today;

Whereas Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been imprisoned in Burma for 13 of the last 19 years, and many members of the National League for Democracy have been similarly jailed, tortured, or killed;

Whereas Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi currently faces criminal charges by the military regime for breaking the terms of her house arrest, which arose from the uninvited visit of an American citizen; and

Whereas these criminal charges are consistent with other past actions by the military regime to harass and persecute Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns and deplores the show trial of Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi;

(2) condemns and deplores the criminal actions by the State Peace and Development Council against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the National League for Democracy;

(3) recognizes that currently conditions do not exist in Burma for the conduct of credible and participatory elections;

(4) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all prisoners of conscience in Burma;

(5) calls upon the Secretary of State to reinvigorate efforts with regional governments

and multilateral organizations (including the People's Republic of China, India, and Japan as well as the Association of South-east Asian Nations and the United Nations Security Council) to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all prisoners of conscience in Burma; and

(6) calls upon the State Peace and Development Council to establish, with the full and unfettered participation of the National League for Democracy and ethnic minorities, a genuine roadmap for the peaceful transition to civilian, democratic rule.

RECOGNIZING JUNE 2009 AS THE
FIRST HHT MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to S. Res. 161.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 161) recognizing June 2009 as the first National Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) month, established to increase awareness of HHT, which is a complex genetic blood vessel disorder that affects approximately 70,000 people in the United States.

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

Mr. REID. 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. 161) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 161

Whereas according to the HHT Foundation International, Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT), also referred to as Osler-Weber-Rendu Syndrome, is a long-neglected national health problem that affects approximately 70,000 (1 in 5,000) people in the United States and 1,200,000 worldwide;

Whereas HHT is an autosomal dominant, uncommon complex genetic blood vessel disorder, characterized by telangiectases and artery-vein malformations that occurs in major organs including the lungs, brain, and liver, as well as the nasal mucosa, mouth, gastrointestinal tract, and skin of the face and hands;

Whereas left untreated, HHT can result in considerable morbidity and mortality and lead to acute and chronic health problems or sudden death;

Whereas according to the HHT Foundation International, 20 percent of those with HHT, regardless of age, suffer death and disability;

Whereas according to the HHT Foundation International, due to widespread lack of knowledge of the disorder among medical professionals, approximately 90 percent of the HHT population has not yet been diagnosed and is at risk for death or disability due to sudden rupture of the blood vessels in major organs in the body;

Whereas the HHT Foundation International estimates that 20 to 40 percent of complications and sudden death due to these "vascular time bombs" are preventable;

Whereas patients with HHT frequently receive fragmented care from practitioners

who focus on 1 organ of the body, having little knowledge about involvement in other organs or the interrelation of the syndrome systemically;

Whereas HHT is associated with serious consequences if not treated early, yet the condition is amenable to early identification and diagnosis with suitable tests, and there are acceptable treatments available in already-established facilities such as the 8 HHT Treatment Centers of Excellence in the United States; and

Whereas adequate Federal funding is needed for education, outreach, and research to prevent death and disability, improve outcomes, reduce costs, and increase the quality of life for people living with HHT: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the need to pursue research to find better treatments, and eventually, a cure for HHT;

(2) recognizes and supports the HHT Foundation International as the only advocacy organization in the United States working to find a cure for HHT while saving the lives and improving the well-being of individuals and families affected by HHT through research, outreach, education, and support;

(3) supports the designation of June 2009 as National Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) month, to increase awareness of HHT;

(4) acknowledges the need to identify the approximately 90 percent of the HHT population that has not yet been diagnosed and is at risk for death or disability due to sudden rupture of the blood vessels in major organs in the body;

(5) recognizes the importance of comprehensive care centers in providing complete care and treatment for each patient with HHT;

(6) recognizes that stroke, lung, and brain hemorrhages can be prevented through early diagnosis, screening, and treatment of HHT;

(7) recognizes severe hemorrhages in the nose and gastrointestinal tract can be controlled through intervention, and that heart failure can be managed through proper diagnosis of HHT and treatments;

(8) recognizes that a leading medical and academic institution estimated that \$6,600,000,000 of 1-time health care costs can be saved through aggressive management of HHT in the at-risk population; and

(9) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to observe and support the month through appropriate programs and activities that promote public awareness of HHT and potential treatments for it.

RECOGNIZING LANGSTON GOLF
COURSE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to S. Res. 162.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 162) recommending that the Langston Golf Course, located in northeast Washington, DC and owned by the National Park Service, be recognized for its important legacy and contributions to African-American golf history, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to,