

That is coupled with ejecting the world's media from Iran—first restricting it and then forcing them out so as not to record events. Unfortunately for the Iranian mullahs, Twitter has become an incredible means of communication, as well as cameras in cell phones. The word is still coming out as to the degree of oppression that is being practiced by the Iranian Government.

There is a lot I wish to say today about what is going on in Iran; the fact that we, the United States of America, have a long history of speaking out on behalf of people who are oppressed, who are victims of a corrupt election. We stood tall, America did, for the workers in Gdansk, in solidarity with Lech Walesa. We stood tall for the people of Prague during the Prague Spring, and we were not afraid, as Ronald Reagan was not, to go to the Berlin Wall and say "Take down this wall," and call an evil empire what it was, an evil empire.

One of the ironies of this situation that I wish to address very briefly is that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's political adviser said Thursday that the United States will regret its interference in Iran's disputed election. In other words, our President says he does not want to go meddle and at the same time, of course, they are accusing us of doing exactly that.

He, the adviser, said:

I hope in the case of the elections they realize their interference is a mistake and that they don't repeat this mistake. They will certainly regret this. They will have problems reestablishing relations with Iran.

In the history of this country, since July 4, 1776, we affirmed the fundamental rights of all people throughout the world, and that is the inalienable rights granted by our Creator to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That commitment to human rights was there then and it is there today. The United States of America must, and this body must, affirm our support for fundamental human rights of the Iranian people who are being beaten and killed in the streets of Tehran and other cities around Iran. We are with them.

It is not an accident that the signs "Where is my vote?" are in English. They are waiting for an expression of support from the Government and the people of the United States of America. I think this resolution is an important way to do so.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution 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. 193) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 193

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law;

(2) condemns the ongoing violence against demonstrators by the Government of Iran

and pro-government militias, as well as the ongoing government suppression of independent electronic communication through interference with the Internet and cellphones; and

(3) affirms the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic and fair elections.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN IRAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to S. Res. 196.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 196), expressing the sense of the Senate on freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression in Iran.

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, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 196) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 196

Whereas since the June 12 Iranian presidential elections, there have been increased restrictions on freedom of the press in Iran and limitations on the free flow of information among the Iranian people;

Whereas newspapers and news services have been restricted by the Government of Iran, preventing the publication of specific articles, blocking the transmission of some news broadcasts, and cancelling of foreign press credentials;

Whereas websites and blogs have been blocked in Iran, including social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter;

Whereas numerous Iranian journalists have been arrested, detained, imprisoned, or assaulted since June 12;

Whereas foreign journalists have been prevented from covering street demonstrations, confined to their hotels, and told their visas would not be renewed;

Whereas non-Iranian government news services, including the Associated Press, have been told they may not distribute Farsi-language reports;

Whereas Iranian journalists were instructed by the Government of Iran to report solely from their offices;

Whereas on June 13, the leading mobile phone operator in Iran, the government-owned Telecommunication Company of Iran, was suspended for over 24 hours;

Whereas short message service (SMS) in Iran has been blocked, preventing text message communications and blocking internet sites that utilize such services;

Whereas on June 14, an Al-Arabiya correspondent was instructed by the Iranian Ministry of Information to change a story and its Tehran bureau was subsequently closed;

Whereas shortwave and medium wave transmissions of the Farsi-language Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Radio Farda have been partially jammed since June 12; and

Whereas satellite broadcasts, including those of the Voice of America's Persian News Network and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), have been intermittently jammed since late May: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) respects the sovereignty, proud history, and rich culture of the Iranian people;

(2) respects the universal values of freedom of speech and freedom of the press in Iran and throughout the world;

(3) supports the Iranian people as they take steps to peacefully express their voices, opinions, and aspirations;

(4) supports the Iranian people seeking access to news and other forms of information;

(5) condemns the detainment, imprisonment, and intimidation of all journalists, in Iran and elsewhere throughout the world;

(6) supports journalists who take great risk to report on political events in Iran, including those surrounding the presidential election;

(7) supports the efforts of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) to provide credible news and information within Iran through the Voice of America's (VOA) 24-hour television station Persian News Network, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Radio Farda 24-hour radio station; and

(8) condemns acts of censorship, intimidation, and other restrictions on freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression in Iran and throughout the world.

CONGRATULATING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to S. Res. 197.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 197), congratulating the men and women of the National Archives and Records Administration on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

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, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 197) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 197

Whereas the National Archives was established by Congress in 1934 to centralize Federal recordkeeping;

Whereas the National Archives, now called the National Archives and Records Administration (in this resolution referred to as "NARA"), serves democracy in the United

States by ensuring that United States citizens can discover, use, and trust the records of the United States Government;

Whereas NARA has grown from one building along the National Mall to 38 facilities nationwide, from Atlanta to Anchorage;

Whereas NARA administers regional archives, Federal records centers, Presidential libraries, the Federal Register, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission;

Whereas the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom serves as the permanent home of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights and makes these founding documents available to more than 1,000,000 visitors each year;

Whereas the first issue of the Federal Register was published on March 16, 1936, and the Federal Register has not missed a publication date since, providing orderly publication of the official actions of the Federal Government;

Whereas the Electronic Records Archives is laying the foundation for preserving and providing public access to historically valuable electronic records, ranging from vast, complex databases to documents that detail the making of foreign and domestic policies;

Whereas the Presidential libraries are great treasures of the United States, serving as repositories and preserving and making accessible the papers, records, and other historical materials of Presidents of the United States;

Whereas the National Personnel Records Center serves as the official repository for records of military personnel, responding to 2,000,000 requests a year by veterans and their families for documents to verify military service;

Whereas the Information Security and Oversight Office is responsible to the President for policy and oversight of the Government-wide security classification system and the National Industrial Security Program;

Whereas the National Historical Publications and Records Commission promotes the preservation and use of the documentary heritage of the United States, which is essential to understanding the democracy, history, and culture of the United States, by providing grants in support of the archives of the United States and for projects to edit and publish non-Federal historical records of national importance;

Whereas NARA holds records, in the National Archives Building and its regional facilities across the country, that allow naturalized citizens to claim their rights of citizenship;

Whereas NARA works with Federal agencies, researchers, genealogists, lawyers, scholars, and authors to respond to their evolving needs, requirements, and methods;

Whereas NARA provides records management training, enhances reference services, works with partners to digitize its holdings, and improves access to the records of the United States;

Whereas NARA provides, through its Internet site, easy and convenient public access to many of the most important and most requested historic documents and valuable databases of the United States; and

Whereas inscribed on the facade of the National Archives Building are Shakespeare's words, "What is past is prologue", which aptly describe the records of the past preserved by NARA as the groundwork for the future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the men and women of the National Archives and Records Administration on the occasion of its 75th anniversary;

(2) understands the vital role that records play in a democracy;

(3) recognizes the service that NARA has given to the democracy of the United States by protecting and preserving the records of the United States Government; and

(4) commends the efforts by NARA to support democracy, promote civic education, and facilitate historical understanding of the national experience.

OBSERVING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to S. Res. 198. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 198), observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week people all across the Nation are engaging in the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery. It was in June of 1865, that the Union soldiers landed in Galveston, TX, with the news that the war had ended and that slavery finally had come to an end in the United States. This was 21½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863. This week and specifically on June 19, we celebrate what is known as "Juneteenth Independence Day." It was on this date, June 19, that slaves in the Southwest finally learned of the end of slavery. Although passage of the thirteenth amendment in January 1863, legally abolished slavery, many African Americans remained in servitude due to the delayed dissemination of this news across the country.

Since that time, over 145 years ago, the descendants of slaves have observed this anniversary of emancipation as a remembrance of one of the most tragic periods of our Nation's history. The suffering, degradation and brutality of slavery cannot be repaired, but the memory can serve to ensure that no such inhumanity is ever perpetrated again on American soil.

All across America we also celebrate the many important achievements of former slaves and their descendants. We do so because in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, son of former slaves, proposed such a recognition as a way of preserving the history of African Americans and recognizing the enormous contributions of a people of great strength, dignity, faith, and conviction—a people who rendered their achievements for the betterment and advancement of a nation once lacking in humanity towards them. Every February, nationwide, we celebrate African American History Month. And, every year on June 19, we celebrate "Juneteenth Independence Day."

Lerone Bennett, editor, writer and lecturer has reflected on the life and times of Dr. Woodson. Bennett tells us that one of the most inspiring and instructive stories in African American

history is the story of Woodson's struggle and rise from the coal mines of West Virginia to the summit of academic achievement:

At 17, the young man who was called by history to reveal Black history was an untutored coal miner. At 19, after teaching himself the fundamentals of English and arithmetic, he entered high school and mastered the four-year curriculum in less than two years. At 22, after two-thirds of a year at Berea College [in Kentucky], he returned to the coal mines and studied Latin and Greek between trips to the mine shafts. He then went on to the University of Chicago, where he received bachelor's and master's degrees, and Harvard University, where he became the second Black to receive a doctorate in history. The rest is history—Black history.

In keeping with the spirit and the vision of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, I would like to pay tribute to two courageous women, claimed by my home State of Michigan, who played significant roles in addressing American injustice and inequality. These are two women of different times who would change the course of history.

The contributions of Sojourner Truth, who helped lead our country out of the dark days of slavery, and Rosa Parks whose dignified leadership sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the start of the civil rights movement are indelibly etched in the chronicle of the history of this nation. Moreover, they are viewed with distinction and admiration throughout the world.

Sojourner Truth, though unable to read or write, was considered one of the most eloquent and noted spokespersons of her day on the inhumanity and immorality of slavery. She was a leader in the abolitionist movement, and a ground breaking speaker on behalf of equality for women. Michigan recently honored her with the dedication of the Sojourner Truth Memorial Monument, which was unveiled in Battle Creek, MI, on September 25, 1999. In April 2009, Sojourner Truth became the first African American woman to be memorialized with a bust in the U.S. Capitol. The ceremony to unveil Truth's likeness was appropriately held in Emancipation Hall at the Capitol Visitor Center. I was pleased to cosponsor the legislation to make this fitting tribute possible. Sojourner Truth lived in Washington, DC for several years, helping slaves who had fled from the South and appearing at women's suffrage gatherings. She returned to Battle Creek in 1875, and remained there until her death in 1883. Sojourner Truth spoke from her heart about the most troubling issues of her time. A testament to Truth's convictions is that her words continue to speak to us today.

On May 4, 1999, legislation was enacted which authorized the President of the United States to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Rosa Parks. I was pleased to coauthor this tribute to Rosa Parks—the gentle warrior who decided that she would no longer tolerate the humiliation and demoralization of racial segregation on a bus. I