

SENATE RESOLUTION 571—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ISRAELI SOLDIER GILAD SHALIT HELD CAPTIVE BY HAMAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KYL, and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 571

Whereas Congress previously expressed its concern for missing Israeli soldiers in the Act entitled "An Act to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a United States citizen, and other soldiers missing in action", approved November 8, 1999 (Public Law 106-89; 113 Stat. 1305), which required the Secretary of State to raise the status of missing Israeli soldiers with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other governments in the region, and to submit to Congress reports on those efforts and any subsequent discovery of relevant information;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 107 on March 13, 2007, regarding Gilad Shalit and other Israeli soldiers illegally attacked and captured by terrorists;

Whereas Israel completed its withdrawal from Gaza on September 12, 2005;

Whereas, on June 25, 2006, Hamas together with allied terrorists crossed into Israel to attack a military post, killing two soldiers and wounding and kidnapping Gilad Shalit in a blatantly illegal and extortionate effort to coerce the Government of Israel;

Whereas Hamas has prevented access to Gilad Shalit by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

Whereas Hamas has refused to provide Gilad Shalit with regular contact with his family or any other party, or to allow his family to know where he is being held;

Whereas Hamas has compelled Gilad Shalit to appear in video and voice recordings intended to illegally and extortionately coerce the Government of Israel; and

Whereas Gilad Shalit has been held in captivity by Hamas for almost four years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) demands that—

(A) Hamas immediately and unconditionally release Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit; and

(B) Hamas—

(i) allow prompt access to the Israeli captives by competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

(ii) facilitate regular communication by Gilad Shalit with his family and allow his family to know where he is being held; and

(iii) cease compelling Gilad Shalit to appear in video and voice recordings intended to illegally and extortionately coerce the Government of Israel;

(2) expresses—

(A) its vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state within recognized and secure borders;

(B) its strong support and deep interest in achieving a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the creation of a democratic, viable, and independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside of the State of Israel;

(C) its ongoing concern and sympathy for the family of Gilad Shalit; and

(D) its full commitment to continue to seek the immediate and unconditional re-

lease of Gilad Shalit and other missing Israeli soldiers;

(3) recalls—

(A) the illegal and barbaric attack on and kidnapping of the bodies of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev on July 12, 2006, by the Iran-supported terrorist group Hezbollah; and

(B) the missing Israeli soldiers Zecharia Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz, missing since June 11, 1982, Ron Arad, who was captured on October 16, 1986, Guy Hever, last seen on August 17, 1997, and Majdy Halabi, last seen on May 24, 2005; and

(4) condemns—

(A) Hamas for the grossly illegal and immoral cross border attack and kidnapping of Gilad Shalit; and

(B) the Governments of Iran and Syria, the primary state sponsors and patrons of Hamas, for their ongoing support for international terrorism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 572—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. BYRD, A SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 572

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd served the people of his beloved state of West Virginia for over 63 years, serving in the West Virginia House of Delegates, the West Virginia Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate;

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd is the only West Virginian to have served in

both Houses of the West Virginia Legislature and in both Houses of the United States Congress;

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd has served for fifty-one years in the United States Senate and is the longest serving Senator in history, having been elected to nine full terms;

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd has cast more than 18,680 roll call votes—more than any other Senator in American history;

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd has served in the Senate leadership as President pro tempore, Majority Leader, Majority Whip, Minority Leader, and Secretary of the Majority Conference;

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd has served on a Senate committee, the Committee on Appropriations, which he has chaired during five Congresses, longer than any other Senator; and

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd is the first Senator to have authored a comprehensive history of the United States Senate;

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd has played an essential role in the development and enactment of an enormous body of national legislative initiatives and policy over many decades;

Whereas his death has deprived his State and Nation of an outstanding lawmaker and public servant: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Senator from the State of West Virginia.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4398. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5297, to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4399. Mr. CASEY (for Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. LEVIN)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 286, recognizing the 235th birthday of the United States Army.

SA 4400. Mr. CASEY (for Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. LEVIN)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 286, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4398. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5297, to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes; which

was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ANNUAL REPORT ON AWARDING OF FEDERAL CONTRACTS TO CONTRACTORS LISTED ON THE EXCLUDED PARTIES LIST SYSTEM.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report describing during the previous year the extent to which suspended or debarred contractors on the Excluded Parties List System, including those suspended or debarred for failing to make full or timely payments to subcontractors—

(1) continued to receive Federal contracts; or

(2) were granted waivers from Federal agencies from suspension or debarment for purposes of entering into Federal contracts.

SA 4399. Mr. CASEY (for Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. LEVIN)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 286, recognizing the 235th birthday of the United States Army; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: That Congress—

(1) expresses its appreciation to the members of the United States Army for 235 years of dedicated service; and

(2) honors the valor, commitment, and sacrifice that members of the United States Army, their families, and Army civilians have displayed throughout the history of the Army.

SA 4400. Mr. CASEY (for Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. LEVIN)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 286, recognizing the 235th birthday of the United States Army; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, representing the citizens of 13 American colonies, authorized the establishment of the Continental Army;

Whereas for the past 235 years, the United States Army's central mission has been to fight and win wars;

Whereas the 183 campaign streamers from Lexington to Iraqi Surge carried on the Army flag are a testament to the valor, commitment, and sacrifice of the brave members of the United States Army;

Whereas members of the United States Army have won extraordinary distinction and respect for the Nation and its Army stemming from engagements around the globe;

Whereas in 2010, the United States will reflect on the contributions of members of the United States Army on the Korean peninsula in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War;

Whereas the motto on the United States Army seal, "This We'll Defend", is the creed by which the members of the Army live and serve;

Whereas the United States Army is an all-volunteer force that is trained and ready for any adversary that might threaten our Nation or its national security interests; and

Whereas no matter what the cause, location, or magnitude of future conflicts, the United States can rely on its well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated members of

the United States Army to successfully carry out the missions entrusted to them: Now, therefore, be it

NOTICE OF HEARING

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a Business Meeting has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 30, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the Business Meeting is to consider S. 3516, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to reform the management of energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 28, 2010, at 12:30 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Elena Kagan to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

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

ISRAEL'S UNDENIABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE

On Thursday, June 24, 2010, the Senate agreed to S. Res. 548, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, as follows:

S. RES. 548

Whereas the State of Israel, since its founding in 1948, has been a strong and steadfast ally of the United States, standing alone in its commitment to democracy, individual liberty, and free-market principles in the Middle East, a region characterized by instability and violence;

Whereas the special bond between the United States and Israel, forged through common values and mutual interests, must never be broken;

Whereas Israel has an undeniable right to defend itself against any threat to its security, as does every nation;

Whereas Hamas is a terrorist group, formally designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State, and similarly designated by the European Union;

Whereas Hamas is committed to the annihilation of Israel and opposes the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Whereas Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007 through violent means and has maintained control ever since;

Whereas Hamas routinely violates the human rights of the residents of Gaza, including attempting to control and intimidate political rivals through extra-judicial

killing, torture, severe beatings, maiming, and arbitrary detentions;

Whereas Hamas continues to hold prisoner Israeli Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit, who was seized on Israeli soil and has been denied basic rights, including contact with the International Red Cross;

Whereas the military build-up of Hamas has been enabled by the smuggling of arms and other materiel into Gaza;

Whereas the Government of Iran has materially aided and supported Hamas by providing extensive funding, weapons, and training;

Whereas since 2001, Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations have fired more than 10,000 rockets and mortars from Gaza into Israel, killing at least 18 Israelis and wounding dozens more;

Whereas approximately 860,000 Israeli civilians, more than 12 percent of Israel's population, reside within range of rockets fired from Gaza and live in fear of attacks;

Whereas in 2007, the Government of Israel, out of concern for the safety of its citizens, put in place a legitimate and justified blockade of Gaza, which has been effective in reducing the flow of weapons into Gaza and the firing of rockets from Gaza into southern Israel;

Whereas according to Michael Oren, the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, "If the sea lanes are open to Hamas in Gaza . . . they will acquire thousands of rockets that will threaten every single citizen in the state of Israel and also kill the peace process. . . . Hamas armed with thousands of rockets not only threatens 7,500,000 Israelis but it's the end of the peace process.";

Whereas the Israeli blockade has not hindered the transfer of approximately 1,000,000 tons of humanitarian supplies into Gaza over the last 18 months to aid its 1,500,000 residents;

Whereas, on May 28, 2010, the "Free Gaza" flotilla, which included the Mavi Marmara and 5 other ships, departed from a port in Turkey and sailed towards Israel's defensive naval blockade of Gaza;

Whereas the sponsor of the flotilla was a Turkish organization, the Humanitarian Relief Foundation;

Whereas the Humanitarian Relief Foundation has aided al Qaeda in the past, "basically helping al Qaeda when [Osama] bin Laden started to want to target U.S. soil," according to statements by a former French counterterrorism official, in a June 2, 2010, Associated Press interview;

Whereas the Humanitarian Relief Foundation has a clear link to Hamas, according to a 2008 order of the Government of Israel, and the Humanitarian Relief Foundation is a member of the Union for Good, a United States-designated terrorist organization created by Hamas leaders in 2000 to help fund Hamas;

Whereas there were at least 5 active terrorist operatives among the passengers on the Mavi Marmara, with affiliations with terrorist groups such as al Qaeda and Hamas, according to the Israel Defense Forces;

Whereas the flotilla's primary aim was to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza, under the guise of delivering humanitarian aid to the residents of Gaza;

Whereas, on May 27, 2010, while the flotilla was moving towards Gaza, one of its organizers admitted, "This mission is not about delivering humanitarian supplies, it's about breaking Israel's siege on 1,500,000 Palestinians," according to news reports;

Whereas based on interviews with Mavi Marmara passengers after the incident, the actual intention of passengers on the Mavi Marmara had been to achieve "martyrdom" at the hands of the Israel Defense Forces;