

Whereas the report states that “the Administration will work with Congress to relocate [detainees] from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility to a secure detention facility in the United States”; and

Whereas the report does not address or attempt to mitigate the risks posed to local communities by the potential transfer of foreign enemy combatants from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to United States soil, including to communities in Kansas, Colorado, and South Carolina: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) rejects the “Plan to Close Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility”, presented by the President on February 23, 2016, to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States homeland;

(2) determines that any attempt by the President to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland is in direct violation of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112-10), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113-164), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235), the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4), and the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-53);

(3) finds that the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, is the optimal location to house dangerous foreign enemy combatants and should not be closed;

(4) asserts that any potential transfer or release of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland represents a threat to United States national security due to the risk of providing law of war detainees with rights and protections under the United States Constitution, including the potential for release into the United States, and, particularly, a threat to the safety and security of local communities in the States of Kansas, Colorado, and South Carolina; and

(5) demands that the President immediately abandon any ill-conceived and illegal plans to transfer detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland without explicit authorization from Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 392—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE PROSECUTION AND CONVICTION OF FORMER PRESIDENT MOHAMED NASHEED WITHOUT DUE PROCESS AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MALDIVES TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO REDRESS THIS INJUSTICE, TO RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND TO ENSURE DUE PROCESS AND FREEDOM FROM POLITICAL PROSECUTION FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MALDIVES

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. REED,

Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 392

Whereas the Maldives is strategically important due to its location, which straddles major trade routes in the Indian Ocean;

Whereas increasing civil rights violations in the Maldives fuel instability and pose a threat to regional security;

Whereas since January 2015, President Abdulla Yameen of the Maldives has increasingly cracked down on dissent within his own party and the political opposition, presided over the erosion of judicial impartiality, and put increasing pressure on civil society;

Whereas the arrest of former President Mohamed Nasheed in March 2015, was widely condemned as politically motivated, and his conviction and sentence of 13 years in prison has been condemned by Amnesty International as a “travesty of justice”;

Whereas in his speech in Sri Lanka on May 2, 2015, Secretary of State John Kerry stated, “[W]e’ve seen even now how regrettably there are troubling signs that democracy is under threat in the Maldives where the former President Nasheed has been imprisoned without due process. And that is an injustice that must be addressed soon.”; and

Whereas on September 14, 2015, in his opening statement at the 30th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad said—

(1) “In the Maldives, the rule of law continues to be manipulated for political ends.”; and

(2) in reference to former President Mohamed Nasheed’s detention, “Given the deeply tainted nature of this case, I urge the Government to release him, and to review several hundred pending criminal cases against opposition supporters in relation to protests in recent months.”;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses profound concern over the prosecution and conviction of former President Mohamed Nasheed without due process; and

(2) urges the Government of the Maldives to take all necessary steps—

(A) to redress this injustice;

(B) to release all political prisoners; and

(C) to ensure due process and freedom from political prosecution for all the people of the Maldives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 393—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 393

Whereas multiple sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as “MS”) can impact individuals of all ages, races, and ethnicities but is at least 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men;

Whereas there are approximately 2,300,000 individuals worldwide who have been diagnosed with MS;

Whereas MS is typically diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, but it

is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with MS in the United States;

Whereas MS is an unpredictable neurological disease that interrupts the flow of information both within the brain and between the brain and the rest of the body;

Whereas symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling in the extremities to blindness and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any 1 person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas there is no laboratory test available that can definitively diagnose MS;

Whereas, while MS is not directly inherited, studies show that there are genetic and, most likely, environmental factors that make certain individuals, such as Caucasians of Northern European ancestry, more susceptible to the disease than others;

Whereas the exact cause of MS is still unknown and there is no cure;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life for all those affected by MS, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to increase opportunities for cooperation among MS organizations and to provide greater opportunity for the effective use and development of resources for the benefit of individuals and families affected by MS;

Whereas the United States plays a critical role in coordinating MS research globally and amplifies the impact of research in the United States through which results are delivered to MS patients;

Whereas, in 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society was a founding member of the Progressive MS Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the development of treatments for progressive MS by removing international scientific and technological barriers and which now includes MS societies from 15 countries;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March of every calendar year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are to invite people to join the movement to end MS, encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate a commitment to moving toward a world free of MS, and acknowledge those who have dedicated time and talent to help promote MS research and programs; and

Whereas, in 2016, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 7 through March 11: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations to—

(A) participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; and

(B) help provide education to the public about multiple sclerosis;

(4) commends the efforts of States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to ending multiple sclerosis by—

(A) promoting awareness about individuals that are affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) supporting multiple sclerosis research and education programs;

(6) recognizes all individuals in the United States living with multiple sclerosis;

(7) expresses gratitude to the family members and friends of individuals living with multiple sclerosis, who are a source of love and encouragement to those individuals; and

(8) salutes the health care professionals and medical researchers who—

(A) provide assistance to individuals affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) continue to work to find ways to stop the progression of the disease, restore nerve function, and end multiple sclerosis forever.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3448. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3448. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 39, line 5, strike “opioids.” and insert “opioids. Such activities may include supporting the availability of medication assisted treatment and other clinically appropriate services provided by treatment centers that operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide immediate access to behavioral health treatment.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled “The State of the U.S. Maritime Industry: The Federal Role.”

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “State Department Reauthorization: An Opportunity to Strengthen and Streamline U.S. Diplomacy.”

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Homeland Security Department’s Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2017.”

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to a member of my staff, Lauren Arias.

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

DEVELOPING A STRATEGY TO OBTAIN OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 358, S. 2426.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2426) to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 2426) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2426

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Safety, security and peace is important to every citizen of the world, and shared information ensuring wide assistance among police authorities of nations for expeditious dissemination of information regarding criminal activities greatly assists in these efforts.

(2) Direct and unobstructed participation in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is beneficial for all nations and their police authorities. Internationally shared information with authorized police authorities is vital to peace-keeping efforts.

(3) With a history dating back to 1914, the role of INTERPOL is defined in its constitution: “To ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities within the limits of the laws existing in the different countries and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”.

(4) Ongoing international threats, including international networks of terrorism, show the ongoing necessity to be ever inclusive of nations willing to work together to combat criminal activity. The ability of police authorities to coordinate, preempt, and act swiftly and in unison is an essential element of crisis prevention and response.

(5) Taiwan maintained full membership in INTERPOL starting in 1964 through its National Police Administration but was ejected in 1984 when the People’s Republic of China (PRC) applied for membership.

(6) Nonmembership prevents Taiwan from gaining access to INTERPOL’s I-24/7 global police communications system, which provides real-time information on criminals and global criminal activities. Taiwan is relegated to second-hand information from friendly nations, including the United States.

(7) Taiwan is unable to swiftly share information on criminals and suspicious activity with the international community, leaving a huge void in the global crime-fighting efforts and leaving the entire world at risk.

(8) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan’s participation in appropriate international organizations and has consistently reiterated that support.

(9) Following the enactment of Public Law 108-235, a law authorizing the Secretary of State to initiate and implement a plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of the World Health