

United States to “the human rights guaranteed to all individuals around the world”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends human rights defenders for their critical work in promoting human rights, the rule of law, democracy, and good governance;

(2) recognizes the rights of human rights defenders to the freedoms of association, assembly, and expression, including the rights of those individuals to collect and publish data on government abuses;

(3) condemns all threats to—

(A) human rights defenders; and

(B) the work of human rights defenders in promoting universally recognized human rights;

(4) welcomes the imposition of sanctions by the President, on December 21, 2017, and under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note), with respect to human rights abusers and corrupt actors;

(5) encourages all countries to recognize their duties under the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1998, to “protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms”; and

(6) calls on the President and Secretary of State to maintain leadership by the United States in promoting human rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 408—COMMEMORATING THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIBET’S 1959 UPRISING AS “TIBETAN RIGHTS DAY”, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE AND THE TIBETAN BUDDHIST FAITH COMMUNITY

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 408

Whereas March 10, 2018, marks the 59th anniversary of the 1959 uprising in Tibet, during which the people of Lhasa, fearing for the life of the Dalai Lama, surrounded his residence, organized a guard, and called for the withdrawal of Chinese forces from Tibet and the restoration of Tibet’s freedom;

Whereas Chinese statistics estimate 87,000 Tibetans were killed, arrested, or deported to labor camps during the suppression of the 1959 uprising, which also forced the Dalai Lama and tens of thousands of other Tibetans to flee into exile;

Whereas March 10, 2018, also marks the 10th anniversary of a series of protests in Lhasa, which spread across Tibet, and which were suppressed by Chinese forces;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, the Government of the People’s Republic of China is engaged in the severe repression of Tibet’s unique religious, cultural, and linguistic heritage, and is engaged in gross violations of human rights in Tibet, including extrajudicial detentions, disappearances, and torture;

Whereas, in the ten years since the 2008 protests, at least 152 Tibetans in Tibet are known to have self-immolated, with statements or records left by these self-immola-

tors calling for freedom for Tibet and the return of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, in 1991, Congress resolved its sense that Tibet is an occupied country under the established principles of international law whose true representatives are the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile as recognized by the Tibetan people;

Whereas, in 1961, with the support of the United States, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the Tibetan people’s “fundamental human rights and freedoms, including the right to self-determination”;

Whereas, on October 18, 2007, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama, finding that he is recognized around the world as a leading figure of moral and religious authority, and is the unrivaled spiritual and cultural leader of the Tibetan people;

Whereas Buddhists in Tibet, the United States, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia, Russia, and other countries where followers of Tibetan Buddhism reside look to the Dalai Lama for religious leadership and spiritual guidance;

Whereas, in its 2017 annual report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom noted that “[t]he Chinese government claims the power to select the next Dalai Lama with the help of a law that grants the government authority over reincarnations,” which purports to require all Tibetan Buddhist leaders to obtain the approval of the Government of the People’s Republic of China in order to reincarnate;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China has interfered in the identification and installation of reincarnated leaders of Tibetan Buddhism, as part of its efforts to maintain control over Tibet, including in 1995 arbitrarily detaining the recently identified 11th Panchen Lama, then a six-year-old boy, and purporting to install China’s own candidate as Panchen Lama;

Whereas, in 2011, the 14th Dalai Lama declared that the responsibility for identifying a future 15th Dalai Lama will rest with officials of the Dalai Lama’s private office and that “apart from the reincarnation recognized through such legitimate methods, no recognition or acceptance should be given to a candidate chosen for political ends by anyone, including those in the People’s Republic of China”;

Whereas, in 1981, the United Nations General Assembly passed the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, which provides that freedom of religion shall include the freedom to “train, appoint, elect or designate by succession appropriate leaders called for by the requirements and standards of any religion or belief”; and

Whereas Congress has long held that the right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States, and that freedom of religious belief and practice is a universal human right and fundamental freedom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes March 10, 2018, as “Tibetan Rights Day”;

(2) affirms its recognition of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama for his outstanding contributions to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and religious understanding;

(3) affirms its support for the Tibetan people’s fundamental human rights and freedoms, including their right to self-determination and the protection of their distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and national identity;

(4) expresses its sense that the identification and installation of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders, including a future 15th Dalai Lama, is a matter that should be determined solely within the Tibetan Buddhist faith

community, in accordance with the inalienable right to religious freedom;

(5) expresses its sense that any attempt by the Government of the People’s Republic of China to identify or install its own candidate as a Tibetan Buddhist religious leader, including a future 15th Dalai Lama, is invalid interference in the right to religious freedom of Tibetan Buddhists around the world, including in Tibet as well as the United States and elsewhere; and

(6) calls on the Secretary of State to fully implement the provisions of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (subtitle B of title VI of Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), in cooperation with like-minded states where appropriate, including that—

(A) representatives of the United States Government in exchanges with officials of the Government of the People’s Republic of China should call for and otherwise promote the cessation of all interference by the Government of the People’s Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party in the religious affairs of the Tibetan people;

(B) the United States Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China should meet with the 11th Panchen Lama, who was arbitrarily detained on May 17, 1995, and otherwise ascertain information concerning his whereabouts and well-being; and

(C) the Secretary of State should make best efforts to establish an office in Lhasa, Tibet, to monitor political, economic, and cultural developments in Tibet.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senators FEINSTEIN and CRUZ in cosponsoring a resolution recognizing the 59th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule—March 10, 2018 as “Tibetan Rights Day.”

Fifty-nine years ago, Tibetans took a stand, together, for the freedom of their homeland. The people of the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, fearing for the life of the Dalai Lama, surrounded his residence, organized a guard, and called for the withdrawal of Chinese forces from Tibet and the restoration of Tibet’s freedom. Chinese statistics estimate 87,000 Tibetans were killed, arrested, or deported to labor camps during the suppression of the 1959 uprising, which also led to the forced exile of the Dalai Lama and tens of thousands of other Tibetans.

Today, 59 years later, the Government of the People’s Republic of China remains engaged in the severe repression of Tibet’s unique religious, cultural, and linguistic heritage, and is engaged in gross violations of human rights in Tibet, including extrajudicial detentions, disappearances, and torture. At least 152 Tibetans in Tibet are known to have self-immolated in protest in the past decade. Yet the Tibetan people have not given up their struggle for fundamental human rights and freedoms. We stand by the Tibetan people, who have long been our unwavering friends.

We also stand by the rights of Tibetan Buddhists, not just in Tibet but around the world, who should be able to determine their own religious leadership in accordance with their inalienable right to religious freedom. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the Chinese government claims the power to

select the next Dalai Lama with the help of a law that grants the government authority over reincarnations. That is absurd. The identification and installation of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders, including a future 15th Dalai Lama, is a matter that should be determined solely within the Tibetan Buddhist faith community.

We can foster closer, cooperative relations with China, but until China works with Tibetan leaders to pursue a new way forward, their reputation in the community of nations, and their ability to act as a global power, will remain deeply tarnished. I urge other Senators to join in support of this resolution, and to pass it before the important anniversary commemoration on March 10, 2018.

SENATE RESOLUTION 409—HONORING THE DEDICATION AND COURAGE OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 409

Whereas by the Act of July 28, 1866 (14 Stat. 332, chapter 299), after the end of the Civil War, African American men were allowed to serve in segregated units of the United States Army;

Whereas the first Buffalo Soldiers were former slaves and former African American soldiers that fought in the Civil War;

Whereas the first Buffalo Soldiers comprised the 9th and 10th cavalry regiments and were the first African Americans to serve in the United States Army during peacetime;

Whereas, in the history of the United States, Buffalo Soldiers have made many significant military contributions and have fought to preserve and protect the United States;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers fought shoulder-to-shoulder with white soldiers in many battles;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers were instrumental in the exploration and settlement of land in the West;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers participated in the tragic history of removing Native Americans from the land on which Native Americans lived;

Whereas Native Americans in the Midwest bestowed the nickname “Buffalo Soldiers” to the members of the 9th and 10th cavalry regiments for—

(1) the bravery and courage that the members exhibited; and

(2) the jackets of buffalo fur that the members wore during the cold winter months;

Whereas the Buffalo Soldiers rode alongside Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders in Cuba during the Spanish-American War;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers were among the first park rangers to serve in the newly cre-

ated National Park Service under President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers from the 9th, 10th, 24th, and 25th regiments served in Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park and helped arrest poachers, fight forest fires, and preserve the natural resources of the United States;

Whereas, serving nobly as park rangers, Buffalo Soldiers—

(1) constructed in Yosemite National Park one of the first arboretums in the United States;

(2) cleared miles of forest;

(3) built trail roads into national parks for the enjoyment of all people in the United States; and

(4) helped build the first trail to the summit of Mount Whitney in Sequoia National Park;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers were subjected to racial prejudice but continued—

(1) to serve honorably and bravely in the United States Army; and

(2) to fulfill the duties conferred on them with pride and distinction;

Whereas, earning a reputation for being courageous and daring—

(1) more than 200,000 African Americans served in World War I; and

(2) more than 1,000,000 African Americans served in World War II;

Whereas during World War II, Buffalo Soldiers branched out and formed other famous units, including the famed Tuskegee Airmen and the Fighter “Red Tails” Group;

Whereas 23 Buffalo Soldiers have received the highest military distinction of the Congressional Medal of Honor;

Whereas, in 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which—

(1) stipulated equal treatment and opportunity for all African American service members; and

(2) brought an end to the Buffalo Soldiers;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers have honorably answered the call to duty, serving with great valor and distinction in the armed forces of the United States;

Whereas the Buffalo Soldiers are a significant part of the history of the United States; and

Whereas there are currently over 20 chapters of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Association in the United States and 1 in Germany: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the dedication and courage of the Buffalo Soldiers;

(2) recognizes the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers; and

(3) recognizes the contributions that the Buffalo Soldiers have made to the National Park System and to military history in the United States and throughout the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 410—COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF LUIS ALEJANDRO “ALEX” VILLAMAYOR AND CALLING FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

S. RES. 410

Whereas United States citizen Luis Alejandro “Alex” Villamayor was born on July 3, 1998, to parents Puning Luk Villamayor and Luis Felipe Villamayor in Rockville, Maryland;

Whereas Alex Villamayor is remembered by his family as a smart, loving, and compassionate young man with a good sense of humor, who was committed to his parents, siblings, and friends;

Whereas Alex Villamayor moved with his family at the age of six to Paraguay, where he was a devoted member of his church and always had attention for those less fortunate;

Whereas Alex Villamayor graduated with honors from Paraguay’s Pan American International School (PAIS) and was accepted to attend Montgomery College in Maryland in the Fall of 2015;

Whereas Alex Villamayor aspired to study business management and return to Paraguay to pursue a career that would help and support the Paraguayan people;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was murdered on June 27, 2015, in the City of Encarnación in Paraguay;

Whereas Alex Villamayor’s death was wrongfully ruled a suicide by Paraguayan authorities before a comprehensive investigation was carried out;

Whereas, in the initial weeks of the investigation, Paraguayan authorities failed to collect blood and DNA samples from individuals present at the scene of the crime, conduct gunshot residue analysis on individuals present at the crime scene, and collect cellular phone records and data from individuals present at the crime scene;

Whereas, in August 2015, Alex Villamayor’s body was exhumed for additional forensic examination, which found that he had been raped and physically assaulted prior to his death;

Whereas, in August 2015, Paraguayan prosecutor Olga Wilma Araujo Ayala was suspended from the investigation into and legal case related to Alex Villamayor’s death due to mismanagement of the case;

Whereas, in September 2015, Mathias Wilbs, an employee at the property where Alex Villamayor was murdered, admitted in a public interview that he had removed the murder weapon from the crime scene and placed another firearm in Alex Villamayor’s hand;

Whereas, in September 2015, Alex Villamayor’s death was ruled a homicide and René Hofstetter and Mathias Wilbs were charged with crimes in relation to Alex Villamayor’s murder;

Whereas, in October 2015, Paraguayan authorities opened a formal investigation of Alain Jacks Díaz de Bedoya for his role in Alex Villamayor’s murder;

Whereas, in November 2016, Paraguayan authorities dropped the charges against Alain Jacks Díaz de Bedoya related to Alex Villamayor’s murder;

Whereas Members of the United States Congress have urged the Government of Paraguay to invite the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide technical assistance for the investigation into Alex Villamayor’s death and the United States Embassy in Asunción, Paraguay has offered such assistance to Paraguayan authorities;

Whereas, to date, the Government of Paraguay has not invited the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide technical assistance for the investigation into Alex Villamayor’s death;

Whereas the United States embassy in Asunción, Paraguay, and the Department of State have not issued any formal public statements about Alex Villamayor’s murder and the many irregularities in the investigation into his death;

Whereas, in February 2017, outgoing United States Ambassador Leslie A. Basset told media outlets that Alex Villamayor “died under dark circumstances” and that “the investigation and the handling of this case has been worrisome”; and

Whereas, as of February 15, 2018, those responsible for Alex Villamayor’s murder have