

(2) jeopardize the booming e-commerce sector; and

(3) cripple a major part of the critical infrastructure of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization in whole or in part.

SENATE RESOLUTION 634—COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT AND HONORING THE VETERANS OF OPERATION VITTLES

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 634

Whereas in the spring of 1948, Berlin was isolated within the Soviet occupation zone, and there were only 35 days' worth of food and 45 days' worth of coal remaining for the city;

Whereas military planners in the United States and the United Kingdom determined that—

(1) 1,534 tons of flour, wheat, fish, milk, and other food items would be required daily to feed the 2,000,000 residents of Berlin; and

(2) 3,475 tons of coal and gasoline would be required daily to keep the city of Berlin heated and powered;

Whereas on June 1, 1948, the United States Air Force created the Military Air Transport Service, the predecessor to the Air Mobility Command, to organize and conduct airlift missions;

Whereas on June 26, 1948, Operation Vittles began when 32 C-47 Dakotas of the United States Air Force departed West Germany for Berlin hauling 80 tons of cargo;

Whereas the first British aircraft involved in Operation Vittles launched on June 28, 1948;

Whereas Major General William H. Tunner, a veteran of the aerial supply line over the Himalayas during World War II, took command of Operation Vittles on July 28, 1948;

Whereas Major General Tunner pioneered many new and innovative tactics and procedures for the airlift, including creating air corridors for ingress and egress, staggering the altitudes at which aircraft flew, and implementing instrument flight rules that allowed aircraft to land as frequently as every 3 minutes;

Whereas one pilot, 1st Lieutenant Gail S. Halvorsen, who became known as the “Candy Bomber”, initiated Operation Little Vittles to bring hope to the children of Berlin by dropping handkerchief parachutes containing chocolate and chewing gum as a symbol of the goodwill of the United States;

Whereas Operation Little Vittles ultimately dropped more than 3 tons of candy in more than 250,000 miniature parachutes;

Whereas on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949, airlifters reached the pinnacle of Operation Vittles by delivering 13,000 tons of cargo, including the equivalent of 600 railroad cars full of coal, and setting the record for tonnage of cargo delivered in a single day during the Berlin Airlift;

Whereas 39 British airmen and 31 American airmen made the ultimate sacrifice during the Berlin Airlift and 8 British aircraft and 17 American aircraft were lost;

Whereas airlifters delivered more than 2,300,000 tons of food and supplies during 278,228 total flights into Berlin;

Whereas the Soviet Union was forced to lift the blockade of Berlin in light of the success of the 15-month airlift operation;

Whereas the Berlin Airlift marked the first use of airpower to provide hope and humanitarian assistance and to win a strategic victory against enemy aggression and intimidation;

Whereas the enormous effort and cooperation of the Berlin Airlift helped overcome years of animosity between the United States and Germany and laid the foundation for a deep and lasting friendship between the people of the two countries; and

Whereas today Germany is one of the closest and strongest allies of the United States in Europe, based on the close and vital relationship of the two countries as friends, trading partners, and allies sharing common values and institutions that promote stability in political, economic, and security matters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, the largest and longest running humanitarian airlift operation in history;

(2) honors the service and sacrifice of the men and women who participated in and supported the Berlin Airlift;

(3) applauds the men and women of the Air Mobility Command of the United States Air Force, who, in keeping with the best traditions of the Berlin Airlift, still work diligently to provide hope, save lives, and deliver freedom around the world in support of the foreign policy objectives of the United States; and

(4) commends the close friendship forged between the people of the United States and Germany through the Berlin Airlift, which helps sustain the transatlantic alliance to this day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 635—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED MYANMAR JOURNALISTS WA LONE AND KYAW SOE OO, AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE OVERALL DETERIORATION IN FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN MYANMAR

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 635

Whereas the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States enshrines press freedom as a foundational element of American democracy, declaring that “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press”;

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on December 10, 1948, by the United Nations General Assembly, enshrines press freedom as a vital aspect of universal human rights;

Whereas the Department of State's annual Human Rights Report on Burma for the year 2017 states that—

(1) “legal provisions that allow the government to manipulate the courts for political ends, and these provisions were sometimes used to deprive citizens of due process and the right to a fair trial, particularly with regards to the freedom of expression”;

(2) “The government continued to detain and arrest journalists, activists, and critics

of the government and the military during the year.”; and

(3) “Threats against and arrests of journalists increased . . . Freedom of expression was more restricted during the year compared with 2016. This included a higher number of detentions of journalists using various laws, including laws carrying more severe punishments than those used previously.”;

Whereas, according to PEN America, the discontinuation of Radio Free Asia's broadcasting in Myanmar on a domestic channel constitutes a further shrinking of the space for free expression in the country;

Whereas, additionally, PEN America reports that—

(1) there continues to be increased legal threats, imprisonment and physical harassment of journalists;

(2) there continues to be restrictions on the ability to report from and receive information on conflict areas; and

(3) the lack of reform of media laws and institutions driving a decline in media freedom;

Whereas, beginning in late August 2017, a concerted campaign directed by the Tatmadaw, the official name of the armed forces of Myanmar, was carried out to assault, kill, rape, burn villages, and force Rohingya to flee from Myanmar to Bangladesh;

Whereas approximately 700,000 Rohingya people have fled Myanmar in a period of almost 12 months;

Whereas a 160-page report issued July 19, 2018, by the human rights organization Fortify Rights finds that at least 27 Myanmar Army battalions, comprising up to 11,000 soldiers, along with at least three combat police battalions, comprising an estimated 900 police personnel, were involved in the attacks in northern Rakhine State beginning in August 2017, and further finds that these attacks constitute “preparatory action for genocide and crimes against humanity” and finds “that there are ‘reasonable grounds’ to believe the Myanmar Army, Myanmar Police Force, border guards, and non-Rohingya civilian perpetrators committed atrocities that constitute genocide and crimes against humanity and should be held liable for those crimes”;

Whereas earlier Fortify Rights reports have documented the systematic use of torture by Myanmar authorities against Kachin civilians in Kachin State and northern Shan State from June 2011 to April 2014;

Whereas the August 2018 United Nations report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar Report states, in paragraph 87 that “the Mission concluded [. . .] that there is sufficient information to warrant the investigation and prosecution of senior officials in the Tatmadaw chain of command, so that a competent court can determine their liability for genocide in relation to the situation in Rakhine State”;

Whereas, on August 28, 2018, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley reported to the United Nations Security Council that the Department of State had conducted interviews with 1,024 Rohingya refugees in camps throughout Cox's Bazar refugee camp and that the results of the interviews were consistent with the United Nations Independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar;

Whereas, on September 2, 2017, as part of this brutal campaign, Myanmar security forces aided by local Buddhist villagers in the village of Inn Din in Rakhine state detained and then murdered 10 Rohingya men;

Whereas, Reuters, a highly reputable worldwide news gathering organization, discovered this atrocity as part of its ongoing

reporting on the Myanmar military's campaign against the Rohingya, and Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were doing fact-checking and interviewing eyewitnesses to these and other events;

Whereas, on December 12, 2017, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested by police and later charged with illegally possessing secret government documents under the colonial era Official Secrets Act;

Whereas Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been in custody from December 12, 2017, to the present, including before, during, and after their trial;

Whereas, one of the key prosecution witnesses in the trial, Police Captain Moe Yan Naing, said in open court on April 20, 2018, that he and others were ordered by the Myanmar police chief to "trap" Wa Lone by inviting the journalist to meet them at a restaurant and to give him "secret documents"—a meeting that Wa Lone attended in the company of his colleague, Kyaw Soe Oo, which led to the immediate arrest of the two journalists;

Whereas Police Captain Moe Yan Naing was subsequently sentenced to one year in jail for violating police discipline;

Whereas, on September 3, 2018, Yangon northern district judge Ye Lwin ruled that Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo breached the colonial-era Official Secrets Act and sentenced them each to seven years in prison with hard labor;

Whereas 83 Myanmar civil society organizations have signed a statement condemning the verdict;

Whereas the people of Myanmar, with assistance from the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, have successfully grown their cadre of ethical and hard hitting journalists, journalists who are adhering to the utmost professional standards and able to uncover the abuses being committed in their own country, and these journalists deserve the international community's support and praise for taking on the risky job of fostering press freedom in their country, however nascent it is;

Whereas United States Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green released a statement calling the convictions "an enormous setback for democracy and the rule of law in Burma" and "urge[d] the Government of Burma to protect journalists and press freedom, which are the bedrocks of democracy and peace";

Whereas Vice President Mike Pence tweeted his concern over the sentence against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo for "doing their job reporting on the atrocities being committed on the Rohingya people";

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley described the conviction as "another terrible stain on the Burmese government" and called for "their immediate and unconditional release";

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability and transparency and therefore promotes adherence to the rule of law and enforcement of universally recognized human rights by all people; and

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance and activism in civil society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for all the convictions against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo to be nullified, for the similar charges against many other journalists currently awaiting trial to be dropped, and for the immediate and unconditional release of these journalists;

(2) expresses concern about the Government of Myanmar's crackdown on journalists and press freedom throughout the country;

(3) reaffirms the central role that independent and professional journalism plays in strengthening democratic governance, upholding the rule of law, mitigating conflict, and informing public opinion around the world;

(4) urges the Secretary of State to make a determination whether the actions by the Myanmar military constitute crimes against humanity or genocide and to work with interagency partners to impose targeted sanctions on Myanmar military officials responsible for these heinous acts through existing authorities; and

(5) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to reaffirm the importance of a free press in strengthening democratic governance, upholding the rule of law, mitigating conflict, and informing public opinion around the world; and

(B) to engage immediately and at the highest levels with the Government of Myanmar, including by encouraging Aung San Suu Kyi to use her influence to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, as United States leadership is critical to this issue.

SENATE RESOLUTION 636—RECOGNIZING SUICIDE AS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER AS "NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH"

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 636

Whereas suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the "CDC"), 1 person dies by suicide every 12.3 minutes, resulting in nearly 45,000 deaths each year in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 members of the Armed Forces on active duty, members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are not on active duty, or veterans die by suicide each day, resulting in more than 7,000 deaths each year;

Whereas the suicide rate in the United States has steadily increased every year from 1999 through 2016;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 1,100,000 suicide attempts each year in the United States;

Whereas more than half of individuals who die by suicide did not have a known mental health condition;

Whereas, according to the CDC, many factors contribute to suicide among individuals with and without known mental health conditions, including challenges related to relationships, substance abuse, physical health, and stress regarding work, money, legal problems, or housing;

Whereas, according to the CDC, suicide results in an estimated \$44,600,000,000 in combined medical and work-loss costs in the United States each year;

Whereas the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality hinders suicide prevention by discouraging at-risk individuals from seeking life-saving help and

further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

Whereas September is an appropriate month to designate as "National Suicide Prevention Month" because September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day, a day recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes suicide as a serious and preventable national and State public health problem;

(2) supports the designation of September as "National Suicide Prevention Month";

(3) declares suicide prevention as a priority;

(4) acknowledges that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities;

(5) promotes awareness that there is no single cause of suicide; and

(6) supports strategies to increase access to high-quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 637—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS "NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH"

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. DAINES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KING, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 637

Whereas, in September 2018, "National Kinship Care Month" is observed;

Whereas, nationally, 2,700,000 children are living in kinship care with grandparents or other relatives;

Whereas, nationally, 140,000 children in foster care are placed with grandparents or other relatives, with more than 2,560,000 kinship children supported outside of the foster care system;

Whereas the percentage of kinship foster children has increased more than 11 percent since 2006;

Whereas the number of non-relative foster parents continues to decrease and child welfare agencies are increasingly reliant on kinship families;

Whereas children in kinship care experience improved placement stability, higher levels of permanency, and decreased behavioral problems;

Whereas kinship caregivers provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable households for vulnerable children;

Whereas grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural, and suburban households in every State and territory of the United States have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for children during times in which parents are unable to do so;

Whereas many kinship caregivers give up their retirement years to assume parenting duties for children;

Whereas grandparents and other relatives are increasingly providing caring homes for children because of the opioid crisis;

Whereas, because of parental substance use disorders and other adverse childhood experiences, children in kinship care frequently have trauma-related conditions;

Whereas kinship care homes offer a refuge for traumatized children;

Whereas kinship care enables a child—