

Whereas, in 2003, Congress—

(1) determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

(2) in light of that determination, passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2019 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 169—REQUESTING A STATEMENT UNDER SECTION 502B(C) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 WITH RESPECT TO VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 169

Whereas, on December 13, 2018, the Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Joint Resolution 69, 115th Congress, stating that the Senate “believes Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi”, a United States resident and renowned journalist;

Whereas the President has not met his obligation to determine whether any foreign person, including the highest ranking officials in the Government of Saudi Arabia, is responsible for the gross violation of Mr. Khashoggi’s internationally recognized human rights;

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has yet to publicly identify the 11 individuals indicted in connection with the killing of Mr. Khashoggi, 5 of whom will reportedly face the death penalty if convicted;

Whereas, on March 12, 2018, the Government of Saudi Arabia formally charged 10 women’s rights activists on charges of supporting “hostile elements”, after being detained since May 2018 with no charges brought;

Whereas reputable human rights non-governmental organizations allege that authorities of the Government of Saudi Arabia have tortured at least 4 of the 10 women’s rights activists including the leader of the successful movement to grant women the rights to drive in Saudi Arabia, Aziza al-Yousef;

Whereas Samar Badawi, who was awarded the International Women of Courage Award by the Secretary of State in 2012 for her efforts to reform the discriminatory male guardianship system in Saudi Arabia, is also among the group of 10 women’s rights activists facing charges;

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has detained not fewer than 120 peaceful advocates, including blogger Raif Badawi and human rights lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair,

part of a disturbing pattern of human rights violations by that Government detailed in 59 pages of the 2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the Department of State;

Whereas the 2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices highlight human rights violations by the Government of Saudi Arabia, including—

- (1) executions for nonviolent offenses;
- (2) forced renditions;
- (3) forced disappearances;
- (4) torture of prisoners and detainees by government agents;
- (5) arbitrary arrest and detention;
- (6) arrest and detention of political prisoners;
- (7) restrictions on the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and movement;
- (8) severe restrictions of religious freedom;
- (9) citizens’ lack of ability and legal means to choose their government through free and fair elections;
- (10) trafficking in persons;
- (11) violence and official discrimination against women; and
- (12) criminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity;

Whereas the 2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices also reference an August 2018 study, commissioned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which—

(1) found that the military coalition led by Saudi Arabia was responsible for the majority of the civilian casualties in Yemen that the United Nations was able to verify from March 2015 to June 2018; and

(2) concluded that the coalition’s repeated failures to avoid civilian casualties and exercise the proportionate use of military force violate international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes;

Whereas that study also—

(1) found that the military coalition restricted the flow of food, medical supplies, and fuel through Yemen’s critical ports of Hudaydah and Mokha, and forced the closure of Sana’a International Airport; and

(2) stated, “Given the severe humanitarian impact that the de facto blockades have had on the civilian population and in the absence of any verifiable military impact, they constitute a violation of the proportionality rule of international humanitarian law.”;

Whereas section 620I(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378–1(a)), states that no assistance shall be furnished under that Act or the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) to any country “when it is made known to the President that the government of such country prohibits or otherwise restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance”;

Whereas subsection (a)(2) of section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304) states that “no security assistance may be provided to any country the government of which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights”;

Whereas subsection (d)(1) of that section defines the term “gross violations of internationally recognized human rights” to include “torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges and trial, causing the disappearance of persons by the abduction and clandestine detention of those persons, and other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of person”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the President should fully comply with the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) by

issuing a determination, in response to the request submitted to the President on October 10, 2018, under section 1263(d) of that Act, with respect to the involvement of high-ranking officials of the Government of Saudi Arabia, including Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in the killing of Jamal Khashoggi; and

(B) the United States should call upon the Government of Saudi Arabia—

(i) to release all peaceful human rights activists, journalists, and religious minorities held in detention by that Government; and

(ii) to take actions that reverse that Government’s gross violation of internationally recognized human rights; and

(2) pursuant to section 502B(c)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)(1)), the Senate requests the Secretary of State to submit to Congress, in unclassified form, but with a classified annex if necessary, a statement with respect to Saudi Arabia setting forth—

(A) the matters described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of such section; and

(B) pursuant to subparagraph (D) of such section—

(i) information on the involvement of the highest-ranking officials in the Government of Saudi Arabia, including Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

(ii) information on the measures the Government of Saudi Arabia is taking to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Yemen by increasing access for Yemenis to food, fuel, medicine, and medical evacuation, including through the appropriate use of Yemen’s Red Sea ports, including the port of Hudaydah, the airport in Sana’a, and external border crossings with Saudi Arabia;

(iii) information on actions the Government of Saudi Arabia is taking to reduce the risk of harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure resulting from military operations of that Government in Yemen, including by—

(I) complying with applicable agreements and laws regulating defense articles purchased or transferred from the United States; and

(II) taking appropriate steps to avoid disproportionate harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure; and

(iv) information on each incident for which the Joint Incidents Assessment Team in Yemen has reached a conclusion.

SENATE RESOLUTION 170—RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHIBOK GIRLS KIDNAPPING BY THE BOKO HARAM TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO BRING AN END TO THE CONFLICT IN NORTHEAST AND CENTRAL NIGERIA AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 170

Whereas the Boko Haram is a Nigeria-based militant group with links to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the Islamic State;

Whereas Boko Haram’s campaign of mass and systemic brutality has led to the deaths of tens of thousands of individuals in northeast and central Nigeria and, according to

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, has caused the displacement of 2,400,000 people in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger;

Whereas the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 2013, and supports efforts to defeat Boko Haram with security and development tools;

Whereas Boko Haram rejects modern education and science, is engaged in an armed revolt against the Government of Nigeria, and has carried out vicious campaigns of violence against schools, public institutions, law enforcement, and civilians;

Whereas, since 2012, Boko Haram has conducted brutal mass kidnappings of women, girls, and boys, and has abducted thousands of women and girls from schools and markets, during raids on villages and houses, and on public transportation;

Whereas, on April 14, 2014, Boko Haram militants attacked a boarding school in Chibok in Borno State, where girls from surrounding areas had gathered to take final exams;

Whereas the Boko Haram terrorists arrived in Chibok late at night, fired their guns indiscriminately, burned down houses, raided the dormitories, and kidnapped 276 girls who were between 12 and 17 years of age;

Whereas 57 girls escaped by running into the forest or jumping off the kidnappers' trucks as they were driving away;

Whereas the 219 kidnapped girls were held captive, abused, enslaved, repeatedly raped, starved, and, in some cases, forcibly converted to Islam and married to their captors;

Whereas child, early, and forced marriages are serious human rights violations;

Whereas the international community, including the United Nations Secretary-General and the United Nations Security Council, condemned the abduction and called for the immediate release of the girls;

Whereas Boko Haram ruthlessly killed some of the kidnapped girls for trying to escape, while other girls died during childbirth while in captivity;

Whereas thousands of women, girls, and boys kidnapped by Boko Haram have endured similar horrific experiences;

Whereas the parents of the kidnapped girls and concerned citizens banded together and embarked upon a global awareness campaign to urge the rescue of the girls, using the Twitter hashtag #BringBackOurGirls, through which more than 3,300,000 people around the world expressed their outrage at the abductions and continue maintaining a vigil for the girls' return to their families;

Whereas the United States Government sent advisors to Nigeria and supplied surveillance and reconnaissance to help rescue the girls;

Whereas 21 of the kidnapped girls were released in October 2016, and an additional 82 girls were released in May 2017;

Whereas nearly 5 years since their abduction, more than 100 girls remain in captivity and are subjected to deplorable abuses as recounted by the girls who have been released;

Whereas many of the released girls are being kept in a government facility in Abuja away from their families;

Whereas despite claims by the Government of Nigeria that Boko Haram had been defeated, the terrorist organization continues to mount attacks against civilians, schools, and security forces;

Whereas Boko Haram has increasingly used children, including girls, in suicide attacks; with 158 children used in 2017, a significant increase from the 19 used for such purpose in 2016;

Whereas Boko Haram continues to abduct women and girls in the northern region of Nigeria, routinely forcing girls to choose be-

tween forced marriages to its fighters (for the purpose of sexual slavery) or becoming suicide bombers;

Whereas on February 19, 2018, Boko Haram militants stormed the town of Dapchi and abducted 110 girls from the Government Girls Science and Technical School and 2 other children;

Whereas 106 of the children from the Dapchi kidnapping have been released and 5 of the children are presumed to have died in captivity;

Whereas Leah Sharibu remains a hostage because she refuses to convert to Islam;

Whereas a surge in violence at the end of 2018 has resulted in the displacement of an additional 80,000 people, further burdening already overwhelmed communities and humanitarian services;

Whereas according to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Nigerian Red Cross Society, an estimated 17,000 individuals from Nigeria are missing, including 7,100 children;

Whereas for several years the United States Government has provided assistance for women and girls targeted by Boko Haram and individuals displaced by Boko Haram violence, and has assisted in combating Boko Haram;

Whereas in section 1(c) of Public Law 114-266 (130 Stat. 1383), Congress stated that "lack of economic opportunity and access to education, justice, and other social services contributes to the ability of Boko Haram to radicalize and recruit individuals";

Whereas educating girls transforms societies for the better by giving girls the knowledge and tools to make positive decisions about their futures, live healthier lives, provide nurturing environments for their families, and play active roles in their communities and economies;

Whereas the United States Government has appropriated \$11,000,000 in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 for programs to combat child marriage;

Whereas in section 2 of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-68; 131 Stat. 1202), Congress found that "[w]omen in conflict-affected regions have achieved significant success in . . . moderating violent extremism . . . and stabilizing societies by enhancing the effectiveness of security services, peacekeeping efforts, institutions, and decisionmaking processes"; and

Whereas section 4 of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 2152j) states, "It shall be the policy of the United States to promote the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of overseas conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the tragic fifth anniversary of the Chibok girls kidnapping and calls for the immediate release of all Boko Haram captives, especially the remaining Chibok girls and Leah Sharibu;

(2) applauds the extraordinary bravery of survivors of Boko Haram, who continue to come forward to share their stories and experiences at great personal risk;

(3) urges the Government of Nigeria, in cooperation with regional partners and the international community, to redouble efforts to defeat Boko Haram;

(4) calls on the Government of Nigeria—

(A) to prioritize the recovery of women and girls who have been abducted and enslaved by Boko Haram;

(B) to work to determine the whereabouts of the thousands of missing people in Nigeria and provide a full accounting of the number of missing girls;

(C) to undertake concrete efforts to reduce the stigmatization and marginalization of

those abducted by Boko Haram and provide counseling and support;

(D) to allow women and girls to be reunited with their families whenever appropriate;

(E) to appropriately channel \$1,000,000,000 from the Excess Crude Account, as approved by the Nigerian State Governors in December 2017, to humanitarian assistance, development, education, and deradicalization programs; and

(F) to accept international assistance in a timely manner when offered;

(5) encourages continued efforts by the United States Government to defeat Boko Haram through development and security partnerships with Nigeria and other regional partners;

(6) calls on the Department of State and the Department of Defense to rapidly implement the 5-year regional strategy required under Public Law 114-266 to address the grievous threat posed by Boko Haram and other violent extremist organizations;

(7) requests the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to meet their obligation under section 7059(e)(2) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2017 (division J of Public Law 115-31) to create a strategy to address the needs of women and girls adversely impacted by extremism and conflict;

(8) requests that the Department of State track and report the number of missing persons kidnapped by Boko Haram and include such information in its annual Trafficking in Persons Report; and

(9) commends the swift enactment of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-68), and encourages the President to immediately release the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy required under section 5 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2152j-1).

SENATE RESOLUTION 171—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING RESTORING UNITED STATES BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 171

Whereas the dire health and economic conditions facing the Palestinian people has created a humanitarian crisis in the West Bank and Gaza. The United States has long been a leader in helping address the plight of innocent civilians;

Whereas these fragile conditions could contribute to circumstances that would undermine Israel's security and stability in the region;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority's interpretation of the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act (Public Law 115-253), which sought to help United States victims of terrorism abroad, led the Palestinian Authority to reject all forms of United States assistance, meaning that funding for organizations implementing humanitarian aid programs that provide critical services, such as health care and sanitation to civilians, cannot be carried out; and

Whereas the Department of State has failed to obligate any of the funds Congress appropriated in fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018, \$302,750,000 and \$257,500,000, respectively, for bilateral assistance to the West Bank and Gaza: Now, therefore, be it