

SENATE RESOLUTION 418—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY'S CRACKDOWN ON DISSENT RELATED TO ITS INCURSION INTO NORTHEAST SYRIA, AND BROADER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 418

Whereas Turkey is a constitutional, secular state with an ethnically, religiously, and culturally diverse population;

Whereas Turkey has been a modern democracy and a major North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally to the United States;

Whereas Turkey is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and is therefore obligated to uphold the freedom of its people to peacefully express criticism of their government;

Whereas, immediately following the incursion by the Turkish Armed Forces into northeast Syria on October 9, 2019, the Government of Turkey began a coordinated crackdown on online dissent;

Whereas, on October 9, 2019, Turkey's National Security Directorate made a statement that criminal investigations had been initiated against 78 people for "inciting enmity and hatred through black propaganda [smear campaign] against [Turkey] over Operation Peace Spring; sharing unsourced and false social media postings intended to destroy the reputation of [Turkey's] security forces and making propaganda for a terrorist organization";

Whereas expression of opposition views through social media posts, social media reposts, and shared online articles has led to the investigation and detention of individuals in the region;

Whereas the shared content targeted by Turkish authorities was largely authored by Western and United States sources and outlets;

Whereas Turkey has over 120 journalists and media workers in jail, more than in any other country, with most of them detained under propaganda charges;

Whereas, on October 10, 2019, the digital services manager of the Birgun daily newspaper was detained in his home in Istanbul and questioned in relation to a news article and a tweet said to have incited enmity or hatred under the Article 216/1 of Turkish Penal Code;

Whereas, on October 11, 2019, Minister of the Interior Suleyman Soyulu stated during a speech that 121 people had been detained for their social media posts "insulting 'Operation Peace Spring', describing [our] country as an invader and insulating the unity of our nation";

Whereas, on October 14, 2019, military police carried out a countrywide operation with the aim of "preventing and deterring sympathizers of the terrorist organization from [engaging in provocations related to] Operation Peace Spring" in which over 500,000 people were interrogated and 152 people were detained, according to Amnesty International;

Whereas, as of October 16, 2019, authorities have identified 839 social media accounts under investigation, and 186 individuals taken into police custody since October 9, 2019, related to "shared criminal content";

Whereas, on October 19, 2019, police raided several homes of human rights defenders and journalists on counts of "inciting enmity or hatred" through social media posts;

Whereas, on October 25, 2019, criminal complaints were made against the French weekly journal *Le Point* for its coverage of the military offensive;

Whereas the style and scale of the social media crackdown specific to Turkish operations in Syria has recent precedent in the aftermath of the Turkish Armed Forces' Operation Olive Branch in Afrin, in which—

(1) 1,719 social media accounts were investigated;

(2) 845 people were detained for social media posts; and

(3) 643 people were subject to judicial proceedings; including 11 physician members of the Turkish Medical Association's Central Council, who were sentenced to terms up to 3 years and three months for calling to an end to the Afrin military operation;

Whereas Turkish authorities have targeted more than a thousand criminal defense lawyers as part of the ongoing crackdown on dissent;

Whereas more than 265 academics have been prosecuted in Turkey for signing an appeal for peace between the Government of Turkey and Kurdish insurgents;

Whereas human rights violations have been a defining aspect of President Erdogan's authoritarian rule, including—

(1) the removal of at least 88 of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) mayors from office in the last three years and their replacement with state-appointed trustees;

(2) the detention of HDP members of parliament; and

(3) the detention of Turkish employees of United States diplomatic facilities in Turkey;

Whereas blanket bans on peaceful protests of any form have been implemented by local governors across Turkey; and

Whereas these bans have resulted in the arrest and detention of many people and represent clear violations to the right to peaceful assembly as protected by international human rights conventions to which Turkey is a party and by the Constitution of Turkey: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the position of the United States that peaceful dissent should be protected under the right of freedom of expression in Turkey;

(2) condemns policies and efforts by the Government of Turkey to suppress peaceful protesters, including those expressing dissent against military operations by the Turkish Armed Forces or policies instituted by the Government of Turkey;

(3) stands with the defenders of free speech and human rights in Turkey;

(4) encourages senior United States administration officials to raise the issue of suppression of free speech and media in Turkey at the highest levels, both bilaterally and multilaterally;

(5) encourages United States embassy and consular staff to attend politically motivated trials; and

(6) calls on the Government of Turkey to—
(A) immediately lift restrictions on freedom of expression, including expression online or in social media;

(B) ensure that criticism of the Turkish Armed Forces' military operations or calling for peace—through media, social media, peaceful assembly, or other peaceful means—is not criminalized;

(C) drop all charges and end prosecution of individuals or groups for peaceful expression of their opposition to Turkey's military operations in Syria;

(D) ensure that people can gather and protest peacefully, including by lifting blanket protest bans across the country;

(E) release all political prisoners, including journalists and Turkish employees of United States diplomatic missions; and

(F) respect the rights of Turkish citizens to elect their leaders through a democratic process.

SENATE RESOLUTION 419—PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 419

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within a Senate building or other office secured for a Senator non-monetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a non-profit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the first session of the 116th Congress.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1244. Mr. INHOFE (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1865, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1244. Mr. INHOFE (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1865, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 9. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government; and

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, are disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of

designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1865, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1865) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that the Blunt amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1244) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To add a provision relating to financial assurances)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 9. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government; and

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, are disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1865), as amended, was passed.

PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 419, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 419) permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

Mr. INHOFE. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 419) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2731

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate's action placing S. 2731 on the Calendar be vitiated and the bill be considered introduced and held at the desk on October 29, 2019, and then indefinitely postponed today.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2840

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2840) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

Mr. INHOFE. I now ask for a second reading and in order to place the bill on the Calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 13; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business

be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Wolf nomination, with the postclosure time expiring at 11 a.m.; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. to allow for the conference meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator MENENDEZ.

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

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, first, let me congratulate the Senator from Oklahoma on his upcoming 50th anniversary.

Mr. INHOFE. 60th.

Mr. MENENDEZ. That is the 60th anniversary. Oh, my God. That is a hallmark under any set of circumstances, and we wish him much health and happiness with his bride for a lot longer time as well. I say congratulations.

Mr. INHOFE. Thank you.

TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, When President Trump welcomes Turkish President Erdogan to the White House this week, he will be welcoming a known authoritarian, human rights abuser, and friend to Putin, whose behavior increasingly runs counter to the interests of the United States and our allies. It is yet another strategic mistake and a terrible misuse of the power of the Presidency.

In recent years, the President of Turkey has made a series of decisions to part ways with NATO, with the United States, and with the basic principles of democracy. Make no mistake. Erdogan's actions are intentional. It is stunning to think that any American President would legitimize Erdogan's harmful policies by welcoming him to the Oval Office. This meeting is a mistake, plain and simple.

I can only hope that instead of yielding to Erdogan's policies that are so squarely at odds with U.S. interests, President Trump treats this misguided meeting as more than just a photo op with yet another dictator.

The President should instead use this visit to actually stand up for America, for our principles, and for our allies. He can do this by raising the many serious questions that Turkey has yet to address.

I would like to use this opportunity to outline 10 critical questions, each of which deserves real answers.

Question No. 1: Will Turkey reverse course from Erdogan's decision to buy