

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3146, a bill to ensure a fair process for negotiations of collective bargaining agreements under chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 3167

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3167, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.

S. 3173

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3173, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses.

S. 3190

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3190, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

S. 3194

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3194, a bill to establish a program ensuring access to accredited continuing medical education for primary care physicians and other health care providers at Federally-qualified health centers and rural health clinics, to provide training and clinical support for primary care providers to practice at their full scope and improve access to care for patients in underserved areas.

S. 3242

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3242, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to protect privacy rights, and for other purposes.

S. 3251

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3251, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to designate a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code for veterans and other eligible individuals to use to obtain information about the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3252

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

3252, a bill to prohibit chemical abortions performed without the presence of a healthcare provider, and for other purposes.

S. 3323

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3323, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modernize certain processes regarding expulsion of credit union members for cause, and for other purposes.

S. 3339

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3339, a bill to restore military priorities, and for other purposes.

S. 3341

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3341, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restrict the tax benefits of executive deferred compensation and increase disclosure, and for other purposes.

S. 3350

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3350, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deem certain State Veterans homes meeting certain health and safety standards as meeting conditions and requirements for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 3366

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3366, a bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at no cost to members of Gold Star Families.

S. RES. 292

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 292, a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 524—CONDEMNING THE PRACTICE OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED IMPRISONMENT, CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND URGING ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT FORM OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

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

S. RES. 524

Whereas the right to liberty and security of a person and the protection from arbitrary imprisonment are among the principal human rights guaranteed by Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 23 of the Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights;

Whereas the Russian Federation, as a member of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Council of Europe, is bound by international commitments with regard to human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas, on October 3, 2012, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 1900 (2012) that defined anyone whose "detention has been imposed in violation of one of the fundamental guarantees set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols" or "is the result of proceedings which were clearly unfair and this appears to be connected with political motives of the authorities" as a political prisoner;

Whereas, on July 2, 2014, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly adopted the Baku Declaration in which it "endorses the adoption by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of a resolution confirming the definition of political prisoners" and "strongly urges participating states to cooperate with international institutions like the OSCE, to help ensure that . . . there will be no political prisoners in the OSCE area";

Whereas, based on the criteria of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Resolution 1900 (2012), the Memorial Human Rights Center, one of the most respected nongovernmental organizations in the Russian Federation, estimates that there are currently more than 300 political prisoners in the Russian Federation;

Whereas the list of Russian political prisoners designated by the Memorial Human Rights Center includes journalists, civil society activists, human rights advocates, participants of peaceful demonstrations, adherents of prohibited religious groups, members of "undesirable" organizations, and Ukrainian citizens from the illegally annexed Crimea;

Whereas the longest-serving political prisoner in the Russian Federation, Alexey Pichugin, has been incarcerated since June 19, 2003, in violation of 2 rulings by the European Court of Human Rights and the opinion by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;

Whereas opposition activist Konstantin Kotov was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment on September 5, 2019, for participating

in peaceful demonstrations, in a ruling Human Rights Watch has described as “an outrageous violation of the right to peaceful protest”;

Whereas Anastasia Shevchenko, an activist in the Open Russia movement, has been held under house arrest since January 23, 2019, on the charge of belonging to an “undesirable” organization and has been designated by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience;

Whereas Yuri Dmitriev, a historian and the leader of the Memorial Human Rights Center’s branch in the Republic of Karelia who has worked to document mass burial sites from Stalin-era executions, is being held in pretrial detention on charges of child pornography that Human Rights Watch has described as “bogus” and part of an ongoing “smear campaign”;

Whereas Dennis Christensen, a Jehovah’s Witness and a citizen of Denmark, was sentenced to 6 years’ imprisonment on February 6, 2019, in a decision condemned by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom as part of the broader pattern of the Government of the Russian Federation “engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom”;

Whereas, on February 10, 2020, a court in Penza sentenced 7 activists to prison terms ranging from 6 to 18 years for participation in what authorities alleged was a terrorist organization called “Network” after a trial marked by incommunicado detention, torture, and other ill treatment to extract confessions, in what Human Rights Watch has described as an example of the Russian authorities “abusing counterterrorism laws to silence critics and deny fundamental human rights”;

Whereas, on June 18, 2018, the Department of State affirmed that “the United States is deeply concerned by the growing number of individuals . . . identified by credible human rights organizations as political and religious prisoners held by the Government of the Russian Federation” and called on the Government of the Russian Federation “to release all those identified as political or religious prisoners immediately and cease its use of the legal system to suppress dissent and peaceful religious practice”;

Whereas, on January 28, 2020, 43 parliamentarians from 16 European countries introduced a resolution in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calling for the appointment of a rapporteur “to examine the growing crisis with politically motivated imprisonments in the Russian Federation”;

and

Whereas, according to the Memorial Human Rights Center, the number of political prisoners in the Russian Federation has increased more than 6-fold since 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for those unjustly imprisoned in the Russian Federation;

(2) condemns the practice of politically motivated imprisonment in the Russian Federation, which violates the commitments of the Russian Federation to international obligations with respect to human rights and the rule of law;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release political prisoners, including Alexey Pichugin, Konstantin Kotov, Anastasia Shevchenko, Yuri Dmitriev, and Dennis Christensen;

(4) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation, to raise individual cases of political prisoners held by the Russian Federation and to press for their release; and

(5) urges the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to use their au-

thority under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112–208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note), the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note), and other applicable provisions of law to designate for the imposition of sanctions officials of the Government of the Russian Federation who are responsible for human rights abuses in the form of politically motivated imprisonment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA IN THEIR PEACEFUL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND USE THE TOOLS UNDER UNITED STATES LAW TO INCREASE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF DANIEL ORTEGA

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 525

Whereas the government of Daniel Ortega has concentrated power and brought about the progressive deterioration of democratic conditions in Nicaragua;

Whereas recent elections in Nicaragua, including the 2016 presidential election, have been marred by irregularities and characterized by significant restrictions on the participation of opposition political parties and the absence of credible international and local electoral observers;

Whereas Nicaraguan security forces, paramilitary, police, and other actors working under the direction of the Ortega regime committed gross violations of human rights and acts of repression, resulting in more than 325 deaths, over 2,000 injuries, and at least 800 arbitrary detentions during the peaceful protests that took place in 2018, according to the Organization of American States;

Whereas a report by the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts, appointed by the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, determined that the Ortega regime used deliberate, lethal force against protesters and committed acts of torture that meet the international legal standard of crimes against humanity;

Whereas an estimated 82,000 Nicaraguans fled the country between April 2018 and October 2019, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

Whereas the Government and people of Costa Rica have graciously accepted nearly 70,000 Nicaraguans, including enrolling children in public primary schools, allowing access to legal employment, and making efforts to strengthen the capacity of Costa Rica’s asylum system;

Whereas the Ortega government failed to comply with its commitment to release all political prisoners, releasing just 392 people, of which 286 were released to house arrest with charges still pending;

Whereas Nicaragua’s Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy alleges that there remain over 150 political prisoners held in Nicaraguan prisons as of November 29, 2019;

Whereas a United States citizen and Navy veteran, 57-year-old Eddy Montes, was shot and killed while in the custody of the Nicaraguan police at La Modelo Prison on May 16, 2019;

Whereas the government of Daniel Ortega has severely restricted freedom of the press by closing five local television stations, attacking independent radio stations, arbitrarily detaining journalists, and arbitrarily restricting print supplies from entering the country;

Whereas, beginning on November 14, 2019, Nicaraguan police conducted attacks on churches throughout the country, cut water to hunger strikers barricaded inside a church in Masaya, and arrested 13 people attempting to bring them water;

Whereas doctors, lawyers, academics, and other professionals in Nicaragua face persecution and, in some cases torture, based on suspicion of aiding or sympathizing with protestors;

Whereas the Ortega regime has violated the economic and political rights of indigenous communities, Afro-descendant populations, rural campesinos, land rights defenders, and individuals living in the Caribbean Autonomous Regions of Nicaragua;

Whereas, on November 27, 2018, Executive Order 13851 was issued, which blocks the property of certain persons involved in the Nicaraguan crisis, and its application was expanded by the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the Treasury on September 4, 2019;

Whereas the bipartisan Nicaragua Human Rights and Anticorruption Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–335; commonly referred to as the “NICA Act”) was signed into law on December 20, 2018, imposing restrictions on lending to the Nicaraguan government by international financial institutions and requiring the President to sanction non-United States persons implicated in egregious human rights abuses and corruption in Nicaragua;

Whereas the NICA Act expresses the support of Congress for a negotiated solution to the Nicaraguan crisis and includes an annual certification to waive sanctions if the Ortega government takes steps to restore democratic governance and uphold human rights;

Whereas, in the absence of such steps, the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury have imposed targeted sanctions on Nicaraguan officials and entities, including First Lady and Vice President Rosario Murillo, Daniel Ortega’s sons, Rafael Ortega Murillo and Laureano Ortega Murillo, and Nicaragua’s Banco Corporativo (Bancorp);

Whereas, in June 2019, the Government of Canada imposed sanctions on 12 members of the Government of Nicaragua engaged in gross and systemic human rights violations; and

Whereas, in advance of any future election, the Government of Nicaragua urgently needs to undertake electoral reforms, including the appointment of independent new magistrates to the Supreme Electoral Council, the restoration of a 50 percent plus one threshold for the presidential election, the establishment of a second round of voting if the electoral threshold is not reached, the establishment of a detailed electoral calendar, and stronger observation by political parties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Nicaragua to immediately release all political prisoners without conditions and cease all acts of violence, repression, and intimidation against dissenting voices in Nicaragua;

(2) urges the Ortega government to respect Nicaraguans’ constitutional rights and implement the electoral reforms mentioned