

state resources and institutions to tilt the electoral balance in its favor. These efforts are not new. Under President Museveni's leadership, the NRM successfully moved to change the Ugandan Constitution in 2005 to remove Presidential term limits and again in 2017 to lift age limits. These changes allow President Museveni, who has been in power since 1986, to remain in office indefinitely. Not only have Museveni and the NRM engineered a constitutional coup, they have undertaken a campaign of political repression that has only become worse since the last general elections. Ugandan authorities have increasingly used coercive measures, including arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture, extrajudicial killings, and intrusive surveillance technology to intimidate and silence critics, place a stranglehold on media, and stifle political opposition in the country.

Leading opposition figures have been targeted in brazen and shocking ways. Members of Parliament have been arrested and detained on numerous occasions, and there is strong evidence to support their claims of being tortured by President Museveni's security forces while in custody. Last week, prominent human rights attorney Nicholas Opiyo, along with several other attorneys, was arrested in what appears to be a blatant act of intimidation for their investigation into killings that occurred as a result of the arrest of rival Presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu in November. Just this past weekend, one of Kyagulanyi's bodyguards was killed by security forces in a violent confrontation that also saw two journalists injured. Imagine that happening to any political candidate here in the United States to one of our colleagues as they were out on the campaign trail this fall. We should all be outraged by such acts.

To date there have been no meaningful investigations into these incidents and no accountability for these abuses. The question we must ask ourselves is, Why? Why has President Museveni failed to take swift and decisive action to ensure the safety and security of members of the Ugandan Parliament and other opposition figures, and bring those responsible to justice? Is President Museveni protecting particular individuals? Or perhaps direct responsibility for the violence against the Uganda opposition lies even further up the chain of command?

Journalists and nongovernmental organizations have been under pressure as well. Ugandan authorities continue to use a range of restrictive and onerous administrative measures against NGOs, including deregistration of more than 12,000 mostly local NGOs in November 2019. Earlier this month, Ugandan authorities froze the bank accounts of some NGOs, and in the past, the Museveni administration has denied entry and deported some leaders of international NGOs in what were clear acts of intimidation. Journalists

working for foreign media outlets are now required to reregister with Ugandan authorities or risk criminal penalties, and some foreign journalists have also been deported from the country.

Government has also attacked digital rights and academic freedoms. Individuals with large social media followings are subject to onerous administrative regulation. Burdensome taxes have been imposed on social media users, and some individuals who have criticized the Museveni administration on social media platforms have even been prosecuted. Ugandan authorities have taken repeated action to suppress academic freedom and intimidate students and faculty who have been critical of the Museveni administration, including by firing and jailing professors who criticize the regime.

In short, the longstanding effort to build democracy in Uganda is under grave threat, and we must take action in support of those defending political freedoms in the country. That is why I introduced S. Res 807. It not only condemns the actions of the Museveni administration, it calls on the Secretary of State and the heads of relevant departments and agencies of the U.S. Government to undertake three essential actions: first, to consider the imposition of targeted sanctions and visa restrictions on actors involved in undermining credible, transparent elections, and those who have perpetrated or abetted human rights abuses; second, to work with African partners, like-minded countries, and international institutions and organizations to develop and implement strategies and actions to promote and defend human, civil, and political rights and multiparty democracy in Uganda; and third, to immediately conduct a review of U.S. assistance and cooperation with Uganda for the purposes of reprioritizing such assistance should neutral observers determine that the January 2021 polls do not meet internationally accepted standards for credible elections.

If the outcome of the elections in Uganda does not reflect the will of the people, I will be calling for the Biden administration to reevaluate our relationship with the Museveni administration, and I plan to pursue binding legislation in the 117th Congress that builds on S Res 807. Uganda's stature and importance as a security partner should not prevent the United States from speaking out in support of democracy and taking action in support of those Ugandans fighting for democratic freedoms.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 371. An act to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1310. An act to strengthen the participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 5076. An act to authorize the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to delegate authority to approve payroll and personnel actions.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 221) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1923) to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue certain circulating collectible coins, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1925) to designate the Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the "Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System".

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2744) to authorize the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prescribe the manner in which programs of the agency are identified overseas, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3153) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4704) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 4996. An act to ensure funding of the United States trustees, extend temporary bankruptcy judgeships, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1418. An act to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competition and consumers.

H.R. 1492. An act to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument.

H.R. 2502. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require certain prospectuses for public buildings to be made publicly available, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3250. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the sites associated with the life and legacy of the noted American philanthropist and business executive Julius Rosenwald, with a special focus on the Rosenwald Schools, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5126. An act to require individuals fishing for Gulf reef fish to use certain descending devices, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5472. An act to redesignate the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site as the "Jimmy Carter National Historical Park".

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mrs. FISCHER).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CONNOLLY) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 371. An act to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1310. An act to strengthen the participation of elected national legislators in the activities of the Organization of American States and reaffirm United States support for Organization of American States human rights and anti-corruption initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 5076. An act to authorize the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to delegate authority to approve payroll and personnel actions.

H.R. 221. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1923. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue certain circulating collectible coins, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1925. An act to designate the Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the "Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System".

H.R. 2744. An act to authorize the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prescribe the manner in which programs of the agency are identified overseas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3153. An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on opioid addiction, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4704. An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to

areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 31, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 4996. An act to ensure funding of the United States trustees, extend temporary bankruptcy judgeships, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 5085

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5085, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the additional 2020 recovery rebates, to repeal section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

PROTECT AND RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4044, which was received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4044) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4044) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1472 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1472) to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1472) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Friday, January 1; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, morning business be closed, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the veto message on H.R. 6395.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:40 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 1, 2021, at 12 noon.