

SENATE RESOLUTION 617—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ISRAEL HAS THE INHERENT RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AND TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO ERADICATE THE TERRORIST THREAT POSED BY HAMAS

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 617

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Israel has the inherent right to defend itself and take necessary steps to eradicate the terrorist threat posed by Hamas; and

(2) any call for elections in Israel by a United States Government official is to be considered an act of electoral interference.

SENATE RESOLUTION 618—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “COUNTERING INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION MONTH” AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD RAISE AWARENESS OF THE HARM CAUSED BY INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 618

Whereas thousands of children have been abducted from the United States by parents, separating those children from their parents who remain in the United States;

Whereas it is illegal under section 1204 of title 18, United States Code, to remove, or attempt to remove, a child from the United States or to retain a child (who has been in the United States) outside of the United States with the intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights;

Whereas 9,816 children were reported abducted from the United States between 2010 and 2020;

Whereas, during 2022, one or more cases of international parental child abduction involving children who are citizens of the United States were identified in 99 countries around the world;

Whereas the United States is a party to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague, October 25, 1980 (TIAS 11670) (referred to in this preamble as the “Hague Convention on Abduction”), which—

(1) supports the prompt return of wrongly removed or retained children; and

(2) calls for all participating parties to respect parental custody rights;

Whereas the majority of children who were abducted from the United States have yet to be reunited with their custodial parents;

Whereas, in 2022, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Egypt, Honduras, India,

Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Peru, Romania, the Russian Federation, and the United Arab Emirates were identified pursuant to the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) as engaging in a pattern of noncompliance (as defined in section 3 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 9101));

Whereas, between 2015 and 2022, a total of 19 countries were previously identified as engaging in a pattern of noncompliance, including Austria, the Bahamas, the People’s Republic of China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tunisia, showing the importance of continued enforcement of United States law by the executive branch to ensure the return of abducted children;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States has recognized that family abduction—

(1) is a form of child abuse with potentially “devastating consequences for a child”, which may include negative impacts on the physical and mental well-being of the child; and

(2) may cause a child to “experience a loss of community and stability, leading to loneliness, anger, and fear of abandonment”;

Whereas, according to the 2010 Report on Compliance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by the Department of State, an abducted child is at risk of significant short- and long-term problems, including “anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, and aggressive behavior”;

Whereas international parental child abduction has devastating emotional consequences for the child and for the parent from whom the child is separated;

Whereas the United States has a history of promoting child welfare through institutions, including—

(1) the Children’s Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(2) the Office of Children’s Issues of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State;

Whereas the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction, through dedicated advocacy and regular testimony, has highlighted the importance of this issue to Congress and called on successive administrations to take concerted action to stop international parental child abduction and repatriate kidnapped United States children;

Whereas Bring Abducted Children Home, Bring Our Kids Home, iStand Parent Network, and the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction have been recognized by the Department of Justice as non-profit organizations specializing in international parental child abduction;

Whereas Congress has signaled a commitment to ending international parental child abduction by enacting—

(1) the International Child Abduction Remedies Act (22 U.S.C. 9001 et seq.);

(2) the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-173), which enacted section 1204 of title 18, United States Code; and

(3) the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.);

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 543, 112th Congress, agreed to on December 4, 2012, condemning the international abduction of children;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 431, 115th Congress, agreed to on April 19, 2018, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, international parental child abduction;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 23, 116th Congress, agreed to on April 11, 2019, to raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 568, 117th Congress, agreed to on July 21, 2022, to raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 115, 118th Congress, agreed to on May, 10 2023, to raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction;

Whereas Congress calls upon the Department of State to fully utilize the tools available under the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) to negotiate, and make publicly available, bilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding—

(1) with countries not parties to the Hague Convention on Abduction to resolve abduction and access cases; and

(2) regarding open abduction and access cases predating the Hague Convention on Abduction with countries that have thereafter become parties to the Hague Convention on Abduction;

Whereas all 50 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws criminalizing parental kidnapping;

Whereas, in 2022, the Prevention Branch of the Office of Children’s Issues of the Department of State—

(1) fielded more than 4,900 inquiries from the general public relating to preventing a child from being removed from the United States; and

(2) enrolled more than 3,500 children in the Children’s Passport Issuance Alert Program, which—

(A) is one of the most important tools of the Department of State for preventing international parental child abduction;

(B) allows the Office of Children’s Issues to contact the enrolling parent or legal guardian to verify whether the parental consent requirement has been met when a passport application has been submitted for an enrolled child; and

(C) has enrolled a total of over 62,400 children in the program since its inception;

Whereas the Department of State cannot track the ultimate destination of a child through the use of the passport issued by the Department of State if the child is transported to a third country after departing from the United States;

Whereas a child who is a citizen of the United States may have another nationality and may travel using a passport issued by another country, which—

(1) increases the difficulty of determining the whereabouts of the child; and

(2) makes efforts to prevent abduction more critical;

Whereas, during 2022, 165 children were returned to the United States, and an additional 117 abduction cases, involving 145 children, were resolved without the children being returned to the United States; and

Whereas, in 2022, the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Prevention Branch of the Office of Children’s Issues of the Department of State, enrolled 307 children in the Prevent Abduction Program, which is aimed at preventing international parental child abduction through coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers at the airport, seaport, or land border ports of entry by intercepting the child before departure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and observes “Countering International Parental Child Abduction

Month' during the period beginning on April 1, 2024, and ending on April 30, 2024, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, international parental child abduction; and

(2) urges the United States to continue playing a leadership role in raising awareness about the devastating impacts of international parental child abduction by educating the public about the negative emotional, psychological, and physical consequences to children and parents victimized by international parental child abduction.

SENATE RESOLUTION 619—HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UPRISING OF THE PEOPLE OF TIBET IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM

Mr. CRUZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 619

Whereas, on October 7, 1950, forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) entered Tibet with the goal of imposing Chinese Communist rule on the people of Tibet and subjugating it to the rule of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Tibetan people resisted peacefully in defense of their freedom, faith, and culture and have sought to protect their national identity from the progressive encroachment by the Chinese Communist Party, and continue to do so;

Whereas, on March 10, 1959, hundreds of thousands of Tibetans gathered in Lhasa to prevent a reported PLA plot to abduct the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, on March 12, 1959, approximately 5,000 women joined in those demonstrations for their national identity and freedom;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party subsequently executed many of those women for their participation;

Whereas, on the evening of March 17, 1959, artillery shells landed near the residence of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas the Dalai Lama decided to leave Lhasa for India, where he arrived on March 30, 1959;

Whereas protests continued after the Dalai Lama's departure and spread across the city and region;

Whereas PLA soldiers in central Tibet eventually killed an estimated 86,000 Tibetans;

Whereas, as a result of the widespread slaughter of Tibetans in and after the Lhasa Uprising, a 1959 finding by the International Commission of Jurists found that the People's Republic of China's treatment of Tibetans constituted genocide;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has deepened its repression of the people of Tibet, exploits Tibet's natural resources to advance the interests of the Chinese Communist Party, and seeks to undermine freedom of religion and conscience in Tibet by determining the spiritual succession of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, for 65 years, the Dalai Lama continues to defend the cause of Tibetan freedom and national identity on the global stage; and

Whereas the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) provided for a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues in the Department of State, tasked to "coordinate United States Government policies, programs, and projects", but the Secretary of State has not designated a non-concurrent appointment to that position: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) stands with the people of Tibet and the Dalai Lama in their continuing defense of their freedom and national identity;

(2) condemns the Chinese Communist Party for its repression of the people of Tibet, its exploitation of Tibet's natural resources, and its efforts to undermine freedom of religion and conscience in Tibet, including through efforts to determine the spiritual succession of the Dalai Lama;

(3) recommits to the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 as the basis of United States engagement with Tibet and its people;

(4) calls upon the President to—

(A) ensure that the voice, vote, and diplomatic capital of the United States are utilized to address and counter China's repression of the people of Tibet; and

(B) include mention of the legitimate aspirations of the people of Tibet to freedom and national identity in all engagements with the People's Republic of China and particularly in engagements that include the human rights situation in that country; and

(5) calls upon the Secretary of State to ensure independent focus on Tibet by designating a non-concurrent appointment to the position of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues.

SENATE RESOLUTION 620—DEMANDING THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE WHO PERPETRATED ACTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL TORTURE DURING AND AFTER THE ATTACK ON THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON OCTOBER 7, 2023

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 620

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an unprovoked attack against the State of Israel, brutally murdering more than 1,200 innocent men, women, and children while injuring thousands more;

Whereas, from January 29, 2024, to February 14, 2024, at the invitation of the Government of the State of Israel, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) Pramila Patten, along with technical experts, led an official visit to the State of Israel to gather information in order to verify allegations of sexual violence and sexual torture committed during and after the October 7 attack;

Whereas the SRSG-SVC and technical experts conducted a total of 33 meetings with personnel from Israeli national institutions and visited the Israeli National Center of Forensic Medicine, the Shura military base, the morgue where bodies of victims have been transferred, and four locations attacked on October 7;

Whereas the SRSG-SVC and technical experts reviewed more than 5,000 photographic images and approximately 50 hours of footage of the October 7 attack and conducted confidential interviews with a total of 34 interviewees impacted by the attack, including survivors, witnesses, released hostages, first responders, and health and service providers;

Whereas the SRSG-SVC and technical experts were made aware that there are victims still undergoing treatment for the severe mental distress and trauma endured as a result of the sexual violence committed

against them both during and after the October 7 attack;

Whereas, on March 4, 2024, the SRSG-SVC released a report containing the findings of the official visit;

Whereas, according to the report released by the SRSG-SVC, "there are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks in multiple locations across Gaza periphery, including rape and gang rape, in at least three locations", with most victims first being raped and then murdered;

Whereas, according to the report released by the SRSG-SVC, there are "accounts of individuals who witnessed at least two incidents of rape of corpses of women" and other accounts that describe "multiple murdered individuals, mostly women, whose bodies were found naked from the waist down, some totally naked, with some gunshots in the head and/or tied including with their hands bound behind their backs and tied to structures such as trees or poles";

Whereas, according to the report released by the SRSG-SVC, there were multiple incidents of sexual violence, including the rape of multiple women, along Road 232, one of the main roads along which attendees of the Nova music festival and other locals fled during the October 7 attack;

Whereas, according to the report released by the SRSG-SVC, in Kibbutz Re'im, there were multiple incidents of sexual violence, including the rape of a woman outside of a bomb shelter, and two women were found on the floor naked inside a home with gunshot wounds to their heads;

Whereas, according to the report released by the SRSG-SVC, in Kibbutz Be'eri, credible information was received that bodies were "found naked and/or tied, and in one case gagged," in destroyed houses and the surrounding area;

Whereas, according to the report released by the SRSG-SVC, in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, first responders reported finding women naked with their hands tied behind their backs and with gunshot wounds to the head, indicating sexual violence and sexual torture;

Whereas, according to the report released by the SRSG-SVC, at Nahal Oz military base, seven soldiers were discovered to have "gunshot wounds around the genitalia and/or buttocks";

Whereas, according to the report released by the SRSG-SVC, "the mission team found clear and convincing information that some [hostages taken to Gaza] have been subjected to various forms of conflict-related sexual violence including rape and sexualized torture and sexualized cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and it also has reasonable grounds to believe that such violence may be ongoing";

Whereas, despite the overwhelming evidence that sexual violence was committed during and after the October 7 attack, the "visit [by the SRSG-SVC and technical experts] was neither intended nor mandated to be investigative in nature"; and

Whereas, under Article 34 of the Charter of the United Nations, "The Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security."; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the United States to insist that the United Nations Security Council open an official investigation into the sexual violence and sexual torture committed during and after the attack on the State of Israel on October 7, 2023; and