

global civil society in advancing human rights, condemning the use of political imprisonment as a tool of repression, and calling for the release of political prisoners across the world in commemoration of Human Rights Day on December 10, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 924. A resolution designating December 14, 2024, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 925. A resolution relating to the death of the Honorable Fred R. Harris, former Senator for the State of Oklahoma; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 926. A resolution to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 971

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges, and for other purposes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1159, a bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to modify the requirements associated with small business loan data collection, and for other purposes.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United State Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1375, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply additional payments, discounts, and other financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2371

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2371, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by rural or agricultural real property.

S. 2603

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2603, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to streamline conservation practice standards, and for other purposes.

S. 3055

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3055, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to update the modeling used for lifecycle greenhouse gas assessments for approved fuel pathways under the Renewable Fuel Standard, and for other purposes.

S. 4041

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4041, a bill to support local educational agencies in addressing the student mental health crisis.

S. 4113

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4113, a bill to allow States to require payment of State fees related to boating as a condition for issuance of a vessel number and to collect such fees in conjunction with other fees related to vessel numbering.

S. 4715

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4715, a bill to require the National Cyber Director to submit to Congress a plan to establish an institute within the Federal Government to serve as a centralized resource and training center for Federal cyber workforce development.

S. 5268

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5268, a bill to prohibit Federal judges from receiving certain gifts, and for other purposes.

S. 5283

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5283, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert M. Gates, in recognition of his service to the United States as an intelligence professional, Secretary of Defense, and educator and leader for young people of the United States.

S. 5408

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 5408, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

S. 5457

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5457, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a portion of general business credit carryforwards to be transferred by certain taxpayers affected by Federally declared disasters.

S. RES. 869

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 869, a resolution designating the week beginning November 11, 2024, as “National Pregnancy Center Week” to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and

men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 923—RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS, CONDEMNING THE USE OF POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT AS A TOOL OF REPRESSION, AND CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ACROSS THE WORLD IN COMMEMORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY ON DECEMBER 10, 2024

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

S. RES. 923

Whereas the Senate passed S. Res. 731, which designated December 10, 2018, as “Human Rights Day”;

Whereas December 10, 2024, marks the 76th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a landmark document that established the inalienable rights to which all humans are entitled, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property ownership, birthplace, or other status;

Whereas, in light of immense difficulties, civil society and civil society organizations contribute to the promotion, protection, and advancement of human rights, democratic governance, and rule of law across the world every day;

Whereas the state of global human rights and civil liberties has declined during the past 2 decades, with Freedom House notably tracking 18 consecutive years of decline in rights and freedoms around the world;

Whereas Freedom House reports that political rights and civil liberties in 2023 diminished in 52 countries and improved in only 21 countries;

Whereas, since 2016, 91 countries have proposed or enacted more than 260 legal measures affecting civil society, of which 72 percent have restricted human rights;

Whereas increasing restrictions on civil society organizations directly impedes the ability of such organizations to advance human rights advocacy and democracy-building work and obstructs the rights of citizens to exercise freedom of speech and assembly;

Whereas the Department of State estimates that 1,000,000 individuals find themselves unjustly behind bars as political prisoners for exercising human rights and fundamental freedoms, because of their race, religion, or ethnicity, or due to their private relationships;

Whereas political imprisonment is employed by authoritarian actors as a tool for limiting political and social dissent, stifling freedom of expression and assembly, and undermining public participation in free and fair elections;

Whereas authoritarian countries operate vast networks of political prison camps and labor camps used to indiscriminately detain thousands of individuals;

Whereas countless political prisoners in these detention facilities are subjected to

torture, inhumane conditions, enforced disappearance, or other forms of abuse;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, throughout 2023, widespread problems with elections, including violence and electoral manipulation, drove deterioration in rights and freedoms across the world, especially in countries that experienced pre- and post-election violence;

Whereas, in many countries, political opposition figures and civil society members continue to be unjustly detained for their role in demanding free and fair elections and leading peaceful democratic protests in opposition to illiberal regimes;

Whereas anti-corruption prosecutors and pro-democracy activists are arbitrarily imprisoned on baseless charges for their advocacy of greater judicial independence and transparency in countries where judicial systems are weaponized against human rights advocates;

Whereas religious minorities, religious freedom advocates, and missionaries are unjustly targeted, detained, and repressed for exercising their freedom to believe or not to believe and advocating for those same freedoms for others;

Whereas the Department of State has determined that religious minorities continue to be victims of genocides relating to religious freedom;

Whereas women face significantly higher risks of harassment and imprisonment when participating in civil society and political advocacy and heightened vulnerabilities to mental and physical abuse during arrest, questioning, and imprisonment;

Whereas authoritarian governments and nonstate actors around the world enforce systems of impunity and discrimination to systematically dismantle women’s and girls’ access to their civil liberties and imprison female human rights defenders and members of civil society who speak out against such oppression;

Whereas journalists face political imprisonment for fighting to report the truth, advocating for greater protections for freedom of press, and holding governments accountable to their citizens;

Whereas during 2023, according to Reporters Without Borders, nearly 800 journalists were jailed and 45 were killed for simply doing their jobs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for Human Rights Day and recognizes its global significance;

(2) recognizes the critical importance and contributions of global civil society in advancing human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

(3) condemns the use of political imprisonment as a tool of repression to restrict civil liberties and human rights;

(4) calls upon governments that are unjustly detaining individuals for their human rights and civil society advocacy work to immediately and unconditionally release these political prisoners;

(5) encourages the Department of State to continue robust campaigns to advocate for the release of political prisoners and to leverage all necessary diplomatic tools in support of such advocacy, including by—

(A) coordinating with other executive agencies on priority cases of political prisoners for any principals or high-level United States officials traveling to specific countries where a known case requires attention or diplomatic intervention;

(B) working with congressional partners, such as the Senate Human Rights Caucus and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, to coordinate advocacy on priority cases for members of Congress, including advocacy preceding official congressional travel;

(C) consulting with civil society and non-governmental organizations in countries with priority political prisoners’ cases on plans of engagement and advocacy;

(D) supporting bilateral and multilateral engagement with allies and like-minded countries on issues involving the global protection of human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law; and

(E) working with multilateral organizations and fora to devise joint efforts to advance human rights and democracy; and

(6) encourages the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, to devise joint strategies to deter authoritarian regimes from using their judicial systems (particularly arrests, detentions, and sentencings) as tools to silence dissent or for political leverage.

SENATE RESOLUTION 924—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 14, 2024, AS “NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 924

Whereas, 33 years before the date of adoption of this resolution, the Wreaths Across America project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December, of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir veterans’ remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the 33 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 20,000,000 wreaths have been sent to various locations, including national cemeteries and veterans’ memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to “Remember, Honor, and Teach”, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

- (1) Arlington National Cemetery;
- (2) veterans’ cemeteries; and
- (3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans’ parade between the States of Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

(1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;

(2) honoring those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces; and

(3) teaching the next generation of children about the service and sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by all in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 3,000,000 veterans’ remembrance wreaths were delivered to over 4,200 locations across the United States;

Whereas, in December 2024, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will again be continued by—

- (1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and
- (2) other patriotic escort units, including—
 - (A) motorcycle units;
 - (B) law enforcement units; and
 - (C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans’ wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the