

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 472—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 30 AS THE “INTERNATIONAL DAY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS”

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

S. RES. 472

Whereas there are an estimated 1,000,000 political prisoners throughout the world, including journalists, academics, political opposition activists, dissidents, anti-war campaigners, and human rights defenders, who have been detained, arrested, imprisoned, convicted, and otherwise punished for political motives without connection to any credible offense;

Whereas authoritarian and repressive regimes around the world, including the Republic of Belarus, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, have engaged in systematic imprisonment of independent voices;

Whereas, in 2024 and 2025, the United States Government, through bilateral and multilateral negotiations, secured the release of several dozen political prisoners from the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

Whereas, on October 30, 1974, Ukrainian and Russian prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Gulag initiated the tradition of marking an annual “Day of Political Prisoners” in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (referred to in this Preamble as “USSR”) to draw public attention to the plight of those imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs and to express solidarity with them; and

Whereas, in subsequent years, the Day of Political Prisoners, was marked on October 30 by hunger strikes by prisoners inside the Soviet Gulag and by public demonstrations of solidarity in cities across the USSR: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) deplors all forms of political repression and imprisonment;

(2) conveys its unwavering solidarity with all those who are imprisoned around the world for peacefully expressing their political or religious beliefs;

(3) supports efforts by the United States Government—

(A) to condemn political imprisonment;

(B) to hold accountable any regime that is responsible for persecuting and imprisoning dissenters;

(C) to raise international awareness of political prisoners; and

(D) to secure the release of such political prisoners through bilateral and multilateral negotiations with other countries;

(4) urges the United States Government to continue such efforts in the future; and

(5) supports the annual designation of October 30 in the United States as the “International Day of Political Prisoners”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 473—COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI AND CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KIM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 473

Whereas Jamal Khashoggi was a Saudi journalist, author, and a former general manager and editor-in-chief of Al-Arab News Channel who fled Saudi Arabia in June 2017 and went into self-imposed exile in Virginia in the United States;

Whereas, on September 18, 2017, Jamal Khashoggi published his first article in the Washington Post, stating, “I have left my home, my family and my job, and I am raising my voice. To do otherwise would betray those who languish in prison. I can speak when so many cannot. I want you to know that Saudi Arabia has not always been as it is now. We Saudis deserve better.”;

Whereas, on October 2, 2018, Jamal Khashoggi was brutally killed and dismembered by agents of the Government of Saudi Arabia in the consulate of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul, Turkey;

Whereas, in February 2021, the Government of the United States submitted an unclassified report to Congress, providing transparency on the killing and announced the Khashoggi Ban, a measure that allows the Department of State to impose visa restrictions on individuals who “directly engage in serious, extraterritorial counter-dissident activities, including those that suppress, harass, surveil, threaten, or harm journalists, activists, or other persons perceived to be dissidents”;

Whereas the Office of the Director of National Intelligence found that the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Muhammad bin Salman, approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey, to capture or kill Jamal Khashoggi;

Whereas, since the brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi, the Government of Saudi Arabia continues to crack down on free expression through the use of enforced disappearances, unjust detentions, threats, intimidation, executions, and transnational repression;

Whereas Freedom House defines transnational repression as “governments reaching across borders to silence dissent among diasporas and exiles, including through assassinations, illegal deportations, abductions, digital threats, Interpol abuse, and family intimidation”;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, the Governments of Iran, the People's Republic of China, Egypt, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, and other states are increasingly disregarding the laws of the United States to threaten, harass, surveil, stalk, and, in some cases, plot physical harm to individuals across the United States;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, governments that perpetrate tactics of transnational repression regularly reach beyond their borders to intimidate journalists and suppress truthful reporting;

Whereas, since 2014, 26 governments have carried out 124 incidents of transnational repression against exiled journalists;

Whereas, on June 17, 2025, the leaders of the G7 recognized transnational repression

as a global threat to national security and democracy;

Whereas citizens of the United States Areej al-Sadhan, sister of detained humanitarian aid worker Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, and Abdullah Alaoudh of Virginia, son of detained scholar Salman Alodah, have been subject to intimidation and harassment in the United States;

Whereas, in August 2022, a former Twitter employee was found guilty of acting as an unregistered agent of the Government of Saudi Arabia, spying on Saudi dissidents and sharing their private information with Saudi leadership;

Whereas Saudi officials have continued to arrest, ban the travel of, and otherwise intimidate women and women human rights defenders, including Loujain Alhathloul, Manahel and Fouz al-Otaibi, Dr. Lina al-Sharif, Salma al-Shehab, and Nourah al-Qahtani;

Whereas Saudi border security systematically killed hundreds of Ethiopian migrants, including women and children, crossing the Saudi-Yemeni border between March 2022 and June 2023, subjecting others to brutal violence and sexual assault;

Whereas Saudi officials continue to unjustly imprison and ban individuals from the United States from travel, including Aziza Yousef and Saad Almadhi;

Whereas Turki al-Jasser, a journalist and founder of the news blog Al-Mashhad Al-Saudi, was executed on June 14, 2025, after 7 years of arbitrary imprisonment in Saudi Arabia;

Whereas Saudi human rights abuses, including against individuals of the United States, place unnecessary strain on the United States-Saudi Arabia relationship, which is an essential element of regional stability; and

Whereas the United States has an important strategic relationship with Saudi Arabia, one based on a long history of cooperation on regional security issues and energy supply: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the Government of the United States has sanctioned 17 Saudi individuals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) for their roles in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi; and

(2) calls for the Government of Saudi Arabia to—

(A) ensure appropriate accountability for all individuals responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, including the individuals sanctioned by the United States;

(B) release all individuals wrongfully detained, including Nourah al-Qahtani, Abdulrahman Alsadhan, Salman Alodah, Waleed Abu al-Khair, and Sarah and Omar Aljabri; and

(C) respect the rights of Saudi citizens and ensure the protection of the freedoms of assembly, association, and the press.

SENATE RESOLUTION 474—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH”

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 474

Whereas country music, a uniquely American sound, echoes from the backroads of the United States to the streets of Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas Bristol, straddling the Tennessee and Virginia State line, is recognized as the "birthplace of country music";

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry, the most famous stage in country music, has been called the "home of American music";

Whereas the Ryman Auditorium, the original home of the Grand Ole Opry, has been described as "the Mother Church of country music";

Whereas country music reminds every American of the importance of faith, family, freedom, hope, opportunity, and patriotism;

Whereas country music has influenced numerous other genres of music;

Whereas country music is an incredibly diverse genre, appealing to Americans from all walks of life;

Whereas country music has millions of fans all across the United States;

Whereas the country music industry contributes billions of dollars in revenue each year to the economy of the United States;

Whereas the Country Music Association first celebrated "National Country Music Month" in 1964; and

Whereas President Nixon issued a presidential proclamation in 1970 to acknowledge October as "National Country Music Month": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2025 as "National Country Music Month";

(2) honors the contributions of country music to the story and history of the United States; and

(3) encourages the American people to observe "National Country Music Month" with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 475—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 1, 2025, AS "NATIONAL BISON DAY"

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZZMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. THUNE, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 475

Whereas, on May 9, 2016, the North American bison was adopted as the national mammal of the United States;

Whereas bison are considered a historical and cultural symbol of the United States;

Whereas bison are integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian Tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;

Whereas there are approximately 87 Indian Tribes participating in the InterTribal Buffalo Council, which is a Tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") (48 Stat. 988, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 5124);

Whereas numerous members of Indian Tribes are involved in bison restoration on Tribal land;

Whereas members of Indian Tribes have a combined herd of almost 25,000 bison on more than 1,000,000 acres of Tribal land in 22 States;

Whereas bison play an important role in the health of the wildlife, landscapes, and grasslands of the United States;

Whereas bison hold significant economic value for private producers and Tribal and rural communities;

Whereas, as of 2022, the Department of Agriculture estimates that 192,477 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs and contributing to the food security of the United States by providing a sustainable and healthy meat source;

Whereas a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

Whereas the Department of the Interior has launched the Bison Conservation Initiative, a 10-year cooperative initiative to coordinate the conservation and restoration of wild American bison;

Whereas a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

Whereas the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

Whereas the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

Whereas several sports teams and businesses have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic and cultural significance of bison in the United States;

Whereas Indigenous communities and a group of ranchers helped save bison from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the remaining bison of the diminished herds;

Whereas, on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;

Whereas, on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society sent 15 captive-bred bison from the New York Zoological Park, now known as the "Bronx Zoo", to the first big game refuge in the United States, now known as the "Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge";

Whereas, in 2005, the American Bison Society was reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, Native American leaders and bison herd managers, Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, artists, writers, young people, and natural and social scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a vision for the North American bison in the 21st century;

Whereas there are bison herds in national wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests, and other Federal land;

Whereas there are bison in State-managed herds across 11 States;

Whereas private, public, and Tribal bison leaders are working together to continue bison restoration throughout North America;

Whereas there is a growing effort to celebrate and officially recognize the historical, cultural, and economic significance of the North American bison to the heritage of the United States; and

Whereas members of Indian Tribes, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other public and private partners have celebrated the annual National Bison Day since 2012 and are committed to continuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday of November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 1, 2025, the first Saturday of November, as "National Bison Day"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions which are at the desk: S. Res. 474 and S. Res. 475.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.