

were each sentenced to more than 10 years in prison; and

(4) Pham Doan Trang, a Vietnamese journalist and writer, following a year in detention, was sentenced to 9 years in prison for “anti-state propaganda” in a judicial proceeding and imprisonment declared “arbitrary” by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;

Whereas press freedom continues to face challenges in sub-Saharan Africa, including in—

(1) Ethiopia, where a crackdown on the press amid the ongoing civil conflict has included—

(A) the 1-week suspension of the independent publication Addis Standard;

(B) the expulsion of New York Times reporter Simon Marks;

(C) the arbitrary arrests of numerous journalists who have been detained for up to several months, making the country the second-worst jailer of journalists in Sub-Saharan Africa;

(D) the exile of several other journalists who left the country afraid of persecution, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(E) the November 2021 arrest of Bikila Amenu and Dessu Dulla, 2 journalists who remain imprisoned as of April 2022;

(F) the May 2021 killing of journalist Sisay Fida, which was documented by the Committee to Protect Journalists to have occurred in connection to his journalistic work; and

(G) the January 2021 killing of another journalist, Dawit Kebede Araya, for reasons that remain unclear;

(2) Nigeria, where journalist Luke Binniyat was arrested in November 2021, was released on bail in February 2022, and faces 3 years in prison if convicted of sending false information under the Cybercrimes Act; and

(3) Eritrea, where—

(A) Medhanie Haile, co-founder of the Keste Debona newspaper, has been detained incommunicado since September 2001 and is suffering from serious health issues due to harsh prison conditions;

(B) Temesgen Ghebreyesus, editor of the Keste Debona newspaper, has also been detained incommunicado since September 2001;

(C) Idris Said Aba Arre, a freelance journalist and author, has been detained incommunicado and without charges since October 2001 after denouncing the mass arrest of a group of politicians known as the G-15;

(D) Dawit Isaak, co-owner of the newspaper Setit, since his arrest in September 2001, has been tortured, has been held in solitary confinement, and has been suffering from medical conditions which have worsened during detention; and

(E) Amanuel Asrat, a poet and editor-in-chief of Zemen, has been detained incommunicado since 2001;

Whereas the Turkish Journalists’ Association reported that—

(1) in 2021—

(A) 115 journalists faced physical violence;

(B) 73 journalists were detained, with at least 44 journalists remaining in prison at the end of the year;

(2) 3 out of every 5 journalists face threats during their career; and

(3) Turkey is maintaining its standing as—

(A) one of the world’s most oppressive environments for press freedom; and

(B) one of the world’s leading jailers of journalists;

Whereas in Turkey, the continued persecution of journalists and writers, initially targeted in 2016 during a nation-wide crackdown on dissent following the failed 2016 coup

against President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has resulted in lengthy sentences and judicial harassment, including Gültekin Avcı, a writer and former columnist with now-shuttered Bugün, who was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in December 2020 for “conspiracy”, where his columns were used as evidence of his alleged crime;

Whereas Morocco has experienced severe crackdowns on freedom of expression and supporters of a free press, including—

(1) Taoufik Bouachrine, the publisher and editor-in-chief of Akhbar al-Youm, who was arrested in February 2018 on retaliatory charges related to his journalism and is serving a 15-year sentence;

(2) Soulaïmane Raïssouni, a columnist and editor-in-chief Akhbar al-Youm, who succeeded publisher Taoufik Bouachrine and was arrested on similar retaliatory charges in May 2020 and is serving a 5-year sentence;

(3) Ali Anouzla, a journalist and editor of the news website Lakome, who has been repeatedly arrested on retaliatory charges relating to his journalism including “apologism for terrorism”, “material aid for terrorism”, and “incitement to terrorism”;

(4) Maati Monjib, a historian and advocate for free press, who was detained in December 2020 for 3 months on specious national security and fraud charges and remains subject to restrictive bail conditions;

(5) Omar Radi, a journalist who was arrested on suspicion of espionage in June 2020 shortly after Amnesty International reported that the Moroccan authorities hacked his phone and monitored his activities;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela continues to target independent media outlets, restricting the exercise of freedom of expression and severely limiting Venezuelan access to accurate information;

Whereas American journalists have been victimized while covering conflicts abroad, including—

(1) Christopher Allen, who was killed while covering the conflict in South Sudan on August 26, 2017, and whose killing has yet to be investigated by authorities after nearly 5 years;

(2) Austin Tice, who was kidnapped in Syria and has been held in captivity since August 12, 2012; and

(3) Brent Renaud, who was killed by Russian forces while covering the war in Ukraine on March 13, 2022;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assistance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and the Middle East Broadcast Networks—

(1) which report and broadcast news, information, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and

(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work; and

Whereas press freedom—

(1) is a key component of democratic governance, activism in civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

(2) enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation in civil society and democratic governance;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares that a free press—

(A) is a central component of free societies and democratic governance;

(B) contributes to an informed civil society and government accountability;

(C) helps to expose corruption;

(D) enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and

(E) disseminates information that is essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) expresses concerns about threats to the exercise of freedom of expression, including by the press, around the world;

(3) recognizes and commends journalism’s role in providing trusted, accurate, and timely information and in holding governments and leaders accountable to citizens;

(4) is dismayed that, under cover of the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments have restricted the work of journalists reporting on the public health crisis and on peaceful protests on a variety of issues;

(5) pays tribute to journalists who made tremendous sacrifices, including the loss of their lives, in the pursuit of truth and justice;

(6) condemns all actions around the world that suppress press freedom;

(7) calls for the unconditional and immediate release of all wrongfully detained journalists;

(8) reaffirms the centrality of press freedom to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(9) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to press freedom, on the basis of the protections for freedom of the press afforded the American people under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(B) to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(C) to promote the respect and protection of press freedom around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 610—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF ILLICIT ECONOMIES, ILLICIT TRADE, AND TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING, POSE A THREAT TO THE NATIONAL INTERESTS AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALLIES AND PARTNERS OF THE UNITED STATES AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 610

Whereas trade-based money laundering is among the most widely used and least understood forms of money laundering, disguising proceeds of crime by moving value through international trade transactions in an attempt to legitimize illicit origins of money or products;

Whereas the transnational nature and complexity of trade-based money laundering make detection and investigation exceedingly difficult;

Whereas drug trafficking organizations, terrorist organizations, and other transnational criminal organizations have succeeded at trade-based money laundering despite the best efforts of United States law enforcement;

Whereas trade-based money laundering includes other offenses such as tax evasion, disruption of markets, profit loss for businesses, and corruption of government officials, and constitutes a persistent threat to the economy and security of the United States;

Whereas trade-based money laundering can result in the decreased collection of customs duties as a result of the undervaluation of imports and fraudulent cargo manifests;

Whereas trade-based money laundering can decrease tax revenue collected as a result of the sale of underpriced goods in the marketplace;

Whereas trade-based money laundering is one mechanism by which counterfeiters infiltrate supply chains, threatening the quality and safety of consumer, industrial, and military products;

Whereas drug trafficking organizations collaborate with Chinese criminal networks to launder profits from drug trafficking through Chinese messaging applications;

Whereas on March 16, 2021, the Commander of the United States Southern Command, Admiral Fallor, testified to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate that transnational criminal organizations “market in drugs and people and guns and illegal mining, and one of the prime sources that underwrites their efforts is Chinese money-laundering”;

Whereas the deaths and violence associated with drug traffickers, the financing of terrorist organizations and other violent non-state actors, and the adulteration of supply chains with counterfeit goods showcase the danger trade-based money laundering poses to the United States;

Whereas trade-based money laundering undermines national security and the rule of law in countries where it takes place;

Whereas illicit profits for transnational criminal organizations and other criminal organizations can lead to instability globally;

Whereas the United States is facing a drug use and overdose epidemic, as well as an increase in consumption of synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine and fentanyl, which is often enabled by Chinese money laundering organizations operating in coordination with drug-trafficking organizations and transnational criminal organizations in the Western Hemisphere that use trade-based money laundering to disguise the proceeds of drug trafficking;

Whereas the presence of drug traffickers in the United States and their intrinsic connection to international threat networks, as well as the use of licit trade to further their motives, is a national security concern;

Whereas drug-trafficking organizations frequently use the trade-based money laundering scheme known as the “Black Market Peso Exchange” to move their ill-gotten gains out of the United States and into Central and South America;

Whereas United States ports and U.S. Customs and Border Protection do not have the capacity to properly examine the 60,000,000 shipping containers that pass through United States ports annually, with only 2 to 5 percent of that cargo actively inspected;

Whereas trade-based money laundering can only be combated effectively if the intelligence community, law enforcement agencies, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the private sector work together;

Whereas drug-trafficking organizations, terrorist organizations, and other transnational criminal organizations disguise the proceeds of their illegal activities behind sophisticated mechanisms that oper-

ate seamlessly between licit and illicit trade and financial transactions, making it almost impossible to address without international cooperation; and

Whereas the United States has established Trade Transparency Units with 18 partner countries, including with major drug-producing and transit countries, to facilitate the increased exchange of import-export data to combat trade-based money laundering; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the activities of transnational criminal organizations and their networks, and the means by which such organizations and networks move and launder their ill-gotten gains, such as through the use of illicit economies, illicit trade, and trade-based money laundering, pose a threat to the national interests and national security of the United States and allies and partners of the United States around the world;

(2) in addition to considering the countering of illicit economies, illicit trade, and trade-based money laundering as a national priority and committing to detect, address, and prevent such activities, the President should—

(A) continue to assess, in the periodic national risk assessments on money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing conducted by the Department of the Treasury, the ongoing risks of trade-based money laundering;

(B) finalize the assessment described in the Explanatory Statement accompanying the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2020 (division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-93)), which directs the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury to thoroughly assess the risk that trade-based money laundering and other forms of illicit finance pose to national security;

(C) work expeditiously to develop, finalize, and execute a strategy, as described in section 6506 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (title LXV of division F of Public Law 116-283; 134 Stat. 4631), drawing on the multiple instruments of United States national power available, to counter—

(i) the activities of transnational criminal organizations, including illicit trade and trade-based money laundering; and

(ii) the illicit economies such organizations operate in;

(D) coordinate with international partners to implement that strategy, exhorting those partners to strengthen their approaches to combating transnational criminal organizations; and

(E) review that strategy on a biennial basis and improve it as needed in order to most effectively address illicit economies, illicit trade, and trade-based money laundering by exploring the use of emerging technologies and other new avenues for interrupting and putting an end to those activities; and

(3) the Trade Transparency Unit program of the Department of Homeland Security should take steps to strengthen its work, including in countries that the Department of State has identified as major money laundering jurisdictions under section 489 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h).

SENATE RESOLUTION 611—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT) CONTINUES TO MAKE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SEEK A SUCCESSFUL NINTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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

S. RES. 611

Whereas the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) opened for signature 53 years ago on July 1, 1968, and entered into force in 1970;

Whereas the NPT is a cornerstone of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime and has grown to include 191 States Parties;

Whereas the United States remains committed to upholding the three pillars of the NPT, which include—

- (1) non-proliferation;
- (2) disarmament; and
- (3) the peaceful use of nuclear energy;

Whereas Article III of the NPT obligates each nonnuclear weapon state to the NPT to conclude a Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify treaty compliance, 174 of which are Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements crafted to detect the diversion of nuclear materials from peaceful to non-peaceful uses;

Whereas the IAEA strengthens the global nuclear and security framework and helps promote international nuclear cooperation, and IAEA safeguards are a requirement for United States bilateral nuclear cooperation;

Whereas the United States was the first country to conclude a safeguards agreement with the IAEA;

Whereas the 2018 Department of Defense Nuclear Posture Review affirms, “The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a cornerstone of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. It plays a positive role in building consensus for non-proliferation and enhances international efforts to impose costs on those that would pursue nuclear weapons outside the Treaty.”;

Whereas the success of the NPT has and will continue to depend upon the full implementation by all States Parties of the NPT's three mutually reinforcing pillars;

Whereas, over the past half century, the United States has exhibited leadership in strengthening each of the NPT's three pillars for the global good, including—

(1) reducing its nuclear weapons stockpile by 88 percent from its maximum in 1967 of 31,225 in parallel with equally massive reductions of the Russian Federation's stockpile through bilateral coordination;

(2) cooperating with former Soviet states to facilitate the surrender of nuclear weapons on their soil after the fall of the Soviet Union;

(3) providing voluntary contributions to the IAEA to promote peaceful nuclear activities exceeding \$378,000,000 since 2010, including activities that help in the treatment of cancer and other life-saving applications; and