

proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 456, expressing support for a free, fair, and peaceful December 4, 2021, election in The Gambia; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Gambian people on the successful 2016 and 2021 presidential elections and the April 2022 legislative election;

(2) supports the courageous and necessary work and recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission to bring accountability, healing, and reconciliation to the nation, and calls on the government to follow through with appropriate actions with regards to justice, accountability, and reparations for victims; and

(3) expresses the support of the American people in The Gambia’s continued and noteworthy democratic path forward.

SA 5032. Ms. CANTWELL (for Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 456, expressing support for a free, fair, and peaceful December 4, 2021, election in The Gambia; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, in 1965, The Gambia became independent from Great Britain;

Whereas, in 1970, The Gambia became a republic following a public referendum, and Dawda Jawara was elected president and subsequently reelected an additional five times;

Whereas, from 1970 to 1994, The Gambia was one of Africa’s longest running democracies and home to the continent’s human rights body, the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights;

Whereas, in 1994, President Jawara was forcibly removed from office in a coup by the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council (AFPRC), led by Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh;

Whereas, after two years of direct AFPRC rule that was heavily criticized by the international community, a flawed constitutional reform process occurred and The Gambia scheduled a new presidential election;

Whereas, in the lead up to the September 1996 presidential election, the Jammeh military government outlawed the country’s main opposition parties, restricted media freedom, prohibited meetings between rival candidates and foreign diplomats, and used soldiers to attack opposition rallies;

Whereas Jammeh won the 1996 presidential election in a process widely regarded as flawed by international observers;

Whereas President Jammeh won reelection in 2001, 2006, and 2011 in electoral processes marred by political repression, intimidation, and technical flaws;

Whereas Jammeh’s presidency saw targeted violence and widespread gross human rights violations, particularly against members of the media, including the murder of editor Deyda Hydara and the disappearance of journalist Ebrima Manneh;

Whereas President Jammeh personally ordered the kidnapping and torture of individuals he accused of “witchcraft” and threatened others over their sexual orientation;

Whereas thousands of Gambians fled into exile out of concern for their safety, becoming refugees in Africa at large and elsewhere;

Whereas the Jammeh government’s human rights record was widely criticized by regional and international human rights groups, as well as the United States, the European Union, and members of the United States Senate;

Whereas, in December 2016, opposition grand coalition candidate Adama Barrow, who campaigned on the promise of electoral and constitutional reform, won an upset election victory against President Jammeh;

Whereas, immediately after the 2016 election, Jammeh publicly accepted the defeat, but then later rejected the results and refused to depart the presidency;

Whereas Jammeh’s refusal to accept defeat was widely condemned, with the African Union refusing to recognize him as president and the Economic Community of West African States deploying an international intervention force to The Gambia;

Whereas, on January 19, 2017, Barrow was sworn in as president at the Gambian Embassy in Senegal;

Whereas, on January 20, 2017, Jammeh and his family departed The Gambia, reportedly stealing more than \$1,000,000,000 from state coffers, eventually to appear in Equatorial Guinea, where he remains in political exile with impunity;

Whereas President Barrow initially agreed to limit his term to a three-year transition ending on January 19, 2020, but later stated his intent to serve the full five-year constitutional term;

Whereas the Gambian Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission (TRRC) was established by an act of the Gambian Parliament to examine abuses committed during the Jammeh era and make recommendations as to whom to hold accountable;

Whereas more than 370 victims and former government officials testified at widely viewed TRRC hearings that documented widespread human rights abuses;

Whereas on November 25, 2021, the TRRC submitted its final report to President Barrow detailing the death of more than 240 people, torture, rape, and disappearances under the Jammeh regime;

Whereas on December 4, 2021, The Gambia held the first post-Jammeh era presidential election, which included six presidential candidates;

Whereas the December 4, 2021 election occurred peacefully, with high voter turnout and under the observation of a significant number of domestic and international monitors;

Whereas, on December 5, 2021, The Gambia’s Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) announced the results, showing that President Barrow had won reelection;

Whereas, on December 5, 2021, domestic election observers and other stakeholders released a joint statement noting that “the elections were conducted generally in an atmosphere of transparency and fairness as observed by domestic and international observers” and reminded candidates of the Code of Conduct for Peaceful Elections provision to “accept the results of the election as announced by the Chairperson of the IEC”;

Whereas, on December 5, 2021, former President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma, who led an election observation mission from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), appealed to all the Gambian candidates “to accept the outcome of the election in good faith”;

Whereas, on December 24, 2021, the Gambian Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission published its findings that former President Jammeh was responsible for more than 20 years of killings, torture, and rape and recommended that those responsible be prosecuted, saying, “To forgive and forget with impunity the violations and abuses ... would not only undermine reconciliation but would also constitute a massive and egregious cover-up of the crimes committed.”;

Whereas, on December 28, 2021, the Gambia Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to the election results; and

Whereas, on January 18, 2022, the Independent Electoral Commission announced that National Assembly elections would be held on April 9, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. CANTWELL. 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive session.

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, May 11, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an open hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sidney

Beasley, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 4190, S. 4191, AND H.R. 7691

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4190) to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid.

A bill (S. 4191) to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for the establishment or operation of the Disinformation Governance Board in the Department of Homeland Security.

A bill (H.R. 7691) making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Ms. CANTWELL. I now ask for a second reading and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I move to adjourn until 8:26 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:25 p.m. adjourned until Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 8:26 p.m.