

(2) “Authorities reportedly continued to deny the Baha’i, Sabean-Mandaean, and Yarsani religious communities, as well as members of other unrecognized religious minorities, access to education and government employment unless they declared themselves as belonging to one of the country’s recognized religions on their application forms.”; and

(3) “Government officials continued to disseminate anti-Baha’i and antisemitic messages using traditional and social media.”;

Whereas, in response to a surge in persecution in June and July 2022, involving the subjection of over 100 Baha’is to arrests, ar-raignments, sentencing, and raids on their homes and businesses across Iran, including the sentencing in June of 26 individuals in the city of Shiraz to a combined total of 85 years in prison, the Department of State’s Office of International Religious Freedom issued a statement on August 2, 2022, indicating that “[a]mid a continued rise in arrests, sentences, and imprisonments, the U.S. urges Iran to halt its ongoing oppression of the Baha’i community and honor its international obligations to respect the right of all Iranians to freedom of religion or belief”;

Whereas, on November 21, 2022, Mahvash Sabet and Fariba Kamalabadi, 2 former members of the informal 7-person leadership group of the Baha’is of Iran, who each served 10-year sentences from 2008 to 2018 and have been detained since July 31, 2022, in Evin prison, were sentenced to 10 years in prison each after a summary trial lasting 1 hour;

Whereas, on December 11, 2022, the Baha’i International Community organization stated that “Dr. Shirin Ebadi, the Nobel laureate and defence lawyer for Mahvash and Fariba during their first trial, said in 2008 that ‘not a shred of evidence’ was offered to prove the national security charges or other allegations. Nor was any new evidence forthcoming at this latest trial”;

Whereas, on December 11, 2022, the Baha’i International Community organization reported, “More than 320 Baha’is have been affected by individual acts of persecution since the arrest of Mahvash and Fariba. Dozens were arrested at various points in Shiraz, across Mazandaran province, and elsewhere throughout the country. Homes owned by Baha’is in the village of Roshankouh were demolished. Government plans to tar the Baha’is through hate speech and propaganda were also exposed. And at least 90 Baha’is are currently in prison or subject to degrading ankle-band monitoring.”;

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties, without reservation;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals who are “responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009”; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of the Baha’i minority in Iran and the continued violation of

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran—

(A) to immediately release the imprisoned or detained Baha’is and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(B) to end its state-sponsored campaign of hate propaganda against the Baha’is; and

(C) to reverse state-imposed policies denying Baha’is and members of other religious minorities equal opportunities to higher education, earning a livelihood, due process under the law, and the free exercise of religious practices;

(3) calls on the President and the Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran’s continued violation of human rights, and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha’i community of Iran.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 75—RE-AFFIRMING THE STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH AS INDIAN TERRITORY AND CON-DEMNING THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA’S PROVOCATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 75

Whereas, since the Sino-Indian war of 1962, the United States has recognized the McMahon Line as the international boundary between the People’s Republic of China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh;

Whereas the United States recognizes the state of Arunachal Pradesh not as disputed territory but as an integral part of the Republic of India, and this recognition is not qualified in any way;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China claims Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory, which it calls “South Tibet”, and has invoked these claims as part of its increasingly aggressive and expansionist policies;

Whereas, in December 2021, the People’s Republic of China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs published a detailed map of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh which assigned Mandarin-language names to 15 geographic features, including eight residential settlements, four mountain peaks, two rivers, and one mountain pass, as well as the names of the administrative regions where each of these are located;

Whereas, in December 2022, People’s Republic of China and Indian troops engaged in a skirmish in Arunachal Pradesh along the Line of Actual Control, the biggest clash in the Eastern Sector in six years;

Whereas the People’s Liberation Army engaged in provocative moves in the Western Sector along the Line of Actual Control starting in April 2020, including increasing troop deployments, building new infrastructure in contested areas, and harassing Indian patrols, particularly around the Depsang Plains, Galwan Valley, Hot Springs, and Pangong Lake;

Whereas these provocations by the People’s Republic of China upended then-im-

proving India-China relations and ultimately led to the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020, which resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has constructed two Chinese villages close to the Line of Actual Control near Arunachal Pradesh and expanded its territorial claims in Bhutanese territory in the Eastern Sector;

Whereas Arunachal Pradesh contains the Buddhist town of Tawang, home to the revered Tawang Monastery and is the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has raised diplomatic objections to visits to Arunachal Pradesh by the Dalai Lama and other leaders and has refused to grant residents of the Indian state visas for travel to China;

Whereas the provocations by the People’s Republic of China impede poverty alleviation and economic development in Arunachal Pradesh, where nearly 25 percent of the population lives in multidimensional poverty according to India’s 2021 National Multidimensional Poverty Index, leading many international donors to be cautious of providing assistance due to the state’s perceived status as disputed territory;

Whereas the Government of India has increased its funding for border infrastructure to improve accessibility in Arunachal Pradesh, as well as for village infrastructure, housing, tourist centers, road connectivity, and decentralized renewable energy production through India’s Vibrant Villages program;

Whereas the Government of India has taken steps to defend itself from aggression and security threats from the People’s Republic of China, including through securing its telecommunications infrastructure and conducting investment screening;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States to work both bilaterally with India through our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, as well as multilaterally through the Quad with Japan and Australia, and through the I2U2 with Israel and the United Arab Emirates;

Whereas there is significant and continuing progress in the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership, including ambitions for building an advanced and comprehensive defense partnership in which the armed forces of the United States and India coordinate across all domains; and

Whereas the Government of India is playing a significant leadership role on the global stage, including as part of its G20 presidency in 2023: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) unequivocally recognizes the state of Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of the Republic of India and supports the country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity;

(2) condemns the People’s Republic of China’s use of military force to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, as well as additional provocations including the construction of villages in contested areas, expansion of territorial claims in Bhutan, and publication of maps assigning Mandarin-language names to cities and features in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh;

(3) commends the Government of India for taking steps to defend itself against aggression and security threats from the People’s Republic of China, including through securing its telecommunications infrastructure, examining its procurement processes and supply chains, implementing investment screening standards, and expanding its cooperation with Taiwan in public health and other sectors;

(4) supports, as part of a joint vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, India's continued defense modernization, including its diversification away from countries that fail to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other nations;

(5) applauds the Government of India for increasing its development efforts in Arunachal Pradesh, including for improving border infrastructure, connectivity, and energy security, including renewable energy production;

(6) commits to deepening United States assistance to the region, including through the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development using funding mechanisms such as the Countering PRC Influence Fund;

(7) encourages like-minded international partners and donors to likewise bolster their assistance efforts to Arunachal Pradesh;

(8) supports further strengthening the United States-India bilateral partnership, including through enhanced defense interoperability and information-sharing especially for early warning systems, the United States-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology, further economic cooperation, and our broad and long-standing people-to-people ties; and

(9) promotes enhancing our multilateral cooperation with India through the Quad, the East Asia Summit alongside our partners in the Association for Southeast Asian Nations, and other international fora.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 76—EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA FOLLOWING THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE ON FEBRUARY 6, 2023**

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 76

Whereas, on February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern and central Türkiye, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally, and western Syria;

Whereas this is the most powerful earthquake recorded in Türkiye since 1939;

Whereas, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake epicenter was located approximately 16 miles east of Nurdagi, in Türkiye's Gaziantep province;

Whereas the USGS has registered more than 100 aftershocks between magnitudes 4.5 and 7.5;

Whereas the reported death toll has reached 42,000, thousands more people have been reported injured, hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes, and thousands of buildings have collapsed;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimates that 23,000,000 people, including 1,400,000 children, in Türkiye and Syria have likely been affected by the earthquake and more than 4,000,000 people already rely on humanitarian assistance in the region of northwest Syria that was affected by the earthquake;

Whereas countless people in the region and across the world have lost family, friends, and loved ones to the earthquakes and will be mourning their loss;

Whereas the United States Government responded immediately to the disaster and the United States Agency for International De-

velopment (USAID) has deployed a nearly 200-member Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Türkiye, including nearly 160 urban search-and-rescue teams, to provide life-saving assistance on both sides of the Türkiye-Syria border;

Whereas USAID has committed \$85,000,000 to date for USAID's humanitarian partners to deliver urgently-needed aid for millions of people in Türkiye and Syria;

Whereas individuals, businesses, and philanthropic and humanitarian organizations across the United States and throughout the international community have responded in support of Türkiye and Syria;

Whereas humanitarian access has been constrained by road closures, infrastructural damage, and weather conditions in Türkiye; and

Whereas access to the one official crossing for cross-border aid from the United Nations from Türkiye to northern Syria was heavily damaged, further delaying humanitarian access: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Türkiye and Syria following the devastating earthquake on February 6, 2023;

(2) commends the efforts and honors the sacrifice of the men and women engaged in the humanitarian response on the ground in the affected regions of Türkiye and Syria;

(3) commends as well the international humanitarian and nongovernmental organizations engaged in this effort;

(4) urges the United States Government, in coordination with appropriate local authorities in Türkiye and internationally recognized organizations and institutions in Syria, as well as other donors, to continue to provide emergency relief and reconstruction efforts in both countries as provided in the humanitarian exemptions of the United States Treasury's Syria Sanctions program;

(5) urges the United States Government to ensure that earthquake assistance does not—

(A) violate the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of Public Law 116-92; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note);

(B) facilitate reconstruction efforts that directly benefit the Assad regime;

(C) signal or support normalization with the Assad regime; or

(D) fuel continued regime atrocities against the people of Syria;

(6) encourages efforts by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and allies to assist Türkiye by providing—

(A) search-and-rescue teams;

(B) firefighters and structural engineers;

(C) medical personnel and supplies; and

(D) technical experts;

(7) urges the international community to continue to find alternative border crossings to ensure aid gets into affected areas in Syria;

(8) calls on the United Nations Security Council, to pass a resolution to allow for additional border crossings from Türkiye into northern Syria for aid convoys; and

(9) to allow full access for humanitarian aid organizations, urges the immediate cessation of violence in northern Syria.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 77—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 16, 2023, AS “NATIONAL ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY”**

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 77

Whereas Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, Tlingit, was a member of the Lukaa.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of aa gala.aat (referred to in this preamble as “Elizabeth”) who fought for social equality, civil liberties, and respect for Alaska Native and Native American communities;

Whereas Elizabeth, who was born in 1911 in Petersburg, Alaska, experienced discrimination as a Tlingit woman, and dedicated her life to creating a better future for Alaska Natives;

Whereas, more than 6,000 patriotic Alaska Natives protected the United States alongside non-Native Servicemen and women during World War II, despite suffering from unjust discrimination;

Whereas, in 1941, Elizabeth and her husband, Roy Peratrovich, moved to Juneau, the capital city of Alaska, to campaign tirelessly for the passage of the anti-discrimination legislation of Ernest Gruening, the Governor of Alaska, which would later result in the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945;

Whereas, in campaigning for the passage of anti-discrimination legislation, Elizabeth persevered for several years traveling across the Alaska Territory enabling, rallying, and uniting Alaska Natives to fight for recognition that they are created equal to others and equally endowed with “unalienable Rights”;

Whereas Elizabeth was a powerful orator who envisioned unity and then spoke it into existence through community advocacy and the support of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood;

Whereas Elizabeth testified strongly before the Alaska Territorial legislature vote on the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, passionately asking the legislature, “Have you eliminated larceny or murder by passing a law against it? No law will eliminate crimes but, at least you as legislators, can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination.”;

Whereas the Alaska Territorial Legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 on February 16, 1945, which was the first anti-discrimination law enacted in the history of the United States;

Whereas Elizabeth dedicated the rest of her life to create a better Alaska for future generations;

Whereas Elizabeth tragically died of cancer in 1958, but her legacy has not been forgotten;

Whereas, beginning in 1988, the State of Alaska has recognized February 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day; and

Whereas, in 2020, the United States Mint released the Elizabeth Peratrovich \$1 coin to commemorate the significant impact that Elizabeth had on advancing equality under the law in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 16, 2023, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day by remembering the work of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich and other civil rights leaders; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States and Members of Congress to commemorate the life and civil rights advocacy of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich by continuing the important work of ensuring equality for Alaska Natives and Native Americans.