

groups against United States and coalition forces, including—

(1) on December 3, 2023, when United States Armed Forces engaged 5 militants near Kirkuk, Iraq, preparing to launch a one-way attack drone;

(2) on November 22, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes against 2 facilities in Iraq;

(3) on November 21, 2023, when a United States AC-130 gunship engaged individuals responsible for launching a missile attack on United States and coalition forces at Al Assad Airbase, Iraq;

(4) on November 12, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes against facilities associated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups near the cities of Abu Kamal and Mayadin, Syria;

(5) on November 8, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes on a weapons storage facility in eastern Syria used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups; and

(6) on October 26, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted self-defense strikes on 2 facilities in eastern Syria used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups;

Whereas the United States maintains 900 members of the Armed Forces in Syria and 2,500 members in Iraq to advise and assist local forces to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State;

Whereas United States Armed Forces in Iraq also provide support to North Atlantic Treaty Organization Mission Iraq;

Whereas United States Armed Forces remain present in Iraq at the invitation of the Government of Iraq;

Whereas Iran-backed Houthi rebels have conducted a series of attacks on commercial ships traveling through the Red Sea, a vital global trade route, including—

(1) on December 3, 2023, when ballistic missiles fired by Houthi rebels struck 3 commercial ships in the Red Sea while a United States warship shot down 3 drones in self-defense;

(2) on December 13, 2023, when 2 missiles fired from territory held by Houthi rebels missed a commercial tanker loaded with jet fuel near the Bab el-Mandab Strait;

(3) on December 14, 2023, when a missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory missed a container ship in the Bab el-Mandab Strait;

(4) on December 15, 2023, when a ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels struck a container ship and caused it to catch fire; and

(5) on December 18, 2023, when Houthi rebels attacked 2 commercial ships in the Red Sea with naval drones;

Whereas such attacks threaten the safety of ships carrying oil, grain, and other goods through the Red Sea, many of which include cargo and energy shipments vital to the United States and partners in Europe and Asia;

Whereas such attacks have forced global shipping companies including MSC, Maersk, CMA CGM, BP, and others to stop using the Red Sea as a travel route for shipments; and

Whereas, on December 19, 2023, the United States announced Operation Prosperity Guardian, an expanded maritime protection force involving certain countries in the Middle East to combat attacks on vessels traveling through the Red Sea: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns attacks by Iran-backed militia groups on members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria and support by Iran for such attacks;

(2) calls on the administration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to increase pressure on

the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop such attacks and cease support for militia groups that target members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria;

(3) recognizes that maintaining United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria is critical to securing the national interests of the United States by maintaining regional stability and combatting terrorism;

(4) supports the priorities of the Commander of the United States Central Command to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran, counter violent extremist organizations, and compete strategically;

(5) commends the mission focus and resiliency of the United States Armed Forces in conducting self-defense strikes against Iran-backed militia groups that pose a threat to United States Armed Forces and interests in Iraq and Syria;

(6) recognizes the decision of the Biden administration to increase the presence of United States Armed Forces in the Middle East to deter Iran-backed militia groups from attacking members of the United States and undermining the national interests of the United States; and

(7) urges the Biden administration—

(A) to take steps necessary to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran from supporting further attacks; and

(B) to declare that further provocations by the Islamic Republic of Iran will be met with a swift and decisive response in full coordination with United States allies and partners to address the threat Iran-backed militia groups pose to the United States and allied forces in the Middle East.

SENATE RESOLUTION 516—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 516

Whereas Congress passed the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the “Endangered Species Act”) in December of 1973 by a vote of 92-0 in the Senate and 355-4 in the House of Representatives;

Whereas President Richard Nixon, upon signing the Endangered Species Act into law, stated, “Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed. It is a many-faceted treasure, of value to scholars, scientists, and nature lovers alike, and it forms a vital part of the heritage we all share as Americans [and] which we hold in trust to countless future generations of our fellow citizens.”;

Whereas decades of polling have shown strong bipartisan support for the Endangered Species Act, with more than 4 out of 5 citizens of the United States in favor of it;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act is one of the most successful conservation laws ever enacted by any country, and 99 percent of species protected under the Act have been saved from extinction, including the humpback whale, grizzly bear, and bald eagle;

Whereas thanks to the Endangered Species Act, gray whales still swim our coasts, peregrine falcons still soar our skies, and polar bears still roam the Arctic tundra;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act is currently helping protect and recover more than 2,000 species of plants and animals that are threatened or endangered;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act provides added benefits to people by maintaining healthy natural systems that provide us with clean air and water, food, medicines, and other benefits that we all need to live healthy lives;

Whereas the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services published a study in 2019 that estimated that 25 percent of assessed taxa of plants and animals and 10 percent of insects, which account for 75 percent of all species, could be threatened with extinction;

Whereas, globally, 1,000,000 animal and plant species face extinction within the coming decades, and millions more are declining as habitat loss, climate change, wildlife exploitation, pollution, and other human activities continue to threaten their survival;

Whereas North America alone has lost nearly 3,000,000 birds since 1970, which means more than 1 in 4 birds that have disappeared from the landscape in a mere half a century, and in that same time frame, global wildlife populations have declined by an average of 69 percent;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly half of all ecosystems are at risk of range-wide collapse;

Whereas, as of October 2023, a total of 2,363 species of animals and plants were listed as either endangered or threatened, and 1,668 of all listed species occur in the United States and its territories, and the remainder (695 species) occur solely in other countries;

Whereas the unraveling of the natural world remains a fundamental threat to the well-being of all humanity, which depends on millions of species and the countless services that the web of life provides, and each extinction brings closer the collapse of these planetary life-support systems, including carbon sequestration, pollination, water purification, oxygen production, and disease regulation;

Whereas the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that climate change has caused local species losses, increases in disease, and mass mortality events of plants and animals, resulting in the first climate-driven extinctions, ecosystem restructuring, increases in areas burned by wildfire, and declines in key ecosystem services;

Whereas the planet is experiencing a biodiversity crisis, which many scientists conclude is the sixth mass extinction event, with plant and wildlife species across the globe facing heightened risk of extinction that is largely driven by human activity;

Whereas the United States has prioritized the conservation of imperiled species by enacting the Endangered Species Act and other landmark conservation statutes; and

Whereas the recovery of species under the Endangered Species Act is a remarkable success that should be celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—CONDEMNING THE HOSTILITIES IN SUDAN AND STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN IN THEIR CALLS FOR PEACE AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS

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

S. CON. RES. 24

Whereas, on April 15, 2023, hostilities broke out in Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary force formed from the Janjaweed militia that committed acts of genocide in Darfur since 2003, and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), which like the RSF has a history of committing atrocities both in Sudan's civil wars and against pro-democracy protestors from 2019-2022;

Whereas, according to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, on April 17, 2023, just days following the outbreak of fighting, the humanitarian situation in Sudan was "already precarious and is now catastrophic";

Whereas, on April 23, 2023, the United States temporarily suspended operations at its embassy in Khartoum and evacuated embassy personnel from the country;

Whereas the war has created the world's largest displacement crisis, with over 7,000,000 people, including 3,000,000 children, displaced since the war began, and over half of the population in Sudan needs humanitarian assistance;

Whereas widespread rape and sexual violence is being used as a weapon of war, and over 4,200,000 women and girls in Sudan are at risk for sexual violence according to the United Nations;

Whereas Sudan was identified by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Early Warning Project as one of the top ten countries at risk for new mass killings in its 2022-2023 report, and the Museum warned in June 2023 about the dire risk of genocide in Darfur;

Whereas Secretary of State Blinken issued an atrocities determination for Sudan on December 6, 2023, finding that the SAF and RSF have committed war crimes in Sudan, and that the RSF and allied militias have committed crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing;

Whereas impunity for violations of international humanitarian law has characterized the conflict in Sudan;

Whereas the United States and Saudi Arabia have engaged in multiple rounds of "emergency diplomacy" in Jeddah since May, during which the parties to the conflict have repeatedly made confidence-building, ceasefire, and humanitarian commitments that were immediately violated;

Whereas, in October 2023, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution establishing an independent Fact-Finding Mission with a mandate to investigate abuses committed in the context of the war in Sudan;

Whereas leadership in neither the SAF or RSF represent the people of Sudan nor have a legitimate claim to leadership of the country, and there is no military solution to the political situation in Sudan;

Whereas reports indicate some international actors have taken actions that constitute repeated violations of the existing United Nations arms embargo for Darfur; and

Whereas the outbreak of hostilities has destabilized Sudan, and represents a threat to regional stability more broadly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns the hostilities in Sudan since April 15, 2023, the brazen and brutal attacks on civilians, including systemic use of rape as a weapon of war, and the widespread destruction of civilian residences, businesses, and infrastructure;

(2) stands with the people of Sudan in their calls for peace and their democratic aspirations;

(3) calls for the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to—

(A) permanently cease hostilities;

(B) stop attacks on civilians;

(C) remove all roadblocks and checkpoints, and allow for the safe passage of civilians and the unfettered delivery of humanitarian assistance; and

(D) comply with international humanitarian law and cease all atrocities against civilians;

(4) calls on the President to name an experienced, high level United States Special Envoy for Sudan, that reports directly to the President or the Secretary of State, to coordinate a comprehensive United States policy and diplomatic efforts and to work with international partners to address the complex crisis in Sudan;

(5) calls on the Secretary of State to—

(A) regularly review and update the atrocities determination for Sudan, to include whether atrocities committed constitute genocide;

(B) provide continued assistance to organizations documenting violations of international humanitarian law, and to share, as appropriate, information with international bodies investigating atrocities, including war crimes and crimes against humanity;

(C) support enhanced end use monitoring of weapons sold by the United States to determine if United States defense articles, defense services, or any other type of security sector assistance have been diverted to the SAF and RSF;

(D) coordinate with—

(i) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development on efforts to establish and maintain humanitarian access, and to support an inclusive, civilian-led political dialogue;

(ii) the Department of the Treasury to develop a comprehensive strategy utilizing existing sanctions authorities applicable to Sudan, with priority given to the designation of the leadership in the RSF and SAF, and to actors which supply, or facilitate the supply of arms and materiel to belligerents, for targeted sanctions; and

(iii) the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to ensure the United Nations Security Council reports violations of the Darfur arms embargo and works to prioritize efforts to protect civilians, and to pursue efforts to establish a credible mechanism for accountability for atrocities, including any that may constitute genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity; and

(E) work, through a high level United States Special Envoy for Sudan, with partners to engage members of the international community to join United States efforts to end the conflict and promote accountability, including by setting clear criteria for establishing a more inclusive alternative to the Jeddah talks; and

(6) calls on international allies and partners, particularly neighboring countries and partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council and others with direct interests in the Sudan conflict, to—

(A) join United States efforts to—

(i) pressure the parties to cease hostilities;

(ii) explore options to protect civilians from mass atrocities;

(iii) empower Sudanese civilians to establish a path toward a peaceful democratic transition;

(iv) support the establishment of credible mechanisms for accountability;

(v) impose targeted sanctions on SAF and RSF members who are responsible for violations of international humanitarian law, corruption, and undermining Sudan's transition to democracy, and actors who supply or fa-

cilitate the supply of arms and materiel to either party;

(vi) take steps, as appropriate, including through imposition of sanctions, to pressure belligerents to return to the rule of law as set forth by the transitional constitution and immediately cease violations of existing United Nations arms embargoes and to deter any effort by external parties to support parties financially or with arms and materiel; and

(vii) provide robust in-kind and financial contributions to humanitarian assistance efforts; and

(B) suspend Sudan's participation in all regional and multilateral organizations until a civilian-led government is established.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1379. Mr. MERKLEY (for Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 484, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

SA 1380. Mr. MERKLEY (for Ms. ERNST) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 423, recognizing the University of Iowa women's basketball team's historic "Cross-over at Kinnick" game and the importance of women's sports.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1379. Mr. MERKLEY (for Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 484, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Combating Human Rights Abuses Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RELATING TO AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide training described in subsection (b) to such employees of the Department of Commerce who provide counseling services to businesses engaged in interstate commerce or foreign direct investment as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF TRAINING.—The training required under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) designed to raise awareness about emerging trends and issues with respect to human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including the use of forced labor, against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority populations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; and

(2) incorporated to the greatest extent possible into existing training provided by the Department of Commerce.

(c) TIMING.—The training required under subsection (a) shall be offered and updated at such times as the Secretary considers appropriate.