

commitment to include women from Sudan's civil society in internationally brokered peace talks.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 832—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, AS “NATIONAL STILLBIRTH PREVENTION DAY”, RECOGNIZING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT HAVE ENDURED A STILLBIRTH, AND SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP OTHER FAMILIES FROM EXPERIENCING THE SAME TRAGEDY**

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 832

Whereas approximately 21,000 pregnancies in the United States end in stillbirth each year, and the lack of access to maternal health care services has exacerbated the crisis;

Whereas racial disparities persist in birth outcomes, with Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Hispanic families at the greatest risk of losing a baby to stillbirth;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual number of stillbirths far exceeds the number of deaths among children under 15 years of age due to sudden infant death syndrome, car accidents, drowning, guns, fire, poison, and flu combined;

Whereas stillbirths are devastating and have a profound and lifelong impact on the families who endure them;

Whereas losing a baby to stillbirth is linked to an increased risk of maternal morbidity and mortality;

Whereas, with increased awareness and better data collection, the United States will be able to better understand why stillbirths in the United States are happening at an alarming rate and identify what can be done to combat this crisis;

Whereas proven stillbirth prevention efforts have the power to save thousands of babies every year, and innovations in stillbirth prevention could save thousands of additional families nationwide every year from the heartache of losing a baby;

Whereas recognizing “National Stillbirth Prevention Day” is an opportunity to increase awareness, support evidence-based prevention efforts, promote research, encourage improved data collection and greater understanding, and provide support to those who have experienced a stillbirth; and

Whereas “National Stillbirth Prevention Day”

(1) celebrates the passage of the Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act (Public Law 118-69; 138 Stat. 1485), which opens up more Federal resources for stillbirth prevention activities and research; and

(2) calls on the President and all other Federal officials to use their authority to take action to help reduce stillbirths and to ensure every expectant family is educated on how to reduce the risk of losing a baby to stillbirth: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Stillbirth Prevention Day”;

(2) understands the importance of advancing evidence-based prevention efforts; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe “National Stillbirth Prevention Day” with appropriate awareness programs and activities.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 833—COUNTERING DISINFORMATION, PROPAGANDA, AND MISINFORMATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AND CALLING FOR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE SIGNIFICANT DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS THAT THE RISE IN DISINFORMATION, PROPAGANDA, AND MISINFORMATION IN REGIONAL INFORMATION ENVIRONMENTS HAS ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND UNITED STATES NATIONAL INTERESTS**

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 833

Whereas the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of the press are core pillars of democratic governance throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, as recognized in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, done at Lima September 11, 2001;

Whereas the vulnerability of existing information environments in Latin America and the Caribbean and the growing spread of inaccurate or false news through disinformation and misinformation activities pose serious threats to democratic governance and human rights in the Americas, which are likely to be further exacerbated by the rise of disinformation generated and enhanced by artificial intelligence;

Whereas disinformation and misinformation activities in Latin American and the Caribbean have—

(1) promoted harmful, false narratives spread by the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, according to research by Global Americans and the Equis Institute, including with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and the unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation;

(2) posed risks to the integrity of electoral processes throughout the region, including in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, according to a report entitled “Disinformation in Democracies: Strengthening Digital Resilience in Latin America” issued in March 2019 by the Atlantic Council;

(3) contributed to protests in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador, oftentimes amplified by operations linked to the Russian Federation, according to reporting by the New York Times;

(4) contributed to the exploitation of migrants by human smuggling networks that drive irregular migration, according to multiple investigations by the Tech Transparency Project; and

(5) contributed to a rise in xenophobic violence against migrants and refugees, according to multiple sources, including the Digital Forensic Research Lab;

Whereas information environments are closely interconnected between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean, such that disinformation and misinformation flows between Latino populations in the United States and populations in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to a report entitled “Latinos and a Growing Cri-

sis of Trust” issued in June 2022 by the Equis Institute;

Whereas, according to the report entitled “Measuring the Impact of Misinformation, Disinformation, and Propaganda in Latin America” issued in October 2021 by Global Americans (referred to in this preamble as the “Global Americans Report”), intra- and extra-regional actors operate independently and in tandem to create and spread disinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean on both traditional and digital media platforms, including YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp, and Telegram, where such activities are amplified through coordinated inauthentic behavior, such as the use of bots, trolls, and cyber troops;

Whereas political actors throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have manipulated domestic information environments by targeting citizens through disinformation activities, including in—

(1) Brazil, where former President Jair Bolsonaro had a direct role in spreading electoral disinformation, according to the Superior Electoral Court of Brazil and the Federal Police of Brazil;

(2) El Salvador, where President Nayib Bukele uses coordinated inauthentic networks to attack political opponents and bolster the perception of support for his policies, according to reporting by Reuters;

(3) Guatemala, where malicious actors with links to the then ruling party of former President Alejandro Giammattei carried out information operations to artificially amplify narratives eroding trust in the country's 2023 electoral process and targeting now President Bernardo Arevalo and his political party Semilla, according to research by the Digital Forensic Research Lab;

(4) Honduras, where actors linked to former President Juan Orlando Hernandez developed coordinated inauthentic networks to spread falsehoods about, and undermine support for, opposition party candidates, according to reporting by Time;

(5) Mexico, where President Andrés Manuel López Obrador spreads false and misleading narratives against the media and other independent institutions, according to research by the Digital Forensic Research Lab; and

(6) Venezuela, where actors linked to the regime of Nicolás Maduro have engaged in a sustained and synchronized campaign of disinformation to undermine the country's 2023-2024 electoral process, invalidate the results of such elections, and attack Maria Corina Machado and other opposition leaders, according to multiple sources, including the Digital Forensic Research Lab;

Whereas, in addition to spreading and amplifying disinformation against their own populations, authoritarian regimes in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela have also engaged in such activities against other countries in the region for purposes of undermining democratic values and spreading narratives contrary to the interests of the United States and its allies, including through coordinated efforts with extra-regional actors, such as publishing and amplifying false narratives by Russian state-controlled media outlets;

Whereas, according to the Global Americans Report, the Governments of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran have engaged in disinformation and propaganda operations aimed at undermining the influence and interests of the United States in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly through the use of state-affiliated media networks targeting Spanish-speaking audiences, such as CGTN TV and Xinhua News, RT and Sputnik, and HispanTV;

Whereas, according to a public statement by the Department of State on November 7,

2023, the Russian Federation is “currently financing an on-going, well-funded disinformation campaign across Latin America”, including in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay;

Whereas, according to the Digital Forensic Research Lab and EUvsDisinfo, the Russian Federation considers social media outreach to Spanish-speaking and Portuguese-speaking audiences an important component of its state-sponsored media strategy, and the Spanish-language social media accounts of Kremlin-controlled media RT and Sputnik have more followers and engagement than their English- and Russian-language counterparts and comparable programming from the United States Agency for Global Media;

Whereas information environments in Latin America and the Caribbean are further distorted by the rise in the practice of disinformation for hire, by which political actors outsource information operations to regional and extra-regional public relations firms that impersonate local news outlets, civic organizations, and other entities through fake social media accounts and engage in other deceptive practices to create and amplify disinformation for profit;

Whereas the threats and effects of disinformation and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean are exacerbated by—

(1) the widespread use of social media and closed messaging platforms, where disinformation and misinformation is spread faster and farther, as primary communication and news sources, as indicated by the Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2022;

(2) high barriers of access to other forms of independent media and low media and digital literacy rates that lead to the unintentional spread of disinformation and misinformation;

(3) growing levels of distrust in public institutions, as indicated by recent AmericasBarometer surveys by the Latin American Public Opinion Project; and

(4) low levels of transnational coordination among relevant stakeholders within the region;

Whereas, on March 3, 2017, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Organization of American States (OAS) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information issued a declaration entitled “Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Fake News, Disinformation and Propaganda”, which cautioned against the criminalization and regulation of disinformation and misinformation activities and called instead for joint efforts by relevant stakeholders;

Whereas some current efforts by governments in Latin American and the Caribbean to counter disinformation raise serious freedom of expression concerns that run counter to the recommendations made in the “Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Fake News, Disinformation and Propaganda”;

Whereas government and political actors in some Latin American and Caribbean countries have undertaken notable efforts to address the threat of disinformation in ways consistent with the protection of freedoms of expression and the press, including—

(1) political parties in Uruguay, which signed an ethics pact in April 2019 pledging to not generate or promote disinformation against political adversaries; and

(2) the national electoral institution of Panama, which engaged in joint workshops

with the electoral institutions of Argentina in June 2019 and Costa Rica in September 2021 to share best practices on monitoring and countering information operations on social media;

Whereas, despite discernible progress in taking down accounts used by prominent, often foreign-backed, disinformation networks to engage in coordinated inauthentic activity and partnering with regional stakeholders, efforts by social media companies, including Facebook and Twitter, to address disinformation and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to be hampered by—

(1) insufficient resources and attention devoted to countering such activities in low- and middle-income countries, as documented by multiple sources, including the Facebook Papers;

(2) significant gaps in the detection and enforcement of Spanish-language disinformation and misinformation relative to such English-language activities;

(3) enduring barriers to transparency and access for social media datasets and algorithms that are critical to independent disinformation and misinformation research; and

(4) limited cooperation among social media companies on plans and best practices to mitigate disinformation networks operating across platforms;

Whereas independent media, civil society, and academic groups have launched several initiatives to address disinformation and misinformation on social media and closed messaging platforms in Latin America and the Caribbean through fact-checking, media and digital literacy, and information sharing services, including Chequeado, Comprova, Verificado, and Cazadores de Fake News; and

Whereas the United States has pursued efforts to support the strengthening of information environments, promote independent media, and counter disinformation activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, including through initiatives led by the Global Engagement Center, the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Agency for Global Media, and United States embassies in the region; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the serious threats the distortion of information environments through the creation and amplification of disinformation and misinformation on traditional and digital media platforms poses to democratic governance and human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(2) denounces independent and coordinated efforts by malicious actors to create and amplify disinformation in the Western Hemisphere, including foreign information operations led by the Governments of the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, and Nicaragua and the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

(3) urges social media companies to take additional steps to address how social media platforms are used to facilitate malicious activities, including disinformation, in Latin America and the Caribbean, including by—

(A) devoting significantly more resources to monitoring how such platforms are being exploited to spread false news, incite violence, and interfere with democratic electoral processes in the region;

(B) strengthening detection and removal enforcement capabilities against sources of Spanish-language and other non-English disinformation content;

(C) improving transparency over regional content moderation efforts to counter disinformation, the training and auditing of social media algorithms for Spanish-lan-

guage and other non-English content, and datasets critical for disinformation and misinformation research;

(D) expanding and strengthening partnerships with local actors, including initiatives with third-party fact checkers and independent, democratic electoral institutions;

(E) investing in media and digital literacy education in the region; and

(F) strengthening coordination with one another on plans and best practices to help limit the spread of disinformation content online;

(4) calls on governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to counter disinformation activities and strengthen information environments by—

(A) bolstering regional mechanisms to coordinate responses and share best practices on countering disinformation;

(B) advancing efforts by political parties and other actors to publicly commit to refrain from generating or amplifying disinformation content through coordinated inauthentic behavior or outsourcing such activities to public relations firms; and

(C) safeguarding and strengthening free and independent media, promoting fact-checking, increasing use of digital forensics, and boosting media literacy efforts by civil society, journalists, and academia; and

(5) calls on the President and the heads of all relevant Federal agencies and departments to strengthen the role of the United States in countering the creation and amplification of disinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean and bolstering regional information environments, including by—

(A) increasing support for the activities described in paragraph (4);

(B) ensuring strong support for and coordination of concurrent efforts between all relevant bureaus and offices of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development;

(C) ensuring strong support for relevant efforts within the United States Agency for Global Media;

(D) convening regional fora, with participation from all relevant stakeholders, to discuss and develop methods to promote a strong, independent media and counter the spread and amplification of disinformation, including through a high-level summit and a Global Engagement Center Tech Challenge;

(E) pursuing measures—such as public identification, targeted sanctions, and information sharing and coordination with social media companies in identifying accounts spreading disinformation—to deter and hold accountable government officials in Latin America and the Caribbean who undermine democratic governance by targeting independent media or engaging in activities to create and amplify disinformation; and

(F) strengthening the capacity of the United States Government to mitigate the impact and influence of local state-affiliated media outlets of malicious extra-regional actors by offering objective, reliable, and accurate information, including through—

(i) increased investment in public diplomacy programming by the United States in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly programming aimed at engaging with local audiences through social media and messaging platforms; and

(ii) increased resources and programming from the United States Agency for Global Media tailored to audiences in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 834—RE-AFFIRMING THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' CLAIM OVER SECOND THOMAS SHOAL AND SUPPORTING THE FILIPINO PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO COMBAT AGGRESSION BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA**

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

S. RES. 834

Whereas Second Thomas Shoal (also known as "Ayungin Shoal") is located within the Spratly Islands inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone;

Whereas in 1951, the United States and the Republic of the Philippines signed the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, making the two countries treaty allies;

Whereas in 1999, the Philippine Navy intentionally grounded the BRP Sierra Madre on Second Thomas Shoal to establish a maritime outpost in the Spratly Islands;

Whereas since grounding the BRP Sierra Madre, the Philippines has continuously hosted a contingent of Philippine Marines on the ship;

Whereas the People's Republic of China falsely claims "indisputable sovereignty" over Second Thomas Shoal and other areas surrounding the shoal;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has repeatedly engaged in increasingly hostile and aggressive behavior towards Filipino fishermen and Coast Guard vessels around Second Thomas Shoal, including by deploying tear gas, firing water cannons, deliberately ramming other vessels, and blocking Philippine vessels' maritime routes;

Whereas in December 2023, a vessel operated by the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China surrounded a Filipino supply ship and assaulted it with water cannons as it operated in an area around Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on May 19, 2024, the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China harassed and attempted to stop a Philippine vessel that was evacuating sick personnel from the BRP Sierra Madre;

Whereas on June 17, 2024, the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China brutally assaulted a Philippine Coast Guard vessel en route to resupply the BRP Sierra Madre, which injured at least eight Filipino sailors and caused one Filipino sailor to lose a thumb;

Whereas on July 22, 2024, it was reported that the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines reached an agreement designed to reduce hostilities around Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on August 19, 2024, the People's Republic of China ignored the July 22, 2024, agreement and intentionally rammed two Philippine Coast Guard vessels on a resupply mission near Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas on August 26, 2024, the People's Republic of China deployed 40 ships to block two Philippine vessels, which were attempting to resupply the BRP Teresa Magbanua, the flagship of the Philippine Coast Guard;

Whereas on August 31, 2024, vessels operated by the People's Republic of China repeatedly rammed and surrounded the BRP Teresa Magbanua in an area east of Second Thomas Shoal, which caused damages to its hull;

Whereas Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has reiterated the United States policy that "an armed attack on Philippine Armed

Forces' public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific, including the South China Sea, would invoke U.S. defense commitments under our mutual defense treaty";

Whereas the Department of State has reaffirmed that the United States "stands with its ally, the Philippines, and condemns the dangerous and escalatory actions by the People's Republic of China (PRC) against lawful Philippine maritime operations ..."; and

Whereas, the Department of State has also stated, "The United States reaffirms that Article IV of the 1951 United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft - including those of its Coast Guard - anywhere in the South China Sea": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that—

(A) Second Thomas Shoal lies within the exclusive economic zone of the Republic of the Philippines; and

(B) the People's Republic of China's effort to harass and endanger Philippine vessels in the area are violations of Philippine sovereign rights;

(2) supports efforts to increase military assistance to the Republic of the Philippines to assist in its effort to combat blatant aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea, including near Second Thomas Shoal;

(3) reaffirms the commitments made by the United States to the Republic of the Philippines in the 1951 United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty; and

(4) encourages increased cooperation and training with the Republic of the Philippines, including with the Philippine Coast Guard, and strong investments in United States shipbuilding and other United States military capabilities to ensure that our obligations to the Philippines will be carried out.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 835—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE (THE "QUAD") AND WELCOMING THE UPCOMING QUAD LEADERS SUMMIT**

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

S. RES. 835

Whereas Australia, India, Japan, and the United States are 4 leading maritime democracies representing nearly 2,000,000,000 people and over ⅓ of global gross domestic product;

Whereas this grouping of countries, known as the "Quad", was launched 20 years ago in response to the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami;

Whereas, since its inception, the Quad partners have demonstrated their commitment to the success of the Indo-Pacific region by supporting regional institutions and promoting cooperation, mutual respect for sovereignty, and a rules-based international order;

Whereas Quad Foreign Ministers have met 8 times since 2019;

Whereas Quad Leaders have met 5 times, including twice virtually, since 2021, including most recently in Sydney in 2023;

Whereas Quad country representatives convene on a regular basis at all levels to exchange ideas and drive cooperation toward our shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States has directed over \$100,000,000 in foreign assistance to

Quad-related programs, designed to build an Indo-Pacific region that is prosperous, secure, connected, and resilient;

Whereas the Quad, through the Quad Vaccine Partnership, provided 400,000,000 COVID-19 vaccines and expanded vaccine production capacity in the Indo-Pacific region during the COVID-19 pandemic and has strengthened the Indo-Pacific's ability to detect and respond to outbreaks of diseases with pandemic potential through the Health Security Partnership;

Whereas, in 2022, the Quad established the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness to provide near-real-time, cost-effective, cutting-edge maritime domain awareness, enabling over 2 dozen countries to monitor their waters, counter illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, respond to climate change and natural disasters, and enforce their laws within their own territorial waters;

Whereas the Quad continues to deliver quality, resilient infrastructure around the Indo-Pacific region to increase connectivity, build regional capacity, and meet critical needs;

Whereas the Quad welcomed the 2023 launch of the Quad Investors Network, a nongovernmental network fostering private sector investment into critical and emerging technologies in Quad countries and across the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the Quad has demonstrated leadership in promoting the development and governance of critical and emerging technologies, ensuring the protection of democratic values and human rights in the digital age;

Whereas, in 2023, Quad Leaders launched the Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience and have invested in trusted undersea cables to enhance digital connectivity and secure, sustainable, and resilient telecommunications infrastructure among the Pacific Islands;

Whereas, in 2023, the Quad launched an Open RAN deployment in Palau to bring secure, trusted information and communications technology infrastructure, the first project of its kind in the Pacific;

Whereas the Quad has fostered people-to-people exchanges between citizens of the United States, Japan, India, and Australia through exchange programs for infrastructure experts and STEM students, including the Quad Fellowship program; and

Whereas, in September 2024, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan will visit the United States for the fourth Quad Leaders Summit at the invitation of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the Quad Leaders to the United States;

(2) recognizes the Quad's significant contributions to global health security, climate resilience, maritime security, technological cooperation, and economic development;

(3) welcomes and encourages sustained cooperation among Quad countries;

(4) stands ready to support efforts to strengthen the Quad and advance its objective of delivering tangible benefits for the Indo-Pacific region;

(5) affirms the Quad as a centerpiece of United States foreign policy within the Indo-Pacific region;

(6) views the Quad as an important mechanism for upholding the rules-based international order and a source of United States strength;

(7) recognizes the importance of expanding people-to-people programs between the 4 Quad member countries, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands;