

growth, some indigenous and ethnic minority communities benefitted little from improved economic conditions, even though such communities formed a majority of the population in certain areas, including the Northwest and Central Highlands and portions of the Mekong Delta;

Whereas the 2018 Human Rights Report states that, although Vietnamese law prohibits discrimination against ethnic minorities, such social discrimination was longstanding and persistent, notably in the Central Highlands;

Whereas the 2018 Human Rights Report documents that land rights protesters have reported regular instances of government authorities physically harassing and intimidating them at land expropriation sites around the country, or arresting local residents for “causing public disorder”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) references in its 2019 Annual Report (the “2019 USCIRF Report”) the accounts of Montagnards being publicly berated and humiliated for their affiliation with the unrecognized Evangelical Church of Christ;

Whereas the 2019 USCIRF Report documents that one-quarter of prisoners of conscience were minority religious groups, including the Montagnards;

Whereas the 2019 USCIRF Report estimates that 10,000 individuals in the Central Highlands are refused ID cards, household registration, and birth certificates by local authorities in retaliation for refusing to renounce their faith; and

Whereas USCIRF has recommended every year since 2002 that Vietnam be designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) due to “systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of the Montagnards who fought loyally and bravely with United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and who continue to suffer persecution in Vietnam as a result of this relationship;

(2) condemns ongoing actions by the Government of Vietnam to suppress basic human rights and civil liberties for all its citizens;

(3) calls on the Government of Vietnam to allow human rights groups access to all regions of the country and to end restrictions of basic human rights, including the right for Montagnards to practice their Christian faith freely, the right to land and property, freedom of movement, the right to retain ethnic identity and culture, and access to an adequate standard of living; and

(4) urges the President and Congress to develop policies that support Montagnards and other marginalized ethnic minority and indigenous populations in Vietnam and reflect United States interests and commitment to upholding human rights and democracy abroad.

SENATE RESOLUTION 370—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH” AND OCTOBER 23, 2019, AS “UNITY DAY”

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 370

Whereas 1 in 5 students report being bullied and nearly 16 percent of students report being cyberbullied;

Whereas students who experience bullying are at an increased risk for poor school adjustment, sleep difficulties, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas National Bullying Prevention Month was founded in 2006 by the National Bullying Prevention Center of the PACER Center and has been held during the month of October each year since;

Whereas National Bullying Prevention Month is a nationwide campaign that seeks to educate the public about, and raise awareness of, bullying prevention;

Whereas individuals, families, schools, school districts, communities, and many others have hosted thousands of events to spread the message of National Bullying Prevention Month;

Whereas Unity Day was started by the National Bullying Prevention Center in October 2011 and is the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month;

Whereas Unity Day has been held on the third or fourth Wednesday of each October since 2011 and will be recognized in 2019 on October 23;

Whereas the goal of Unity Day is to bring together youth, parents, educators, businesses, and community members across the United States to emphasize—

- (1) a message of uniting for kindness, acceptance, inclusion, and mutual respect;
- (2) that all students deserve to be safe in school, online, and in their communities;
- (3) that there is value in celebrating the differences between people; and
- (4) that compromise and tolerance are important in communication;

Whereas Unity Day has been highlighted on national television shows and in public service announcements, films, and public displays of art and expression; and

Whereas Unity Day is often celebrated by—

- (1) wearing orange, the official color of Unity Day;
- (2) holding student and teacher led discussions at schools;
- (3) organizing efforts at community centers; and
- (4) expressing support for Unity Day through art, music, dance, and social media:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2019 as “National Bullying Prevention Month”;

(2) designates October 23, 2019, as “Unity Day”; and

(3) acknowledges that the prevention of bullying of children should be a national priority.

SENATE RESOLUTION 371—RE-AFFIRMING THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN AND CALLING ON ALL PARTIES TO UPHOLD THEIR COMMITMENTS TO PEACE AND DIALOGUE AS OUTLINED IN THE 2018 REVITALIZED PEACE AGREEMENT

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 371

Whereas the United States recognized South Sudan as a sovereign, independent state on July 9, 2011, following its secession from Sudan;

Whereas the United States played a key role in helping draft the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that laid the groundwork

for the 2011 referendum on self-determination, through which the people of South Sudan overwhelmingly voted for independence;

Whereas the people and Government of the United States have a deep and abiding interest in South Sudan’s political stabilization and post-conflict development;

Whereas stability in Sudan is critical to peace and security in the region, including for South Sudan, and the United States Government remains committed to fostering Sudan’s peaceful transition, as reflected by the passage of Senate Resolution 188 (116th), which “encourage[s] a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan”;

Whereas, since the onset of the civil war in South Sudan in December 2013, nearly 400,000 South Sudanese citizens are estimated to have been killed, 1,900,000 have been internally displaced, and 2,300,000 have fled the country and registered as refugees;

Whereas the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) signed on September 12, 2018 by the political parties of South Sudan, affirms the Parties’ commitment to the permanent ceasefire and forbids human rights violations and restrictions on humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the R-ARCSS establishes two phases of implementation, a Pre-Transitional Period until May 12, 2019, which was subsequently extended to November 12, 2019, followed by the establishment of a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) for three years;

Whereas the six-month extension of the deadline to form the RTGoNU was granted to allow additional time to complete critical Pre-Transitional tasks, including agreement on the number and boundaries of states and important security arrangements;

Whereas the R-ARCSS stipulates that the signatories will create an enabling political, administrative, operational, and legal environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection;

Whereas the people of South Sudan continue to suffer from a humanitarian crisis, with the United Nations reporting that over 6,300,000 people, more than half the population, were classified as severely food insecure at the peak of the lean season in 2019, including an estimated 10,000 who faced famine conditions, and despite slight improvements in food security during the harvest, the number of children under age five who are acutely malnourished is projected to rise to 1,300,000 in early 2020;

Whereas humanitarian organizations are providing lifesaving assistance to more than 5,300,000 South Sudanese people and are providing other vital support services such as medical care to survivors of sexual violence and facilitating access to education to over 690,000 children;

Whereas religious and faith-based organizations have played a key role in the peace process and humanitarian response efforts in support of the people of South Sudan;

Whereas at least 112 humanitarian aid workers have been killed since the start of the conflict in 2013, including at least 15 in 2018;

Whereas the United States Department of State 2018 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in South Sudan states that both the government and opposition forces engaged in serious human rights abuses by perpetrating extrajudicial killings, including ethnically based targeted killings of civilians, and by engaging in arbitrary detentions, torture, rape, beatings, and looting of property;

Whereas, on March 15, 2019, the United Nations Security Council extended the mandate

of the United Nations Mission (UNMISS) in South Sudan for one year and authorized UNMISS to use all necessary means to deter violence against civilians, to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and to foster a secure environment for the return or relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees;

Whereas impunity for past atrocities continues to drive violence in South Sudan, and signatories to the R-ARCSS committed to the establishment of transitional justice measures;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has reported that children comprise approximately 25 percent of all reported cases of conflict-related sexual violence, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan has reported that forced recruitment of child soldiers is increasing, despite the 2018 peace agreement;

Whereas illicitly obtained wealth and revenue sources perpetuate conflict in South Sudan;

Whereas leaders of South Sudan use violence and corruption as a means of capturing key sectors of the national economy, such as the oil and mining sectors, for purposes of personal enrichment; and

Whereas the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2471 on May 30, 2019, to extend its sanctions regime in South Sudan and renew the prohibition of the supply, sale, or transfer to South Sudan of arms and related material or the provision of training, technical, and financial assistance related to military activities or materials until May 31, 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to support peace in South Sudan;

(2) to call on the incumbent government and all other signatories of the R-ARCSS to—

(A) create a secure, enabling environment for all relevant political leaders to participate actively in the formation of the RTGoNU and South Sudan's political stabilization and post-conflict development;

(B) resolve peacefully the remaining political issues for negotiation during the Pre-Transitional Period, including agreement on the number and boundaries of states before the extended deadline of November 12, 2019;

(C) establish a RTGoNU by November 12, 2019;

(D) adhere to the cessation of hostilities and enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection;

(E) immediately release all political prisoners and fulfill their responsibility to protect civilians; and

(F) ensure respect for and full exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly;

(3) that the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) should continue to provide immediate lifesaving assistance to meet the dire humanitarian needs of the South Sudanese people;

(4) that the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator should continue to support civilians, particularly women and children, who have been adversely affected by the civil war, and should provide foreign assistance to support peacebuilding, conflict prevention, transitional justice, and reconciliation efforts led by local civil society;

(5) that the Secretary of State should monitor implementation of the UNMISS mandate authorized by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2459 (2019) and ensure that any return or relocation of IDPs from United Nations protection of civilian sites

are safe, informed, voluntary, dignified, and conducted in coordination with humanitarian actors;

(6) that the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Treasury, should continue to monitor human rights abuse and corruption in South Sudan and take decisive action using authorities granted under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note);

(7) that the Secretary of the Treasury should use best efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, and mitigate money laundering activities; and

(8) that the United States Government should support implementation and subsequent renewal of the United Nations Security Council arms embargo in South Sudan to prevent continued illicit acquisition of arms and military equipment by all parties and the proliferation of weapons throughout the country, and that the lifting of a United Nations arms embargo should be contingent upon—

(A) sustained adherence to the permanent ceasefire, tangible efforts to end impunity for violence against civilians, and consistent, unimpeded humanitarian access in accordance with international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence;

(B) holding free, fair, and peaceful democratic elections; and

(C) cessation of widespread abuses and violations by armed actors against civilians.

SENATE RESOLUTION 372—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD ESTABLISH A NATIONAL GOAL OF CONSERVING AT LEAST 30 PERCENT OF THE LAND AND OCEAN OF THE UNITED STATES BY 2030

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 372

Whereas access to public land, nature, and a healthy environment should be a right for all people, as that access is essential to the health, well-being, identity, cultures, and economic prosperity of the United States;

Whereas the United States faces a conservation and climate crisis, with nature in a steep decline and greenhouse gas emissions not declining at the rate scientists say is needed in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas scientists are documenting a rapid loss of natural areas and wildlife in the United States and throughout the world, including—

(1) a finding that, from 2001 to 2017, a quantity of natural areas equal to the size of a football field disappeared to development every 30 seconds in the United States, constituting more than 1,500,000 acres per year;

(2) a finding, published in the journal "Science", that the United States and Canada have lost 2,900,000,000 birds since 1970, representing a decline of 29 percent;

(3) the identification by State fish and game agencies of approximately 12,000 animal and plant species in the United States that require proactive conservation efforts to avoid extinction, of which approximately ⅓ will be lost in the next decades;

(4) a finding by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that the United States has lost more than ⅓ of all freshwater and saltwater wetlands in the contiguous 48 States; and

(5) the 2019 findings by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that—

(A) human activities are damaging ⅓ of ocean areas;

(B) only 3 percent of ocean areas remain pristine;

(C) 15 percent of mangroves remain;

(D) 50 percent of coral reefs remain; and

(E) at the current rate of losses, less than 10 percent of the Earth will be free of substantial human impact by 2050;

Whereas climate change is accelerating the decline of nature in the United States;

Whereas the Third National Climate Assessment found that climate change—

(1) is reducing the ability of ecosystems to provide clean water and regulate water flows;

(2) is limiting the ability of nature to buffer communities against disasters such as fires, storms, and floods, which disproportionately impacts communities of color and indigenous populations; and

(3) is having far-reaching effects on marine and terrestrial wildlife, including by altering habitats, forcing changes to migratory patterns, and altering the timing of biological events;

Whereas the decline of natural areas and wildlife in the United States follows global patterns, as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that approximately 1,000,000 plant and animal species are threatened by extinction over the coming decades as a result of land conversion, development, climate change, invasive species, pollution, and other stressors;

Whereas nature, like the climate, is nearing a tipping point where the continued loss and degradation of the natural environment will—

(1) push many ecosystems and wildlife species past the point of no return;

(2) threaten the health and economic prosperity of the United States; and

(3) increase the costs of natural disasters, for which the Federal Government spent about \$91,000,000,000 in 2018;

Whereas the existing protections for land, the ocean, and wildlife in the United States are not sufficient to prevent a further decline of nature in the United States, with—

(1) only 12 percent of the land area in the United States permanently protected, mostly in Alaska and the West; and

(2) only 26 percent of Federal ocean territory permanently protected, the vast majority of which is in the remote western Pacific Ocean or northwestern Hawaii;

Whereas the United States has historically demonstrated leadership and resolve to protect, conserve, and restore the natural environment, including through a network of protected areas;

Whereas that network of protected areas is protected and supported by a variety of conservation laws passed at other times of crisis;

Whereas the United States—

(1) ranks among the top 5 countries in the world for the amount of wilderness-quality land and ocean remaining; and

(2) has the conservation experience and traditions necessary to make great strides in the protection of the remaining natural areas in the United States for future generations;

Whereas the Federal Government, the private sector, civil society, farmers, ranchers, fishing communities, and sportsmen have a history of working together to conserve the land and ocean of the United States;