

States and international community must work urgently with the Governments of Israel and Lebanon to achieve the following six goals: attaining a cessation in the hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel; effectuating the safe return of Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon; disarming Hezbollah, removing Hezbollah forces from southern Lebanon, and replacing those forces with Lebanese army and security forces; reaching agreement to create and deploy an international stabilization force with a robust mandate to enforce a permanent ceasefire and to fully implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559; organizing an international donors conference to solicit and ensure the provision of international resources for the reconstruction of Lebanon; and ensuring that all parties remain engaged to promote peace and security for Israel and Lebanon and the greater Middle East.

I believe that it is important to mention a few points up front. As my colleagues know, the current situation began when two Israeli soldiers were kidnapped by Hezbollah, a terrorist organization that is based in Lebanon but supported by Syria and Iran.

These soldiers were kidnapped from Israeli soil, and during those kidnapping operations, innocent Israelis were killed, and some northern Israeli cities were shelled with rockets.

These facts are very important to remember as we consider the current situation because despite any other frustrations that some people might have with the derailed Israeli-Palestinian peace process, it wasn't Israeli actions which started the cycle of the current bloody situation in which more than 400 Israelis and Lebanese have died.

I would also say unequivocally that I believe that Israel is currently acting in self-defense as a response to attacks on its soil and the kidnapping of its citizens. No country that experienced similar attacks would do anything less—certainly not the United States. And I support fully Israel's right to defend its borders and its citizens.

All violent confrontations, however, must eventually come to an end—including this one. I think what we are all hoping—Americans, Israelis, Lebanese—is that a resolution of this flare-up will come quickly and without any additional loss of innocent civilians in Lebanon or Israel, so that a climate conducive to tackling the many complex problems confronting the region can exist. Clearly, that climate does not exist at the moment while fighting is ongoing.

However, long-term peace necessitates certain actions. First, I believe that an international stabilization force with real teeth to act against Hezbollah militia and any other terrorist elements will eventually need to be deployed in southern Lebanon. On this point, we must learn from the failures of the current United Nations Stabilization Force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, and give any future force the size and mandate to actually fulfill its mission.

Second, long-term peace will require full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559, which calls on the Lebanese Army to deploy to protect the southern border, as well as for the disarmament of Hezbollah.

Long-term peace will also require Israel to cease its attacks in Lebanon, consistent with the Lebanese Government and international community's ability and willingness to stop terrorist elements from launching attacks on Israel. I would remind my colleagues that Israel withdrew voluntarily from Lebanon in 2000—a move that was recognized by the United Nations Secretary General and Security Council as fulfilling completely the terms of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425. To that end, I doubt very much whether Israel would like to stay in Lebanon even one day longer than is absolutely necessary to stop the terror and return Israeli citizens to safety.

My belief in the need for a quick cessation of hostilities is rooted in my concern that the current violence between Israel and Hezbollah is greatly strengthening the hands of Iran and Syria. This is true especially with respect to Iran, which wants to divert international attention away from its nuclear program as well as position itself as the leader of the Arab Muslim world.

Indeed, as the body counts rise, we are seeing the gulf between moderate Arab regimes and their citizens widen dramatically. At the same time, Iran's position as the main backer of Hezbollah is giving it a newfound legitimacy in the eyes of many Arabs. It is critical that we avoid these outcomes because current Iranian nuclear and regional ambitions pose a threat to Israel, to moderate Arab regimes, to the United States, and to the international community alike.

Moreover, long-term peace will be impossible unless the international community gets both Iran and Syria to shut off and cut off Hezbollah and other terrorist groups. By "shut off," I mean that Iran and Syria must send a clear signal to Hezbollah to stop its violent terrorist attacks against Israel. By "cut off," I mean that these countries must stop financing, supplying, and providing safe haven to terrorist groups and their operatives. The international community must also send a strong message to Iran and Syria that they need to stop preventing Lebanon from deploying its army to disarm Hezbollah and protect the border.

But the current situation will not begin to wind down unless, first and foremost, the Israeli hostages are released unharmed.

After that, the short-term goals should be the deployment of an international stabilization force with real teeth in the south and some kind of international monitoring of land, sea, and air crossings to ensure that Hezbollah will not be rearmed by Syria and Iran.

The long-term goals are obviously that U.N. Security Council Resolution

1559 is fully implemented. Full implementation of that resolution means, among other things, that an effective Lebanese Army is deployed along that country's southern border and that Hezbollah is disarmed.

It is quite apparent that after decades of operational and financial support from Syria, and especially Iran, Hezbollah's military wing is currently too strong for the relatively weak Lebanese Government to deal with. So to the extent that Israeli actions weaken Hezbollah's capabilities, they also create the possibility of strengthening the Lebanese Government's hand to reign in militias and terrorists. But there might be a point of diminishing returns where Hezbollah is somewhat weakened while Iran and Syria are greatly strengthened—an outcome that it is essential to avoid. Hopefully, the combination of the current attacks against Hezbollah, a quick cessation of hostilities, and the immediate deployment—concurrent with the end of hostilities—of an international force with real teeth will make that the case.

I realize that there are many voices in the Arab world who accuse the U.S. of ignoring the plight of the innocent Lebanese citizens who have been caught in the crossfire because Hezbollah militants have shamefully hidden themselves and their weapons among the civilian population. I do not believe that this is the case. And I think that the U.S. could help to prove this by organizing an international donors' conference as quickly as possible to assist the Lebanese in rebuilding their country.

As I said before, I think we in Congress all share a desire to see peace in the Middle East. I would hope that once all of the steps I have talked about today come into place that the United States would take a lead role in bringing about that peace because U.S. leadership, and our active and high-level engagement, have always been an essential part of the Middle East peace process.

I believe that this resolution will send a strong signal that the world needs to support the Lebanese people, respect Israel's right to defend itself, and be tough with Hezbollah, Iran, and Syria. These are the necessary signals that we need to send in order for there to truly be hope at the end of this tunnel. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I ask that the text of the resolution be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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SENATE RESOLUTION 549—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 549

Whereas the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) states that the Declaration of Independence recognizes the inherent dignity and worth of all people and states that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including the right to be free from slavery and involuntary servitude;

Whereas the United States outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude in 1865, recognizing that those evil institutions must be abolished;

Whereas, in the 21st century, as many as 27,000,000 people are suffering as slaves throughout the world and in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders each year;

Whereas an estimated 18,000 to 20,000 victims are trafficked into the United States each year;

Whereas approximately 80 percent of victims are female and an estimated 40 to 50 percent of victims are children;

Whereas many of the victims are trafficked into the international sex trade, which includes sexual exploitation of persons involving activities including prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, and other commercial sexual services;

Whereas modern-day slavery also includes bonded labor, forced labor, forced marriage, chattel slavery, and child labor;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services states that human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry worldwide;

Whereas traffickers use threats, intimidation, manipulation, coercion, fraud, shame, and violence to force victims into modern-day slavery;

Whereas a trafficker may be a family friend, someone well-known within the community, someone in law enforcement, or a member of an organized criminal network;

Whereas traffickers capitalize on areas of conflict and post-conflict, transitioning states, sudden political change, economic collapse, civil unrest, internal armed conflict, chronic unemployment, widespread poverty, personal disaster, lack of economic opportunity, and natural disasters;

Whereas traffickers prey upon the vulnerable, ethnic minorities, and people without citizenship;

Whereas modern-day slavery thrives because of its high profitability and minimal risk due to little rule of law, lack of enforcement, and corruption of law enforcement institutions;

Whereas populations vulnerable to trafficking are growing due to the rising numbers of orphans in developing countries due to civil conflicts and the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

Whereas the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases poses a global threat and creates a particular challenge for victims of modern-day slavery involved in the international sex trade;

Whereas the loss of family-support networks due to modern-day slavery contributes to the breakdown of societies;

Whereas trafficking has a negative impact on the labor market in countries and perpetuates a cycle of poverty;

Whereas trafficking brutalizes men, women, and children, and exposes them to rape, torture, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, violence, dangerous working conditions, poor nutrition, drug and alcohol addiction, and severe psychological trauma from separation, coercion, sexual abuse, and depression;

Whereas organized criminal groups, gangs, document forgers, brothel owners, and cor-

rupt police or immigration officials funnel trafficking profits into both legitimate and criminal activities;

Whereas modern-day slavery strips human beings of dignity, respect, and hope for their future; and

Whereas no country or people are immune from the effects of modern-day slavery: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the abolition of modern-day slavery should be a priority of the United States foreign and domestic policy;

(2) the United States should continue to bring together governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals to form a comprehensive coalition to fight modern-day slavery;

(3) the Federal Government should continue to expand protection and legal options for victims of modern-day slavery;

(4) the abolition of modern-day slavery should be prioritized at the 2007 Group of 8 (G-8) Summit in Germany; and

(5) the trade policy of the United States should reflect the commitment of the United States to freedom for all people.

SENATE RESOLUTION 550—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 22 THROUGH OCTOBER 28, 2006, AS “NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK”

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. CONRAD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 550

Whereas the cost of retirement continues to rise, in part, because people in the United States are living longer than ever before, the number of employers providing retiree health coverage continues to decline, and retiree health care costs continue to increase at a rapid pace;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States, but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States, less than ⅓ of workers or their spouses are currently saving for retirement and that the actual amount of retirement savings of workers lags far behind the amount that is realistically needed to adequately fund retirement;

Whereas many employees have available to them through their employers access to defined benefit or defined contribution plans to assist them in preparing for retirement;

Whereas many employees may not be aware of their retirement savings options and may not have focused on the importance of and need for saving for their own retirement;

Whereas many employees may not be taking advantage of workplace defined contribution plans at all or to the full extent allowed by the plans or under Federal law; and

Whereas all workers, including public- and private-sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from increased awareness of the need to save for retirement and the availability of tax-advantaged retirement savings vehicles to assist them in saving for retirement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 22 through October 28, 2006, as “National Save for Retirement Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including

raising public awareness about the importance of adequate retirement savings and the availability of employer-sponsored retirement plans; and

(3) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing the retirement savings of all the people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AND THAT THIS PROHIBITION SHOULD BE STRICTLY ENFORCED

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 551

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that illegal immigrants should not receive Social Security benefits and that this prohibition should be strictly enforced.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2006 AS “NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 552

Whereas countless families in the United States have a family member that suffers from prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 6 men in the United States is diagnosed with prostate cancer;

Whereas throughout the past decade, prostate cancer has been the most commonly diagnosed type of cancer other than skin cancer and the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States;

Whereas, in 2006, more than 234,460 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 27,350 men in the United States will die of prostate cancer according to estimates from the American Cancer Society;

Whereas 30 percent of the new diagnoses of prostate cancer occur in men under the age of 65;

Whereas a man in the United States turns 50 years old about every 14 seconds, increasing his odds of being diagnosed with prostate cancer;

Whereas African American males suffer from prostate cancer at an incidence rate up to 65 percent higher than white males and at a mortality rate double that of white males;

Whereas obesity is a significant predictor of the severity of prostate cancer and the chance that the disease will lead to death;