

Substitute Amendment
Preamble

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To amend the preamble.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. Res. 571

Condemning the ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. CORKER

Viz:

1 Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, in February 2014, unidentified Russian armed forces entered Ukrainian territory and took control of key military and government infrastructure in the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine;

Whereas, in March 2014, the parliament of the Russian Federation gave rubber-stamp approval to President Vladimir Putin's request to use military force against Ukrainian territory ostensibly because of the "threat of violence from ultranationalists";

Whereas, on March 27, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/262 calling on states and international organizations not to recognize any change in Crimea's status and affirmed the commitment of the United Nations to recognize Crimea as part of Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation's illegal invasion and annexation of Crimea has been widely seen as an effort to stifle pro-democracy developments across Ukraine in 2014 in the wake of the Euromaidan protests;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a signatory to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and thus committed to respect the independence, sovereignty, and borders of Ukraine and to refrain from threats, coercive economic actions, or the use of force against Ukraine's territorial integrity and political independence;

Whereas the Russian Federation committed in the 1975 Final Act of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Final Act) to respect the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of other participating States;

Whereas the Russian Federation's obligations under the Charter of the United Nations prohibit the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of other states;

Whereas the Russian Federation's ongoing occupation of Crimea in Ukraine has been widely condemned by the international community as an illegal act;

Whereas the United States and European Union have imposed sanctions on individuals and entities who have enabled the illegal invasion, annexation, and occupation of Crimea;

Whereas the Department of State has stated in its Country Reports on Human Rights Practices that security services and local authorities in Crimea installed by the Government of the Russian Federation have "worked to consolidate control over Crimea and continued to restrict

human rights by imposing repressive federal laws of the Russian Federation on the Ukrainian territory of Crimea” and that “the most significant human rights problems in Crimea [were] related directly to the Russian occupation”;

Whereas the Department of State has described “an extensive campaign of intimidation to suppress dissent and opposition to the occupation” that has been carried out by Russian security services inside Crimea, including the use of torture and physical abuse, kidnapping, disappearances, and deportations, and reporting from independent human rights groups inside and outside Crimea has documented such alleged human rights violations by Russian security services and paramilitary groups;

Whereas the campaign of intimidation in Crimea has resulted in the prosecution and imprisonment of individuals who oppose or criticize the occupation or support Ukrainian sovereignty as well as the transfer of some individuals from Crimea to Russian Federation territory for prosecution and imprisonment;

Whereas the Department of State has noted that illegal occupying authorities in Crimea have also restricted the fundamental human rights of particular groups, including ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, “particularly regarding expressions of nationality and ethnicity, and [have] subjected them to systematic discrimination,” and human rights groups have reported that such discrimination has been carried out in myriad ways, including through the outlawing in 2016 of the elected representative body (mejlis) of the Crimean Tatar people, the closing of Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian-language schools, and forced conscription;

Whereas the Department of State and other international human rights groups have noted further continuing human rights concerns in Crimea, including the suppression of independent media and civil society through harassment and harsh administrative measures, politicized and unfair judicial processes, and poor prison conditions;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has worked to extend Russian citizenship to individuals inside Crimea and deprived access to public services of those who refuse such citizenship;

Whereas civil society groups have alleged that the Government of the Russian Federation has encouraged Russian citizens to relocate to the Crimean peninsula and has supported the physical destruction of historical sites in Crimea, ostensibly to influence the demographics and political character of the region in favor of the Government of the Russian Federation; and

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has supported the development of infrastructure and institutional ties between Crimea and the Russian Federation, including the opening of a road and rail bridge over the Kerch Strait on May 15, 2018: Now, therefore, be it