

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Commemorating World Press Freedom Day and reaffirming the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts by the United States Government to prevent and respond to conflict and promote free and open societies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WYDEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Commemorating World Press Freedom Day and reaffirming the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts by the United States Government to prevent and respond to conflict and promote free and open societies.

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2014, more than 221 journalists were imprisoned and since 1992, more than 1,120 journalists have been killed;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, in 2014, freedom in the world declined for the 9th consecutive year and “[i]n a new and disquieting development, a number of countries lost ground due to state surveillance [and] restrictions on internet communications”;

Whereas, according to the International Federation of Journalists, since January 2015, more than 40 journalists and media staff have been killed;

Whereas the United Nations designated May 3rd as “World Press Freedom Day” and established a World Press Freedom Prize to be awarded annually on May 3rd to a person, organization, or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defense or promotion of press freedom;

Whereas the 2015 World Press Freedom Prize was awarded to an imprisoned Syrian journalist and human rights activist, Mazen Darwish; and

Whereas a free and independent press is absolutely essential to the creation and maintenance of free and open societies: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commemorates World Press Freedom Day
3 by praising journalists like Mazen Darwish and oth-
4 ers around the world for the vital role those individ-
5 uals play in supporting open and democratic soci-
6 eties, promoting government accountability, and
7 strengthening civil society;

8 (2) condemns the detention, imprisonment, and
9 intimidation of journalists and all other actions
10 around the world that inhibit freedom of the press;

11 (3) honors all journalists who have given their
12 lives in the name of their work;

1 (4) calls on governments abroad to investigate
2 thoroughly, and seek to resolve, the case of each
3 journalist who has been killed, and bring the per-
4 petrators to justice;

5 (5) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the
6 press to efforts by the United States Government to
7 prevent and respond to conflict and promote free
8 and open societies; and

9 (6) calls on the President and the Secretary of
10 State to continue efforts—

11 (A) to secure the release of all journalists
12 who have been arrested, detained, or imprisoned
13 for promoting a free and open press; and

14 (B) to raise awareness of the threats faced
15 by journalists and respond to attacks on free-
16 dom of the press around the world.