

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 319

Expressing support for the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12 (legislative day, DECEMBER 11), 2013

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.

Whereas, according to a poll conducted in November 2013, a majority of the people of Ukraine supported signing a historic trade and political agreement with the European Union;

Whereas a closer association between Ukraine and the European Union has been supported by Ukrainian civil society, business leaders, and politicians across the political spectrum and would bring lasting political, democratic, and economic benefits to the people of Ukraine;

Whereas Ukraine successfully passed much of the legislation required to conform to European Union standards for signing an Association Agreement;

Whereas, on September 22, 2012, and November 18, 2013, the Senate unanimously passed resolutions calling for a demonstrable end to selective justice in Ukraine and expressing its belief that Ukraine's future lies with stronger ties to Europe, the United States, and others in the community of democracies;

Whereas the experience of countries such as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia provides a positive example of increased economic opportunity, enhanced personal freedom, and good governance. which can also be realized by Ukraine;

Whereas the Government and people of Ukraine have the sovereign right to choose their own foreign policy and economic course, and no other country has the right to determine their political and economic orientation, nor decide which alliances and trade agreements they can join;

Whereas, on November 21, 2013, President Viktor Yanukovich suspended Ukraine's preparations for signing the Association Agreement one week before a critical European Union Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania;

Whereas the abrupt reversal on the eve of the summit following Russian economic coercion and to protect the narrow interests of some officials and individuals in Ukraine prompted hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians all across the country, especially young people and students, to protest the decision and stand in support of furthering Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration;

Whereas international nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations provide essential care to needy Ukrainians, yet face direct threats and challenges to their existence and administrative and regulatory impediments, including challenges to operating with the tax-exempt status necessary to maximize the use of funds on the ground and threats to the fabric of civil society vital to democracy in Ukraine;

Whereas, on November 30, 2013, at Independence Square in Kyiv, special division police dispersed a peaceful demonstration of students and civil society activists who were calling on President Yanukovich to sign the Association Agreement;

Whereas approximately 35 individuals were detained or arrested, and dozens were hospitalized, some with severe injuries;

Whereas, on December 9, 2013, raids were conducted on three opposition media outlets and the headquarters of one opposition party;

Whereas, on December 11, 2013, Ukrainian authorities conducted an overnight police operation in an attempt to forcefully take control of Independence Square, but were resisted by brave Ukrainians who filled the square and rebuffed the police action;

Whereas all three former Presidents of Ukraine have underscored the need to refrain from violence and the importance of engaging in a dialogue with the opposition; and

Whereas Ukraine faces an impending economic crisis that can only be solved with long-term economic reforms: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) stands with the people of Ukraine and sup-
2 ports their sovereign right to chart an independent
3 and democratic future for their country;

4 (2) urges leaders in the United States and the
5 European Union to continue working together ac-
6 tively to support a peaceful and democratic resolu-
7 tion to the current crisis that moves Ukraine toward
8 a future in the Euro-Atlantic community and a long-
9 term solution to Ukraine's economic crisis;

10 (3) encourages demonstrators and members of
11 the opposition and civil society in Ukraine to con-
12 tinue avoiding the use of violence and engage in a
13 dialogue of national reconciliation;

14 (4) urges all political parties to refrain from
15 hate speech or actions of an anti-Semitic or other
16 character which further divide the Ukrainian people
17 when they need to be united;

18 (5) calls on the Government of Ukraine to re-
19 frain from further use of force or acts of violence
20 against peaceful protestors, and to respect the inter-
21 nationally recognized human rights of the Ukrainian
22 people, especially the freedoms of speech and assem-
23 bly;

24 (6) condemns the decision by Ukrainian au-
25 thorities to use violence against peaceful demonstra-

1 tors on November 30, December 1, and December
2 11, 2013, and calls for those responsible to be swift-
3 ly brought to justice and all detained nonviolent
4 demonstrators to be immediately released; and

5 (7) notes that in the event of further state vio-
6 lence against peaceful protestors, the President and
7 Congress should consider whether to apply targeted
8 sanctions, including visa bans and asset freezes,
9 against individuals responsible for ordering or car-
10 rying out the violence.

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