

ver the past two months, there has been a growing number of US Senators who have been calling upon the US government and the international community to be of meaningful assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka.

This growing group of Senators have called upon the US to give due regard to Sri Lanka's sovereignty, stability and security, in establishing domestic mechanisms to deal with any grievances arising from actions committed during and after the civil war in Sri Lanka. The US Senate resolution 364 which carries such a request was initially co-sponsored by 11 Senators of the US on 27th February, 2014, and by now, 6 more Senators have supported the Resolution which also calls upon the US President to develop a comprehensive and a well-balanced policy towards Sri Lanka.

The Resolution further expresses support for Sri Lanka's internal reconciliation process and acknowledges the significant overall progress that Sri Lanka has made since the end of the conflict, 5 years ago. The Resolution particularly calls on the President of the US not only to look at human rights interests in its dealings with Sri Lanka, but also consider the United States' economic and security interests in Sri Lanka as well.

More Senators are expected to join as co-sponsors in the coming weeks, signifying an unprecedented support for Sri Lanka's domestic mechanisms.



Hon. Mike Enzi (Wyoming)



Hon. Ted Cruz (Texas)

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Hon. Jim Inhofe (Oklahoma)



Hon. John Cornyn (Texas)



Hon. Orrin Hatch (Utah)



Hon, John Barrasso (Wyoming)



Hon. Roy Blunt (Missouri)



Hon. Joe Manchin (West Virginia)



Hon. Jeff Sessions (Alabama)



Hon. John Boozman (Arkansas)



Hon. Mike Crapo (Idaho)



Hon. Susan Collins (Maine)





Hon. Pat Roberts (Kansas)



Hon. Tim Scott (South Carolina)



Hon. Lamar Alexander (Tennessee)



Hon. Dan Coats (Indiana)

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Hon. Roger Wicker (Mississippi)

113TH CONGRESS

S. RES. 364

Expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BOOZHAN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution: which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

Whereas May 19, 2014, marks the 5-year anniversary of the end of the 26-year civil war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka

Whereas the people of Sri Lanka suffered greatly as a result of this conflict, the impact and aftermath of which has been felt by all, especially by women, children, and families;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka established a "Lexsons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission" (LLRC) to

report whether any person, group, or institution directly or indirectly bears responsibility for incidents that oc curred between February 2002 and May 2009 and to recommend measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future and promote further national unity

Whereas the LLRC report was presented to the Sri Lankan Parliament on December 16, 2011, and officially trans lated into Sinhula and Tamil on August 16, 2012;

and reconciliation among all communities;

Whereas the LLRC report acknowledges important events and grievances that have contributed to decades of political violence and war in Sri Lanka and makes constructive recommendations on a wide range of issues, including the need to eredibly investigate widespread allegations of extrajudicial killings; enforced disappearances; intentional targeting of civilians and noncombatants; demilitarizing the north and the country as a whole; reaching a political settlement with minority communities on the meaningful decentralization of power; and promoting and protecting the right to freedom of expression for all through the enactment of a right to information law and additional rule of law reforms;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka developed the National Plan of Action to implement the recommendations of the LLRC and has made significant progress within limited time in the implementation of the National Plan of Action, notably in the areas of demining, rehabilitation of ex-combatants, resettlement of displaced persons, improvements of infrastructure and social services in the North and East, as well as investigations into complaints regarding persons who have disappeared during the war;

Whereas there have been reports of attacks on places of worship and restrictions on the media in several places in Sri

Freas the Government of Sri Lanka expressed its ed ment to address the needs of all ethnic groups and ha recognized the necessity of a political settlement and reconciliation for a peaceful and just society, which is long-term process that will need to be driven by the p Sri Lanka themselves;

Whereas the September 21, 2013, elections in Sri Lanka for the Northern, Central, and North Western Provincial Councils were an important step in fulfilling this commit-

Whereas these elections were made possible through a sustained effort by the Government of Sri Lanka to restore infrastructure in the North and put in place a system for the conduct of the elections;

Whereas the elections allowed the people of the North of Sri Lanka to exercise their political rights that had been withheld from them for more than 20 years by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam (LTTE) and resulted in a clear victory for the provincial wing of the Tamil National Alliance;

Whereas Sri Lanka is enjoying rapid economic growth as an important hub for shipping transport, technology, and tourism in the South Asia region;

Whereas Sri Lanka is of great strategic importance to the United States, due to its location, deep-water ports, and proximity to the world's busiest shipping lanes, an importauee noticed and pursued by other significant powers; and

Whereas Sri Lanka seeks to be a key United States partner in the fight against terrorism and Indian Ocean piracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate-

(1) calls upon the President to develop a comprehensive and well balanced policy towards Sri Lanka that reflects United States interests, including respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, as well as economic and security inter-

(2) ealls on the United States Governme the international community to assist the Govern ment of Sri Lanka, with due regard to its sovereignty, stability, and security, in establishing domestic mechanisms to deal with any grievances arising from actions committed by both sides during fter the civil war in Sri Lanka;

(3) encourages the Government of Sri Lanka to put in place a truth and reconciliation commission similar to the one adopted by South Africa to help heal the wounds of war, taking into account the unique characteristics of the conflict and its aftermath; and

(4) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to improve religious and media freedoms and to bring to justice those responsible for attacks on journalists and newspaper offices as well as places of worship, regardless of religion.