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S. RES. 486

Condemning the PKK and expressing solidarity with Turkey.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2012

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the PKK and expressing solidarity with Turkey.

Whereas, since 1984, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), also known as the Kongra-Gel, has waged a campaign of violence and terrorism against the people and Government of Turkey;

Whereas it is estimated that at least 30,000 people have been killed in PKK-associated violence since 1984;

Whereas the United States Government designated the PKK as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 1997, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist in 2001, and a Significant Foreign Narcotics Trafficker in 2008;

Whereas, in 2010 and 2011, the Department of the Treasury designated the top leaders of the PKK/Kongra-Gel as Significant Foreign Narcotics Traffickers, including the

head of the PKK/Kongra-Gel Murat Karayilan and senior leaders Ali Riza Altun and Zubayir Aydar;

Whereas, in 2004, the Council of the European Union added the PKK to its list of terrorist organizations;

Whereas President George W. Bush in October 2007 characterized the PKK as a “common enemy” of the United States and Turkey, saying of the PKK, “It’s an enemy to Turkey, it’s an enemy to Iraq, it’s an enemy to people who want to live in peace.”;

Whereas President Barack Obama in April 2009 stated that, “Iraq, Turkey, and the United States face a common threat from terrorism. . . . And that includes the PKK”;

Whereas the Government of Turkey, under Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has begun to take historic steps to resolve sources of grievance among Kurds in Turkey that are exploited by the PKK;

Whereas the PKK has a safe haven in the Qandil Mountains of northern Iraq where many PKK fighters are currently based;

Whereas the Government of Turkey has been developing and deepening diplomatic, economic, and strategic ties with the Kurdistan Regional Government in northern Iraq;

Whereas Prime Minister Erdogan on April 20, 2012, stated, “The stance of the Turkish state is clear: once [the PKK] lay down their arms, it is [our stance] to completely stop military operations”;

Whereas Masoud Barzani, President of the Kurdistan Regional Government in northern Iraq, stated on April 20, 2012, “The PKK should lay down its arms. . . . If the PKK goes ahead with weapons, it will bear the consequences.”;

Whereas the PKK has support networks in countries in Europe, which engage in illicit and deceptive activities to facilitate PKK recruitment, financing, logistical support, training, and propaganda, including satellite television broadcasting and print media that support the PKK's violent terrorist agenda;

Whereas, according to the 2011 EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report, published by the European Police Office (EUPOL), the PKK is “actively involved in money laundering, illicit drugs and human trafficking, as well as illegal immigration inside and outside the EU,” and fundraises in the EU “using labels like ‘donations’ and ‘membership fees’, but are in fact extortion and illegal taxation”;

Whereas the Europe-based satellite television channel, Roj TV, was banned from broadcasting in Germany by the German Interior Ministry in 2008 and, in January 2012, convicted by a court in Denmark for “promoting terrorism” as an undeclared propaganda arm of the PKK;

Whereas PKK-affiliated television channels continue to operate in European countries, including Sweden, Norway, and Denmark;

Whereas Turkey since 1952 has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas the armed forces of Turkey and the United States have served together as allies during the Korean War, in Kosovo, in Afghanistan, and in the 2011 NATO intervention in Libya, Operation Unified Protector;

Whereas President George W. Bush said of Turkey, “[Turkey’s] success is vital to a future of progress and peace in Europe and in the broader Middle East—and the Re-

public of Turkey can depend on the support and friendship of the United States”; and

Whereas President Obama said of Turkey, “Turkey is a critical ally. Turkey is an important part of Europe. And Turkey and the United States must stand together, and work together, to overcome the challenges of our time”:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns the continued campaign of terrorism by the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) and
3 expresses solidarity with the victims of PKK violence;
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6 (2) reaffirms that the PKK is a common enemy
7 of the United States and Turkey, and all responsible
8 countries and governments in the world;

9 (3) urges the PKK to lay down its arms, renounce violence, and pursue peaceful dialogue with
10 the Government of Turkey;

11 (4) commends the historic steps taken by the
12 Government of Turkey to address the sources of
13 grievance and alienation that have been exploited by
14 the PKK to justify acts of terrorism;

15 (5) welcomes efforts by the United States Government to support the Government of Turkey in developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy
16 to eliminate the threat posed by the PKK;
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1 (6) encourages the United States Government
2 to make available diplomatic, military, and intel-
3 ligence support to the Government of Turkey so that
4 it can apprehend or eliminate irreconcilable violent
5 elements of the PKK;

6 (7) applauds the deepening economic and polit-
7 ical ties between the Government of Turkey and the
8 Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq;

9 (8) supports greater cooperation between and
10 among the relevant authorities in Turkey, the
11 United States, the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, and Iraq
12 to end the PKK sanctuary in the Qandil Mountains
13 of northern Iraq;

14 (9) urges increased intelligence and counterter-
15 rorism cooperation among the governments of the
16 United States, Turkey, Germany, and other coun-
17 tries in Europe to disrupt and eliminate PKK sup-
18 port networks based in Europe, including PKK fi-
19 nancing and fundraising; and

20 (10) urges the European Union and govern-
21 ments in Europe—

22 (A) to take measures to ensure the PKK
23 cannot use their territories for fundraising, re-
24 cruitment, financing, logistical support, train-
25 ing, and propaganda; and

1 (B) to ban and prevent from operating on
2 their territory any media, including satellite
3 broadcasting stations, that is financed, con-
4 trolled, or coordinated by the PKK or that pro-
5 motes the PKK's violent terrorist agenda.

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