

CAGS WASHINGTON WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

National Security Highlights from Capitol Hill

Compiled from the Congressional Record by the Center on American and Global Security at Indiana University.

Week of February 10 – 14, 2014

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Public Bills and Resolutions

SENATE

Senator Bob Menéndez (D-NJ) introduced [S. J. Res. 31](#): A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representatives Office in the United States Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The resolution was read twice before being assigned to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, where it awaits consideration.

HOUSE

Representative Stephen Lynch (D-MA) introduced [H. R. 4022: Security Clearance Reform Act of 2014](#). The bill would provide for a strategic plan to reform and improve the security clearance and background investigation processes of the Federal Government. H. R. 4022 was assigned to the House Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and the Judiciary, and awaits consideration.

Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) introduced [H. R. 4028](#): [A bill] to amend the [International Religious Freedom Act of 1998](#) to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to

religious freedom. The bill was assigned to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where it awaits consideration.

Representative Ed Royce (R-CA) introduced [H. J. Res. 109](#): Providing for the approval of the Congress of the proposed agreement for cooperation between American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States concerning peaceful uses of nuclear energy pursuant to the [Atomic Energy Act of 1954](#). The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where it awaits consideration.

Committee Hearings

HOUSE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Public Bills and Resolutions

HOUSE

Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) introduced **H. R. 4034**: [A bill] to enhance homeland security by improving efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from an attack with a weapon of mass destruction, and for other purposes. The bill was assigned to the House Committees on: Energy and Commerce; Foreign Affairs; Homeland Security; Transportation and Infrastructure, and Permanent Select Intelligence, and awaits consideration.

Representative Michael Burgess (R-TX) introduced **H. R. 4036**: [A bill] to prohibit the Central Intelligence Agency from using an unmanned aerial vehicle to carry out a weapons strike or other deliberately lethal action and to transfer the authority to conduct such strikes or lethal action to the Department of Defense. The bill was assigned to the House Committees on Armed Services and Permanent Select Intelligence, and awaits consideration.

Representative Gary Peters (D-MI) introduced **H. R. 4057**: [A bill] to authorize funding for construction of U. S. Customs and Border Protection customs plazas at land ports of entry, and for other purposes. The bill was

assigned to the House Committees on Homeland Security and Ways and Means, and awaits consideration.

Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced [H. Res. 477](#): Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should work within the framework of the United Nations process and in good faith with Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals by finding a mutually acceptable name that must apply for all internal and international uses (*erga omnes*), for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The resolution was assigned to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where it awaits consideration.

Committee Hearings

SENATE

Committee on Armed Services, hearing to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States.

Committee on Foreign Relations, hearing to examine prospects for Democratic reconciliation and workers' rights in Bangladesh.

HOUSE

Committee on Armed Services, hearing entitled "United States Security Policy and Defense Posture in the Middle East."

Committee on Foreign Affairs, *Subcommittee on African, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations*, hearing "The Worldwide Persecution of Christians."

Committee on Homeland Security, *Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications*, hearing entitled, "Bioterrorism: Assessing the Threat."

Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence (*Committee on Homeland Security*), hearing entitled "Al Qaeda's Expansion in Egypt: Implications for U. S. Homeland Security."

Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security (*Committee on the Judiciary*), hearing entitled, “Asylum Fraud: Abusing America’s Compassion?”

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, hearing entitled, “DC Navy Yard Shooting, Fixing the Security Clearance Process.”

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Public Bills and Resolutions

SENATE

Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) introduced **S. 2020**: A bill to set forth the process for Puerto Rico to be admitted as a State of the Union. The bill was assigned to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced **S. Res. 355**: A resolution calling on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to cease the extra-judicial release of Afghan detainees, carry out its commitments pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding governing the transfer of Afghan detainees from the United States custody to Afghan control and to uphold the Afghan Rule of Law with respect to the referral and disposition of detainees. The resolution was assigned to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, where it awaits consideration.

Senator Bob Menéndez (D-NJ) introduced **S. Res. 357**: A resolution expressing concern of undemocratic governance and the abuse of the rights of individuals in Ukraine. The resolution was assigned to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, where it awaits consideration.

Committee Hearings

SENATE

Committee on the Judiciary, oversight to examine the report of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Reforms to the [Section 215](#) telephone records program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

HOUSE

Committee on Armed Services, hearing entitled, “Overcoming Obstacles in Acquisition Reform.”

Committee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled, “The Security’s Vision for the Future—Challenges and Priorities.” (*NOTE: hearing has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2014*).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Committee Hearings

SENATE

Committee on Foreign Relations, hearing to examine Syria spillover, focusing on the growing threat of terrorism and sectarianism in the Middle East.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, hearing to examine the intelligence community, focusing on keeping watch over its contractor workforce.