

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 308

Calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide evidence
or to release United States citizen Paul Whelan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to
provide evidence or to release United States citizen Paul
Whelan.

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of
Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps vet-
eran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of
a personal friend on December 22, 2018;

Whereas Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Paul
Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December
28, 2018, and charged him with espionage;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison
and continues to be held there more than eight months
after his arrest;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court has extended Paul Whelan’s pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas officials from the United States Embassy in Moscow have routinely had their topics of discussion with Paul Whelan severely limited by the Federal Security Service;

Whereas even Paul Whelan’s Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zherebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, “[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we’ve seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.”;

Whereas the United States Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, “If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.”; and

Whereas Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
 3 eration to present credible evidence on the allega-
 4 tions against Paul Whelan or immediately release
 5 him from detention;

1 (2) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
2 eration to provide unrestricted consular access to
3 Paul Whelan while he remains in detention;

4 (3) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
5 eration to ensure Paul Whelan is afforded due proc-
6 ess and universally recognized human rights;

7 (4) encourages the President and the Secretary
8 of State to continue to press the Government of the
9 Russian Federation at every opportunity and urge
10 the Government of the Russian Federation to guar-
11 antee a fair and transparent judicial process without
12 undue delay in accordance with its international
13 legal obligation; and

14 (5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul
15 Whelan and expresses hope that their ordeal can
16 soon be brought to an end.

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