

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the courageous work and life of Russian opposition leader Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov and renewing the call for a full and transparent investigation into the tragic murder of Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov in Moscow on February 27, 2015.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. JOHNSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the courageous work and life of Russian opposition leader Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov and renewing the call for a full and transparent investigation into the tragic murder of Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov in Moscow on February 27, 2015.

Whereas February 27, 2016, marks the first anniversary of the murder of former Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov (referred to in this preamble as “Dr. Nemtsov”);

Whereas Dr. Nemtsov dedicated his life to the causes of freedom and human rights for the Russian people and sought to reduce the corruption in the government of Russia;

Whereas on February 27, 2015—

(1) Dr. Nemtsov was murdered on the Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge in Moscow in view of the Kremlin; and

(2) President Obama called for a “prompt, impartial, and transparent” investigation into the murder of Dr. Nemtsov;

Whereas on March 1, 2015, tens of thousands of people marched through central Moscow in remembrance of Dr. Nemtsov;

Whereas the Russian courts and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation have consistently rejected requests to qualify the murder of Dr. Nemtsov under Article 277 of the Russian Criminal Code as “an attempt on the life of a public statesman”;

Whereas within 10 days of the murder of Dr. Nemtsov, Chechen suspect Zaur Dadayev admitted to killing Dr. Nemtsov at the behest of Ruslan Geremeyev, a senior officer in the Sever Battalion of Chechnya;

Whereas on March 8, 2015, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov called Zaur Dadayev a “true patriot”;

Whereas on March 9, 2015, Mr. Kadyrov was awarded the Order of Honor by Russian President Vladimir Putin;

Whereas on January 20, 2016, Aleksandr Bastrykin, the chief of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation responsible for investigating the murder of Dr. Nemtsov, declared that the case had been fully solved;

Whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged only Ruslan Muhudinov, the driver of Ruslan Geremeyev, with organizing the murder of Dr. Nemtsov;

Whereas on May 26, 2015, Russian opposition activist Vladimir Kara-Murza, a close friend and colleague of Dr. Nemtsov, was severely poisoned by an unknown assailant, resulting in multiple organ failures and a coma;

Whereas on January 25, 2016, the daughter of Dr. Nemtsov, Zhanna Nemtsova, appealed to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to investigate the murder of her father;

Whereas on February 1, 2016, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov posted a video on Instagram that shows Russian opposition leaders Mikhail Kasyanov and Vladimir Kara-Murza through the crosshairs of a sniper rifle accompanied by the comment, “Those who did not understand, will understand”; and

Whereas the Russian Federation is a member of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe, which have the capacity to conduct a more credible investigation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the legacy of courageous Russian
3 opposition leader Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov, who
4 dedicated his life to fighting corruption and pro-
5 moting the principles of democracy, rule of law, and
6 the inherent dignity of human beings;

7 (2) encourages the public release of all surveil-
8 lance tapes in the area surrounding the crime scene
9 to aid in the investigation;

10 (3) urges the United States Government, in of-
11 ficial contacts with representatives of the Russian

1 government, to emphasize the importance of bring-
2 ing to justice all of the conspirators in the murder
3 of Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov; and

4 (4) calls on the President to significantly in-
5 crease United States Government support for the
6 causes for which Boris Yefimovich Nemstov gave his
7 life.