

By Senator Farmer

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Senate Resolution

A resolution condemning the recent attack on the Syrian people by the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and urging the President of the United States and Congress to take significant action to hold accountable President Bashar al-Assad for these egregious human rights violations and breaches of international agreements.

WHEREAS, as a signatory of the Geneva Convention and its additional protocols, and in recognition of basic human rights and international standards, the United States has been and remains opposed to the direct targeting of civilian populations by any nation or its military, and

WHEREAS, the United States has been a signatory of the Chemical Weapons Convention since January 1993, and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention and in recognition of basic human rights, the United States opposes the use of chemical weapons under any circumstance, and

WHEREAS, in August 2014, the Syrian government, led by President Bashar al-Assad, guaranteed the international community that it had destroyed its chemical weapons stockpiles, and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2017, the Syrian military, at the direction of President Bashar al-Assad, employed chemical nerve agents in an attack on his own people, killing more than 70 civilians, including women and children, in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and

WHEREAS, a second bombing that followed the initial attack

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30 targeted hospitals where victims of the initial attack were
31 being treated, and

32 WHEREAS, these attacks violate not only international
33 agreements on chemical weapons, but also the Fourth Geneva
34 Convention, and

35 WHEREAS, the United States has a moral obligation to
36 prevent and deter human rights abuses, NOW, THEREFORE,

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38 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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40 That, at the direction of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad,
41 the Syrian government has committed grave human rights
42 violations against its own people and others.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Syrian government is in
44 violation of numerous international agreements, including, but
45 not limited to, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Chemical
46 Weapons Convention.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate urges the
48 President of the United States and Congress to take significant
49 actions to see that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is held
50 accountable for these egregious human rights violations and
51 breaches of international agreements.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
53 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the President of
54 the United States, the President of the United States Senate,
55 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and
56 the members of the Florida delegation to the United States
57 Congress.