

HRES 861

Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Sep 12, 2016

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. (Sep 12, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-resolution/861>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (38 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Sep 21, 2016
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Sep 21, 2016
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Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Sep 28, 2016
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Emmer, Tom [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]	R · NC		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Nov 14, 2016
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Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]	R · NY		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Westerman, Bruce [R-AR-4]	R · AR		Nov 15, 2016
Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Nov 16, 2016
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2016
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Nov 16, 2016
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Nov 16, 2016
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Nov 16, 2016
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Nov 30, 2016
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Nov 30, 2016
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Dec 6, 2016
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Dec 6, 2016
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Dec 6, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 12, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 SRES 432	Related bill	Jun 28, 2016: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 536.

Condemns: (1) the killing of peaceful protesters and excessive use of force by Ethiopian security forces; (2) the detention of journalists, students, activists and political leaders who exercise their constitutional rights to freedom of assembly and expression through peaceful protests; and (3) the abuse of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to stifle political and civil dissent and journalistic freedoms.

Urges protesters in Ethiopia to refrain from violence.

Calls on the government of Ethiopia to:

- end the use of excessive force by security forces;
- investigate the killings and excessive use of force that took place as a result of protests in the Oromia and Amhara regions;
- release dissidents, activists, and journalists who have been imprisoned for exercising constitutional rights;
- respect the right to peaceful assembly and guarantee freedom of the press;
- engage in open consultations with citizens regarding its development strategy;
- allow a United Nations rapporteur to conduct an independent examination of the state of human rights in Ethiopia; and
- investigate and report on the circumstances surrounding the September 3, 2016, shootings and fire at Qilinto Prison.

Calls on such government to repeal proclamations that:

- can be used to harass or prohibit funding for organizations that investigate human rights violations, engage in peaceful political dissent, or advocate for greater political freedoms;
- prohibit those displaced from their land from seeking judicial redress;
- permit the detention of peaceful protesters and political opponents who legally exercise their rights to freedom of expression and association; and
- limit peaceful nonprofit operations in Ethiopia.

Calls on: (1) the Department of State to review security assistance, and improve oversight of U.S. assistance, to Ethiopia; and (2) the U.S. Agency for International Development to lead efforts to develop a strategy to support improved democracy and governance in Ethiopia.

Supports the peaceful efforts of the Ethiopian people to exercise their constitutional rights.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 12, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 12, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.