

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

Senators Moss, McMorrow, Bayer, Polehanki, Irwin, Johnson, Runestad, Hollier, Geiss, Bumstead, Alexander, Victory, Brinks and Schmidt offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Biden Administration and U.S.
2 Department of State to act with the utmost urgency to secure the
3 release of American journalist Danny Fenster from Myanmar and
4 return him safely to the United States.

5 Whereas, On May 24, 2021, American journalist Danny Fenster, a
6 U.S. citizen from Huntington Woods, Michigan, was detained at the
7 Yangon International Airport in Myanmar as he attempted to board a
8 flight to Kuala Lumpur. Mr. Fenster had been working as a managing
9 editor in Myanmar for the news organization Frontier Myanmar, an
10 independent news outlet based in the country, and was on his way
11 home to the United States when he was detained; and

1 Whereas, Mr. Fenster has reportedly been transferred to Insein
2 Prison, which is notorious worldwide for its inhumane conditions,
3 abuse of inmates, and use of mental and physical torture. The
4 reasons for his detention remain unknown, and his news organization
5 has been unable to contact him; and

6 Whereas, The U.S. Department of State is monitoring the
7 situation, but more can be done to secure Mr. Fenster's release.
8 The United States has a profound interest in preserving the freedom
9 of the press worldwide in order to guarantee direct access to
10 independent information for all people. As a nation that is deeply
11 committed to protecting the freedoms, safety, and human rights of
12 its citizens, U.S. officials should be making every effort to
13 ensure that Mr. Fenster is returned home safely; now, therefore, be
14 it

15 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Biden Administration
16 and U.S. Department of State to act with the utmost urgency to
17 secure Mr. Fenster's immediate, unconditional, and safe release and
18 return to the United States; and be it further

19 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
20 President of the United States and the U.S. Secretary of State.