PENNSBURY FALCON INVITATIONAL

2022 Congress Finals

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Executive Session

February 6, 2022
Date: January 19, 2022
From: Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Thomas Pacheco
TO: United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, All Members
Subj: Executive Session on the Situation in Burma/Myanmar*

Senators,

Already the site of incredible atrocities and instability, the situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate. One year after the military seized power – again – many groups within Myanmar have carried on their resistance despite increasing violence.

As you know, Aung San Suu Kyi has been detained by the military since last February, after winning elections in November 2020. Last week, what Human Rights Watch called a “courtroom circus of secret proceedings on bogus charges” sentenced Suu Kyi to an additional four years of jail time. Peaceful and armed protests continue.

Further, the Myanmar military killed and burned 30 people, including children, on Christmas Eve in what they called an anti-terrorist campaign. Meanwhile, perhaps 100,000 or more refugees have fled bombardments of civilians in just the past month. And that is to say nothing of the violence against the Rohingya people. With new reports of fires destroying shelters in refugee camps in Myanmar, it is time for the United States to do more than talk.

The Senate Majority Leader and I believe that we must begin by declaring that the Myanmar military is guilty of genocide against the Rohingya people, and further, that we must be willing to use severe pressure against the Myanmar regime until those responsible are punished – from economic sanctions to military engagement if necessary. Where we cannot act alone, we must encourage the United Nations to send a peacekeeping operation to defend the citizens of Myanmar from the military junta. Finally, we must declare our support of the restoration of democracy in Myanmar.

Please prepare to debate these issues in a special session on February 6.

Sincerely,
Chairman Thomas Pacheco
Resolution F-1 will be the first piece of legislation debated in the Final Session. The subsequent agenda will be determined by the Committee’s decision to pass or fail F-1; additional legislation will be provided, along with recesses to prepare for the debate, during the Final Session – competitors should use the memo above to guide pre-tournament preparation.

The Committee will debate a total of three pieces of legislation for a minimum of one speech and a maximum of 45 minutes. There are no side balance requirements or mandatory moves to previous question other than the 45-minute maximum time.
F-1: A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE MASS ATROCITIES PERPETUATED BY MYANMAR’S MILITARY AGAINST THE ROHINGYA PEOPLE AS A GENOCIDE

WHEREAS, The Rohingya people are an ethnic minority group in Myanmar and represent the largest number of Muslims in the country; and

WHEREAS, Myanmar’s military (Tatmadaw) began to systemically attack the Rohingya people of Myanmar in 2016, with increased attacks and mass killings starting in 2017; and

WHEREAS, The number of Rohingya people in Myanmar totaled around one million in 2017 and currently stand at around 500,000, many of them having fled to neighboring Bangladesh, creating the largest refugee camp in the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Congress here assembled that the United States recognizes Myanmar’s ongoing and past attacks against the Rohingya people as a genocide.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Thomas Pacheco (MD)