

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 385

Calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2023

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MAY 7, 2024

Reported by Mr. CARDIN, without amendment

JUNE 4, 2024

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023.

Whereas United States citizen Evan Gershkovich is a journalist for the Wall Street Journal;

Whereas Evan Gershkovich is an accredited reporter, with a history of working in Russia for the Moscow Times, Agence France-Presse, and the Wall Street Journal;

Whereas Evan Gershkovich is known to his family, friends, and colleagues as someone who is adventurous, curious, and who has an abiding love for Russia and its people;

Whereas Evan Gershkovich, a trailblazing and intrepid journalist, actively reported on stories across Russia, including the vast wildfires across Siberia, the COVID–19 pandemic, the Russian economy, and the Government of the Russian Federation’s unlawful invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 29, 2023, Evan Gershkovich was arrested in Yekaterinburg while reporting on behalf of the Wall Street Journal;

Whereas, on April 7, 2023, the Government of the Russian Federation charged Evan Gershkovich with espionage;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has failed to publicly provide evidence of Evan Gershkovich’s criminal action to credibly render a charge of espionage;

Whereas the last time an American journalist was detained on allegations of espionage in Russia was in 1986 during the era of the Soviet Union;

Whereas, on April 10, 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken designated Evan Gershkovich wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation; and

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, the United States was joined by 46 United Nations Member States in a joint statement expressing deep concern over the detention of Evan Gershkovich by the Government of the Russian Federation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) calls on the Government of the Russian
3 Federation to immediately release Evan
4 Gershkovich, who has been wrongfully detained since
5 March 2023;

6 (2) urges all United States executive branch of-
7 ficials, including President Joseph R. Biden, Sec-
8 retary of State Antony Blinken, and Special Presi-
9 dential Envoy for Hostage Affairs Roger D.
10 Carstens, to raise the case of Evan Gershkovich and
11 to press for his immediate release in all interactions
12 with the Government of the Russian Federation;

13 (3) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
14 eration to provide full, unfettered, and consistent
15 consular access, in accordance with its international
16 obligations, to Evan Gershkovich while he remains in
17 detention;

18 (4) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
19 eration to respect the human rights of Evan
20 Gershkovich;

21 (5) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
22 eration to respect the rights of accredited journalists
23 to freely and independently report the news without
24 fear of arbitrary detention or reprisal;

1 (6) urges the Government of the Russian Fed-
2 eration to desist from detaining, imprisoning, and
3 otherwise seeking to intimidate journalists in order
4 to curtail or censor an independent press;

5 (7) condemns the Government of the Russian
6 Federation's continued use of detentions and pros-
7 ecutions of United States citizens and lawful perma-
8 nent residents for political purposes;

9 (8) calls for the immediate release of Paul
10 Whelan, who has been wrongfully detained in Russia
11 since December 2018;

12 (9) expresses continued support for all Amer-
13 ican citizens and lawful permanent residents de-
14 tained in Russia and abroad, including Marc Fogel,
15 who faces a politicized, excessive sentence for his al-
16 leged offense, Vladimir Kara-Murza, who has en-
17 dured multiple attempts on his life and years of per-
18 secution by the Putin regime, and others; and

19 (10) expresses sympathy for and solidarity with
20 the families of Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan, and
21 all other American citizens and lawful permanent
22 residents wrongfully detained abroad for the per-
23 sonal hardship experienced as a result of the arbi-

1 trary and baseless arrest and detention of their loved
2 ones.

