



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

Res 31844

Record No.: Res 31844

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

Ord. no:

In Control: City Council

File Created: 10/12/2018

Final Action: 10/29/2018

Title: A RESOLUTION proclaiming that Seattle affirms the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in the wake of increased targeting of local activists.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Herbold

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: Emilia.Sanchez@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Version:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	10/15/2018	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text:	The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office					
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	10/15/2018	sent for review	City Council			
	Action Text:	The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the City Council					
	Notes:						
1	City Council	10/15/2018	referred	City Council			
	Action Text:	The Resolution (Res) was referred. to the City Council					
	Notes:						
1	City Council	10/29/2018	adopted				Pass
	Action Text:	The Motion carried, the Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:					
	Notes:	Motion was made and duly seconded to adopt Resolution 31844.					

Legislative Summary Continued (Res 31844)

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council
President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson,
Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember
O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

1 City Clerk 10/29/2018 attested by City Clerk

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.

Notes:

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31844

A RESOLUTION proclaiming that Seattle affirms the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders in the wake of increased targeting of local activists.

WHEREAS, in 1998 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the “Declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms,” commonly known as the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (“Declaration”); and

WHEREAS, the main purpose of the Declaration is to protect human rights defenders and their activities; and

WHEREAS, the United States signed, but did not ratify, the Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders has written that states should use the twentieth anniversary of its passage as an opportunity to affirm the Declaration and make it more visible and accessible to everyone; and

WHEREAS, Seattle has previously been proclaimed a Human Rights City via Resolution 31420; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has seen an increase of human rights defenders being targeted for persecution; and

WHEREAS, more than one of these defenders have sought support against their persecution, but have instead been further persecuted by the federal administration;¹ and

¹ See Gene Johnson, *U.N. experts: Seattle-area activist's deportation proceedings appear to be retaliation*, SEATTLE TIMES, Feb. 14, 2018, <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/u-n-experts-seattle-area-activists-deportation-proceedings-appear-to-be-retaliation/>.

1 WHEREAS, the Seattle Police Department has limited resources to address cybercrimes, and
2 consequently these defenders believe local law enforcement is under-resourced to provide
3 protection and security, particularly from cybercrimes; and

4 WHEREAS, Resolution 31730, adopted by the City Council on January 30, 2017, affirms that
5 Seattle is a Welcoming City; and

6 WHEREAS, the principles adopted by The City of Seattle in declaring itself a Welcoming City
7 should also apply to protect those fighting for our most basic human rights;


8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

10 Section 1. The City of Seattle supports the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders
11 and further protections and support at a local level for these individuals, stands with human
12 rights defenders, and will examine how to support them in matters of targeted harassment,
13 stalking, threats, or other retaliatory actions against them by individuals or other authorities.


14 Section 2. The City Council recommends that local law enforcement examine current
15 practices and staffing with regards to supporting human rights defenders and activists who are
16 harassed and threatened.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 29th day of October, 2018,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 29th day of
3 October, 2018.

4 

5 President _____ of the City Council

6 Filed by me this 29th day of OCTOBER, 2018.

7 

8 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

9 (Seal)

