

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 315

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the crimes and abuses committed against the people of Sierra Leone by the Revolutionary United Front, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2000

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. FEINGOLD)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the crimes and abuses committed against the people of Sierra Leone by the Revolutionary United Front, and for other purposes.

Whereas more than 1,000,000 of Sierra Leone's 5,200,000 population are internally displaced and more than 500,000 are refugees as a direct result of the civil war in Sierra Leone, at least 50,000 people have been killed during the civil war, untold numbers of people have been mutilated and disabled largely by the Revolutionary United Front, and more than 20,000 individuals, including many children, are missing or have been kidnapped by the Revolutionary United Front;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front continues to terrorize the population of Sierra Leone by mutilating their enemies and innocent civilians, including women and children, by chopping off their ears, noses, hands, arms, and legs;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front continues to terrorize the population of Sierra Leone by decapitating innocent victims, including children as young as 10 months old and elderly men and women;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front abducts women and children for use as forced laborers, sex slaves, and as human shields during skirmishes with government forces and the forces of the Economic Community of West African States;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front has kidnapped boys as young as 6 or 7 years old and used them to kill and steal and to become soldiers, and its forces have routinely raped women and young girls as a terror tactic;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front has abducted civilians, missionaries, humanitarian aid workers, United Nations peacekeepers, and journalists;

Whereas Charles Taylor, the President of Liberia, has provided and continues to provide significant support and direction to the Revolutionary United Front in exchange for diamonds and other natural resources and is therefore culpable for the abuses in Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Lome Peace Accords did not hold the Revolutionary United Front accountable for their abuses and, in fact, rewarded Foday Sankoh and other Revolutionary United Front leaders with high government offices and control of diamond mining throughout Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone is
not a legitimate political movement, entity, or party;

Whereas all sides in the civil war in Sierra Leone are guilty
of serious human rights abuses; and

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front led by Foday
Sankoh is responsible for breaking the Lome Peace Ac-
cords and for the violent aftermath that has consumed
Sierra Leone since May 1, 2000: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the United States Government should do all
3 in its power to help ensure that the Revolutionary
4 United Front and its leaders, as well as other
5 groups committing human rights abuses in Sierra
6 Leone, are held accountable for the crimes and
7 abuses committed against the people of Sierra
8 Leone;

9 (2) the United States Government should not
10 condone, support, or be a party to, any agreement
11 that provides amnesty to those responsible for the
12 crimes and abuses in Sierra Leone; and

13 (3) the United States Government should not
14 provide incentives of any kind to regional supporters
15 of the Revolutionary United Front until all support
16 from them to the Revolutionary United Front has
17 ceased.

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