

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 233

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the dire humanitarian situation in Liberia and efforts to introduce peace and justice to that country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA (for himself and Mr. TOWNS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the dire humanitarian situation in Liberia and efforts to introduce peace and justice to that country.

Whereas the United States has a special relationship with Liberia dating back to 1847, when Liberia was founded by freed slaves returning from the United States;

Whereas the people of Liberia have been suffering civil war and destruction since 1990;

Whereas the conflict in Liberia has destroyed property, infrastructure, and thousands of lives;

Whereas the conflict has forced thousands of children to participate as soldiers of warring factions;

Whereas the conflict has created hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons, many currently without adequate food, shelter, or medical treatment;

Whereas the conflict has destabilized other nations in the region, including Guinea, Sierra Leone, and the Ivory Coast;

Whereas the current Liberian leader in Monrovia, Charles Taylor, obtained his position only through brazen intimidation and mayhem;

Whereas Charles Taylor has robbed Liberia of valuable natural resources such as timber and diamonds and damaged Liberia's environment and economy;

Whereas Charles Taylor has recently been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes while waging war against Liberia's neighbors;

Whereas peace and reconciliation cannot begin until the departure of President Charles Taylor from Liberia; and

Whereas the Liberian community in the United States tirelessly works toward peace and justice for their former homeland: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress calls for—*

3 (1) the departure of Charles Taylor from Libe-
4 ria and his trial at the Special Court for Sierra
5 Leone for Crimes Against Humanity and War
6 Crimes;

1 (2) international support for peacekeeping oper-
2 ations in Liberia to end the civil war, achieve peace,
3 and restore stability;

4 (3) innovative ways to support such a peace-
5 keeping operation and disarmament program and
6 ensure their success;

7 (4) international support for a transition lead-
8 ing to free and fair elections and the restoration of
9 legitimate governing capacity to a new and truly
10 democratic Liberian government;

11 (5) international support for the efforts of the
12 Economic Community of West African States
13 (ECOWAS) to assist Liberians in building a more
14 secure and free Liberia; and

15 (6) support for the Liberian people's long quest
16 for peace, justice, and prosperity.

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