

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3054

To establish a program to assist Sudanese refugees in the United States known as the “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan” to voluntarily return to southern Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern Sudan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2007

Mr. WOLF (for himself, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. OLVER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. STARK, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a program to assist Sudanese refugees in the United States known as the “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan” to voluntarily return to southern Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern Sudan.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Return of the Lost
5 Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The 21-year civil war between the North
4 and the South in Sudan, which ended with the sign-
5 ing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on Janu-
6 ary 9, 2005, caused many Sudanese people to flee
7 their homes and seek refuge elsewhere in Sudan, in
8 neighboring countries, and even in the United
9 States.

10 (2) Over 10,000 Sudanese boys and girls were
11 separated from their parents during this war and
12 fled on foot to Ethiopia, walking more than 1,000
13 kilometers on their four-month journey, and then
14 fled again to Kenya to avoid forcible repatriation to
15 Sudan.

16 (3) These Sudanese refugees suffered tremen-
17 dous hardships during their journey, and hundreds
18 drowned, were eaten by wild animals, killed by mili-
19 tary forces, or overcome with dehydration or starva-
20 tion along the way.

21 (4) Approximately 3,800 of these Sudanese ref-
22 ugees were granted priority resettlement status in
23 the United States. These Sudanese boys and girls
24 are commonly known as the “Lost Boys and Lost
25 Girls of Sudan”.

1 (5) As is common for refugees, the Lost Boys
2 and Lost Girls of Sudan, upon their arrival in the
3 United States, struggled to adjust to the dramatic
4 change in their surroundings.

5 (6) The story of the Lost Boys and Lost Girls
6 of Sudan has been documented in a number of books
7 and films in the United States.

8 (7) The Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan
9 have acquired a reputation for being a resilient and
10 highly motivated group of individuals, with many of
11 them gaining employment and pursuing higher edu-
12 cation simultaneously.

13 (8) Many Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan
14 have publicly expressed their interest in eventually
15 returning to their homeland to contribute to recon-
16 struction efforts following the end of the 21-year
17 civil war in Sudan.

18 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO ASSIST SUDANESE REFUGEES IN THE**
19 **UNITED STATES KNOWN AS THE “LOST BOYS**
20 **AND LOST GIRLS OF SUDAN” TO VOLUN-**
21 **TARILY RETURN TO SOUTHERN SUDAN TO**
22 **ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN**
23 **SOUTHERN SUDAN.**

24 (a) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of
25 this section to establish a program to assist Sudanese ref-

1 ugees in the United States known as the “Lost Boys and
2 Lost Girls of Sudan” to voluntarily return to southern
3 Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern
4 Sudan.

5 (b) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—From the amount appro-
6 priated under subsection (g) for any fiscal year, the Direc-
7 tor of Foreign Assistance shall, in accordance with sub-
8 section (c), establish and carry out a program to assist
9 Sudanese refugees in the United States known as the
10 “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan” to voluntarily return
11 to southern Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in
12 southern Sudan.

13 (c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—An individual
14 shall be eligible to participate in the program under this
15 section if the individual—

16 (1) is an alien who—

17 (A) is a national of Sudan;

18 (B) was admitted to the United States as
19 a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration
20 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) from Kakuma
21 refugee camp in Kenya, and identified by the
22 Secretary of State under the worldwide refugee
23 application processing priority system as ‘Pri-
24 ority-2’ (P-2), a group of special concern to the
25 United States; and

1 (C) has been continuously physically
2 present in the United States from the date of
3 the alien's admission to the United States
4 through the date of application for participation
5 in the program under this section, except that
6 the alien shall not be considered to have failed
7 to maintain continuous physical presence by
8 reasons of an absence, or absences, from the
9 United States for any period or periods
10 amounting in the aggregate to not more than
11 180 days; and

12 (2) commits to returning to southern Sudan for
13 a period of not less than three years for purposes of
14 contributing knowledge gained through higher edu-
15 cation and professional experience in the United
16 States to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern
17 Sudan, as approved by the Director of Foreign As-
18 sistance for purposes of this section.

19 (d) AWARD AMOUNT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of Foreign As-
21 sistance may, from funds appropriated under sub-
22 section (g), make available amounts necessary to
23 cover travel, lodging, living, student loan repayment,
24 and other costs that are determined to be appro-

1 appropriate and associated with participation in the pro-
2 gram under this section.

3 (2) AWARD BASIS.—The Director of Foreign
4 Assistance shall make payments to individuals who
5 participate in the program under this section on a
6 first-come first-served basis, subject to the avail-
7 ability of appropriations.

8 (e) REGULATIONS.—The Director of Foreign Assist-
9 ance shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to
10 carry out the provisions of this section.

11 (f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that, in carrying out the program under this section,
13 the Director of Foreign Assistance should—

14 (1) review programs similar to the program
15 under this section, including programs carried out
16 by the United States Agency for International De-
17 velopment in Sudan, the International Organization
18 on Migration’s “Return of Talent Programme”, and
19 any other similar or related programs for purposes
20 of replicating best practices in the program under
21 this section;

22 (2) consult with the Lost Boys/Lost Girls Orga-
23 nization in the United States for purposes of identi-
24 fying interested and eligible candidates for the pro-
25 gram under this section;

1 (3) seek cooperation with local and inter-
2 national organizations in southern Sudan to most ef-
3 fectively identify sectors, programs, and projects in
4 which the talents and skills of individuals who par-
5 ticipate in the program under this section will be
6 most useful to reconstruction efforts in southern
7 Sudan; and

8 (4) seek to ensure that individuals who partici-
9 pate in the program under this section are permitted
10 to retain their immigration status under United
11 States law.

12 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
13 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
14 to the Director of Foreign Assistance such sums as may
15 be necessary for fiscal year 2008 and for each of the five
16 succeeding fiscal years.

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