

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 16

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2007

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling on the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to recommit to a political solution to the conflict in northern Uganda and to recommence vital peace talks, and urging immediate and substantial support for the ongoing peace process from the United States and the international community.

Whereas for nearly two decades, the Government of Uganda has been engaged in an armed conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) that has resulted in up to 200,000 deaths from violence and disease and the displacement of more than 1,600,000 civilians from eastern and northern Uganda.

Whereas former United Nations Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland has called the crisis in northern Uganda "the biggest forgotten, neglected humanitarian emergency in the world today";

Whereas Joseph Kony, the leader of the LRA, and several of his associates have been indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including rape, murder, enslavement, sexual enslavement, and the forced recruitment of an estimated 66,000 children;

Whereas the LRA is a severe and repeat violator of human rights and has continued to attack civilians and humanitarian aid workers despite a succession of ceasefire agreements;

Whereas the Secretary of State has labeled the LRA “vicious and cult-like” and designates it as a terrorist organization;

Whereas the 2005 Department of State report on the human rights record of the Government of Uganda found that “security forces committed unlawful killings... and were responsible for deaths as a result of torture” along with other “serious problems,” including repression of political opposition, official impunity, and violence against women and children;

Whereas, in the 2004 Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act (Public Law 108–283; 118 Stat. 912), Congress declared its support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda and called for the United States and the international community to assist in rehabilitation, reconstruction, and demobilization efforts;

Whereas the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, which was mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan and signed by representatives of the Government of Uganda and the LRA on August 20, 2006, and extended on November 1, 2006, requires both parties to cease all hostile

military and media offensives and asks the Sudan People's Liberation Army to facilitate the safe assembly of LRA fighters in designated areas for the duration of the peace talks;

Whereas the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement is set to expire on February 28, 2007, and although both parties to the agreement have indicated that they are willing to continue with the peace talks, no date has been set for resumption of the talks, and recent reports have suggested that both rebel and Government forces are preparing to return to war;

Whereas a return to civil war would yield disastrous results for the people of northern Uganda and for regional stability, while peace in Uganda will bolster the fragile Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan and de-escalate tensions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas continuing violence and instability obstruct the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of northern Uganda and impede national and regional trade, development and democratization efforts, and counter-terrorism initiatives; and

Whereas the Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 366, 109th Congress, agreed to February 6, 2006, and Senate Resolution 573, 109th Congress, agreed to September 19, 2006, calling on Uganda, Sudan, the United States, and the international community to bring justice and provide humanitarian assistance to northern Uganda and to support the successful transition from conflict to sustainable peace, while the House of Representatives has not yet considered comparable legislation: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) disapproves of the LRA leadership's incon-
4 sistent commitment to resolving the conflict in
5 Uganda peacefully;

6 (2) urges the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)
7 and the Government of Uganda to return to negotia-
8 tions in order to extend and expand upon the exist-
9 ing ceasefire and to recommit to pursuing a political
10 solution to this conflict;

11 (3) entreats all parties in the region to imme-
12 diately cease human rights violations and address,
13 within the context of a broader national reconcili-
14 ation process in Uganda, issues of accountability
15 and impunity for those crimes against humanity al-
16 ready committed;

17 (4) presses leaders on both sides of the conflict
18 in Uganda to renounce any intentions and halt any
19 preparations to resume violence and to ensure that
20 this message is clearly conveyed to armed elements
21 under their control; and

22 (5) calls on the Secretary of State, the Admin-
23 istrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
24 national Development, and the heads of other simi-
25 lar governmental agencies and nongovernmental or-

Attest: NANCY ERICKSON,
Secretary.