

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 375

Concerning the crisis in the Central African Republic and supporting United States and international efforts to end the violence, protect civilians, and address root causes of the conflict.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2014

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 11, 2014

Reported by Mr. MENENDEZ, with an amendment and an amendment to the
preamble

[Insert the part printed in italic]

[Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic]

MARCH 13, 2014

Considered, amended, and agreed to with an amended preamble

RESOLUTION

Concerning the crisis in the Central African Republic and supporting United States and international efforts to end the violence, protect civilians, and address root causes of the conflict.

Whereas, for more than 50 years, successive governments in the Central African Republic have struggled to build a durable system of democratic institutions, to effectively secure and control the country's territory and borders,

and to ensure a basic level of socio-economic development for the country's people;

Whereas, despite its natural resource wealth, the Central African Republic remains one of the poorest countries in the world and one of the lowest ranking countries in terms of human development according to the United Nations Development Program;

Whereas, in January 2013, regional leaders brokered the Libreville Agreements between the government of then-President Francois Bozizé and the loosely allied rebel militia known as Séléka, which resulted in the formation of a government of national unity;

Whereas, despite the Libreville Agreements, President Bozizé was ousted in March 2013 by the Séléka coalition, and the Séléka leader, Michel Djotodia, declared himself president;

Whereas, in April 2013, regional leaders issued the N'djamena Declaration in an effort to pursue a return to constitutional order based on the Libreville Agreements;

Whereas an influx of foreign fighters, especially from Chad and Sudan, has been a major factor in the increased number of Séléka fighters, from approximately 5,000 in March 2013, to an estimated 20,000 as of December 2013;

Whereas both Séléka forces and armed militia groups known as “anti-balakas”, some of which formed initially as a means of protecting communities against Séléka, have been implicated in ethnically-motivated violence and grave and systemic human rights abuses against civilians;

Whereas, over the course of the crisis, Séléka and anti-balaka groups have displayed weak control and command struc-

tures, and committed crimes against humanity with impunity;

Whereas, according to UNICEF, thousands of child soldiers are involved in armed groups in the Central African Republic, amid the near-total collapse of the country's primary education system;

Whereas interethnic, intercommunal, and interreligious tensions and violence have risen to alarming levels and led to systematic human rights abuses in the Central African Republic, including targeted killings, rapes, acts of torture, looting, and arbitrary detention;

Whereas the United States Embassy in Bangui suspended operations on December 28, 2012, and the ordered departure of country team staff has temporarily suspended the diplomatic presence and consular services of the United States in the Central African Republic;

Whereas more than 700,000 civilians have been internally displaced; another 290,000 have sought refuge in neighboring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Cameroon, and South Sudan; 2,600,000 people, or over half of the population of the Central African Republic, are in need of humanitarian assistance; and 60 percent of households have no available food stocks;

Whereas a failure of the international community to appropriately respond to and address the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Central African Republic could result in further atrocities, mass displacement, and protracted instability with significant repercussions for regional and international security;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 2127 (2013) called for urgent and increased international assistance to the African Union International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to ensure that the force can fulfill its mandate to restore security and protect civilians, and placed an arms embargo on the Central African Republic;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 2127 requested the Secretary-General to establish an international commission of inquiry to investigate reports of human rights abuses in the Central African Republic in order to ensure accountability for perpetrators of violence;

Whereas the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic has been hindered by a lack of resources and constrained by insecurity;

Whereas, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2127, the Government of France launched a stabilization operation, Operation Sangaris, in the Central African Republic to assist MISCA in fulfilling its mandate;

Whereas, on March 3, 2014, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended to the United Nations Security Council a transition to a United Nations peacekeeping mission with a primary mandate to protect civilians; and

Whereas the United States Government has provided crisis and humanitarian assistance commitments totaling \$182,500,000 in response to instability in the Central African Republic, including support for conflict resolution efforts, humanitarian assistance to refugees and inter-

nally displaced persons, and assistance to troop contributing countries to MISCA such as airlift, non-lethal equipment, military logistics, and training, as well as logistical support for French forces: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns the violence, atrocities, abuses,
3 and human rights violations committed by all parties
4 to the conflict in the Central African Republic;

5 (2) commends the efforts of religious and com-
6 munity leaders in the Central African Republic con-
7 demning violence and engaging in conflict prevention
8 and conflict resolution activities;

9 (3) welcomes the mobilization of international
10 peacekeeping, conflict mitigation, humanitarian, and
11 diplomatic resources, and encourages continued ef-
12 forts to help address humanitarian needs, bring an
13 end to the violence, and develop sustainable demo-
14 cratic institutions in the Central African Republic;

15 (4) welcomes the January 2014 decision of the
16 Transitional National Council on the election of
17 Catherine Samba-Panza as the Central African Re-
18 public's new transitional president;

19 (5) commends the African Union and its troop
20 and police contributing countries for their work es-
21 tablishing and supporting MISCA;

1 (6) recognizes the Economic Community of
2 Central African States (CEEAS) for its leadership
3 in the political transition process;

4 (7) commends France for its swift intervention
5 under United Nations Security Council Resolution
6 2127, and for its contributions to stabilization ef-
7 forts and other forms of assistance;

8 (8) welcomes the United Nations Security
9 Council support for MISCA and the Department of
10 Peacekeeping Operation's ongoing contingency plan-
11 ning for a possible transition to a United Nations
12 peacekeeping operation;

13 (9) affirms support for multilateral peace-
14 keeping and policing capacities and recognizes the
15 important contributions these efforts have made in
16 protecting civilians in the Central African Republic
17 and promoting international peace and stability;

18 (10) calls on the President to work with inter-
19 national partners to develop a short-term strategy to
20 support a full and immediate cessation of armed
21 conflict in the Central African Republic, including
22 attacks targeting civilians and the recruitment of
23 child soldiers;

24 (11) calls on the President to develop a long-
25 term United States strategy, in support of inter-

1 national and domestic efforts, to establish a durable
2 peace and greater security for the Central African
3 Republic and to enhance regional stability, includ-
4 ing—

5 (A) engagement and coordination with the
6 international community, including the African
7 Union, the Economic Community of Central Af-
8 rican States, the United Nations, and other
9 partners;

10 (B) appropriate assistance to help provide
11 emergency relief and support reconciliation for
12 the people of the Central African Republic;

13 (C) technical, logistical and other forms of
14 assistance, as appropriate, in support of effec-
15 tive disarmament, demobilization, and re-
16 integration of fighters; and

17 (D) support for appropriate mechanisms to
18 ensure accountability for perpetrators of human
19 rights abuses and violence; and

20 (12) urges the Secretary of State to consider
21 the expeditious reestablishment of a United States
22 diplomatic presence in the Central African Republic.

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