

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 237

Condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for continuing to perpetrate crimes against humanity, war crimes, and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government, the African Union, and governments and regional organizations in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield and promote protection and recovery of affected communities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2015

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for continuing to perpetrate crimes against humanity, war crimes, and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government, the African Union, and governments and regional organizations in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield and promote protection and recovery of affected communities.

Whereas the Lord's Resistance Army, which first formed in northern Uganda, continues its reign of terror in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African

Republic, and South Sudan, destabilizing the region and deliberately killing at least 2,400 civilians since 2008, many of whom were targeted in schools and churches;

Whereas atrocities committed by the Lord's Resistance Army have resulted in the rape and brutal mutilation of countless men, women, and children; the abduction of over 70,000 civilians, including at least 30,000 children, many of whom were forced to become child soldiers or sex slaves; the continued displacement of more than 200,000 civilians from their homes, many of whom do not have access to essential humanitarian assistance; and the general deterioration of governance and security in affected areas;

Whereas insecurity caused by the Lord's Resistance Army has undermined efforts by the African Union and governments in the region, which have been supported by the United States and the international community, to consolidate peace and stability in each of the countries affected by the Lord's Resistance Army;

Whereas the Lord's Resistance Army engages in elephant poaching and the violent pillaging of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, using the profits from its sales of ivory, gold, and diamonds to fund its operations and the purchase of munitions;

Whereas the senior core command structure of the Lord's Resistance Army remains functional and the 2005 arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against Joseph Kony for war crimes and crimes against humanity remains pending, as testimony to the continued threat faced by the region;

Whereas the Senate remains dedicated to the commitment established in the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–172; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note) by working with regional governments toward a comprehensive and permanent resolution to the conflict in northern Uganda and other affected areas through the provision of political, economic, military, and intelligence support to protect civilians, apprehend or remove Joseph Kony and his top commanders from the battlefield, and disarm and demobilize the remaining Lord's Resistance Army fighters;

Whereas, in June 2012, the United Nations Security Council endorsed the Regional Strategy of the United Nations to bring an end to the Lord's Resistance Army by focusing on the implementation of the Regional Cooperation Initiative of the African Union and to support the governments affected by the ongoing conflict;

Whereas, on September 18 and 19, 2012, the Governments of the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and the Republic of Uganda dedicated contingents of their armed forces to a unified African Union Regional Task Force mandated to permanently end the Lord's Resistance Army threat, with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo following suit on February 14, 2013;

Whereas Joseph Kony remains a Specially Designated Global Terrorist and, on January 15, 2013, the Department of State under its Rewards for Justice Program announced a reward for information leading to Kony's arrest or conviction;

Whereas, on December 10, 2014, the United Nations Security Council issued a presidential statement welcoming the continued advisory and logistical support provided by

the United States to the African Union Regional Task Force, while noting continued reports of the presence of senior Lord's Resistance Army leaders in the disputed Kafia Kingi enclave and reports of opportunistic collaboration between the Lord's Resistance Army and ex-Seleka forces in the Central African Republic;

Whereas, on March 25, 2014, President Barack Obama notified Congress of the increased commitment of approximately 250 members of the United States Armed Forces to the Regional Task Force to assist regional forces in their efforts to protect civilians, encourage defections from the Lord's Resistance Army, and bring Joseph Kony and his senior leadership to justice;

Whereas reports from nongovernmental organizations operating on the ground indicate that local communities and civil society leaders in the region have welcomed and continue to support the presence and continued assistance of United States military advisors;

Whereas, due to the continued efforts of the Regional Task Force of the African Union and United States military advisors, killings carried out by the Lord's Resistance Army have dropped 90 percent since 2011 and approximately 25 percent of the core fighting force of the Lord's Resistance Army has defected or been otherwise removed from the battlefield since January 2013;

Whereas over 120 women and children held in long-term captivity by the Lord's Resistance Army escaped from the rebel group in 2014;

Whereas reports from nongovernmental organizations and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs demonstrate an increase in attacks and ab-

ductions by the Lord's Resistance Army in 2014 compared to 2013, as well as an increase in internally displaced persons in the northeastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in late 2014;

Whereas the African Union Regional Task Force reported in January 2015 that Okot Odhiambo, a senior Lord's Resistance Army officer indicted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, was killed in battle in 2013;

Whereas, on January 5, 2015, Dominic Ongwen, a senior Lord's Resistance Army officer indicted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, defected to forces from the United States and African Union Regional Task Force;

Whereas the inability of the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to defuse violence, establish legitimate and effective governance, or achieve basic development objectives throughout their countries has provided safe haven for the Lord's Resistance Army and the failure to immediately de-escalate and resolve the broader national crisis risks eclipsing gains made by United States efforts to prevent atrocities in the southeastern region of the Central African Republic; and

Whereas targeted United States assistance and leadership has made a significant impact on preventing further mass atrocities and curtailing humanitarian suffering in central Africa and must be reinforced to maintain these gains: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns Joseph Kony and the Lord's Re-
3 sistance Army for continuing to perpetrate crimes

1 against humanity and mass atrocities, and supports
2 ongoing efforts by the United States, the African
3 Union, the international community, and govern-
4 ments in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and
5 Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the bat-
6 tlefield and promote protection and recovery for af-
7 fected communities;

8 (2) commends the continued efforts by the Afri-
9 can Union, the United Nations, and regional part-
10 ners to end the threat posed by the Lord's Resist-
11 ance Army;

12 (3) supports efforts to provide the Regional
13 Task Force with the logistics support and authoriza-
14 tions needed to access all areas of suspected Lord's
15 Resistance Army activity in the Central African Re-
16 public and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

17 (4) urges the President to reauthorize the de-
18 ployment of United States Armed Forces personnel
19 in support of Operation Observant Compass until
20 senior Lord's Resistance Army commanders are re-
21 moved from the battlefield and the group no longer
22 poses a significant threat to civilians;

23 (5) urges the Secretary of State and the Sec-
24 retary of Defense to support the African Union and
25 the Regional Task Force, as well as regional part-

ners, in their efforts to deny the Lord's Resistance Army safe haven in Sudan and in the disputed Kafia Kingi enclave, by expanding defection messaging initiatives, urging the African Union to engage more proactively in diplomatic outreach to the Government of Sudan, and removing Joseph Kony and his top commanders from the battlefield through the sharing of intelligence and other military assistance;

(6) urges the African Union and the Regional Task Force, with the support of the European Union, as well as the Governments of Uganda, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to implement the Regional Strategy of the United Nations by—

(A) fully implementing the Regional Cooperation Initiative developed by the African Union to bring an end to the Lord's Resistance Army;

(B) enhancing efforts to promote the protection of civilians in all areas in which the Lord's Resistance Army operates; and

(C) broadening current efforts of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement, and reintegration to all areas affected by

1 the Lord's Resistance Army, as well as humani-
2 tarian and child protection efforts;

3 (7) welcomes the continued defections of men,
4 women, and children from the Lord's Resistance
5 Army, and calls on governments in the region and
6 the international community to support their demo-
7 bilization and safe return;

8 (8) calls on the Secretary of State, the Sec-
9 retary of Defense, the Administrator of the United
10 States Agency for International Development, and
11 the heads of other relevant United States Govern-
12 ment agencies to utilize authorized and appropriated
13 funds—

14 (A) to continue efforts to enhance intel-
15 ligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sup-
16 port to the African Union Regional Task Force,
17 and specifically to encourage additional enablers
18 and actionable intelligence to increase the effec-
19 tiveness of partner operations;

20 (B) to work with the United Nations, the
21 African Union, and regional government part-
22 ners to encourage and help non-indicted Lord's
23 Resistance Army members, abductees, and non-
24 combatants to defect safely from the group
25 through the distribution of aerial leaflets, the

1 broadcast of “come home” radio programs, and
2 the continuation of flights utilizing helicopter-
3 based speaker systems over known areas of
4 Lord’s Resistance Army operation;

5 (C) to expand efforts to prevent the Lord’s
6 Resistance Army from funding its operations
7 through the theft and trade of illicit ivory, gold,
8 and diamonds; and

9 (D) to support rehabilitation and re-
10 integration programs led by nongovernmental
11 organizations and regional government partners
12 for children, youth, and adults that have been
13 abducted and indoctrinated by the Lord’s Re-
14 sistance Army;

15 (9) commends those members of the United
16 States Armed Forces previously or currently de-
17 ployed to serve in support of Operation Observant
18 Compass for their critical contributions to efforts to
19 remove Joseph Kony and Lord’s Resistance Army
20 commanders from the battlefield, protect civilians,
21 and encourage members of the Lord’s Resistance
22 Army to peacefully defect; and

23 (10) urges the President, with input from
24 United States Government agencies, regional govern-
25 ments, multilateral partners, and nongovernmental

1 organizations, to develop a strategy aimed at sup-
2 porting sustainable recovery and security within
3 areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army, with
4 existing resources, and in partnership with other do-
5 nors and multilateral bodies, including the World
6 Bank, the European Union, and others.

