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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities be authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony on nuclear nonproliferation programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Proliferation Security Initiative at the Department of Defense in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces be authorized to meet in open and closed session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at 3 p.m. to receive testimony on Ballistic Missile Defense Programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2008 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Matt Castillo and Patrick Fields of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lindy Hawkins, an intern in my office, and Clarita Mrena, a detailee with the Aging Committee, be accorded the privilege of the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent the privilege of the floor be granted to Eleanore Edson, a fellow in the office of Senator CLINTON, during today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Melanie Roberts, a fellow in Senator BINGAMAN's office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the pendency of S. 5 and S. 30.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, there is an appointment at the desk.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, and as further amended by Public Law 107-228, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Dr. Don H. Argue, of Washington, (for a term of May 15, 2007–May 14, 2009).

COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN AFRICA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 103, S. Res. 76.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 76) calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to; the title amendment be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 840) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To urge the Government of the Central African Republic to address human rights abuses in the northwestern region of that country)

On page 5, after line 25, insert the following:

(6) urges the Government of the Central African Republic—

(A) to engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with rebels in the northwestern region of the country;

(B) to hold accountable security forces engaging in human rights violations; and

(C) to strengthen government services in order to meet the needs of affected populations;

On page 6, line 1, strike “(6)” and insert “(7)”.

On page 6, lines 1 and 2, strike “advocate for the appointment of” and insert “urge the United Nations Security Council to appoint”.

On page 6, line 8, strike “(7)” and insert “(8)”.

On page 6, line 10, insert “United Nations” after “advance”.

On page 6, line 11, insert “and northern Central African Republic” after “Chad”.

On page 6, line 13, strike “(8)” and insert “(9)”.

On page 6, line 15, insert “and northern Central African Republic” after “Chad”.

On page 7, line 24 strike “(9)” and insert “(10)”.

The amendment (No. 841) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, northern Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.”

The resolution (S. Res. 76), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 76

Whereas armed groups have been moving freely between Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder and engaging in banditry, forced recruitment of soldiers, and gender-based violence;

Whereas these and other crimes are contributing to insecurity and instability throughout the region, exacerbating the humanitarian crises in these countries and obstructing efforts to end violence in the Darfur region of Sudan and adjacent areas;

Whereas on January 5, 2007, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that crossborder attacks by alleged Arab militias from Sudan and related intercommunal ethnic hostilities in eastern Chad had resulted in the displacement of an estimated 20,000 people from Chad during the previous 2 weeks and posed a direct threat to camps housing refugees from Sudan;

Whereas these new internally displaced Chadians have strained the resources of 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad that are already serving more than 100,000 internally displaced Chadians and 230,000 refugees from Darfur and providing humanitarian support and protection to more than 46,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in southern Chad;

Whereas Chadian gendarmes responsible for providing security in and around the 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad are too few in number, too poorly equipped, and too besieged by Chadian rebel actions to carry out critical protection efforts sufficiently;

Whereas on January 16, 2007, the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the Central African Republic reported that waves of violence across the north have left more than 1,000,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 150,000 who are internally displaced, while some 80,000 have fled to neighboring Chad or Cameroon;

Whereas in a Presidential Statement issued on January 16, 2007 (S/PRST/2007/2), the United Nations Security Council reiterated its “concern about the continuing instability along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and about the threat which this poses to the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations” and requested “that the Secretary-General deploy as soon as possible an advance mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, in consultation with their Governments”;

Whereas the Presidential Statement acknowledged “the position taken by the Central African and Chadian authorities in favor in principle of such a presence and looks forward to their continued engagement in preparing for it”;

Whereas a December 22, 2006, report of the United Nations Secretary-General (S/2006/

1019) expressed a need to address the rapidly deteriorating security situation of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic and to protect civilians in the border areas of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic and recommended a robust mission that "would, among other tasks: facilitate the political process; protect civilians; monitor the human rights situation; and strengthen the local judicial, police and correctional system";

Whereas the December 22, 2006, report went on to recommend that the force also be mandated and equipped to deter attacks by armed groups and react preemptively to protect civilians, including refugees and internally displaced persons, with rapid reaction capabilities;

Whereas on August 30, 2006, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006), authorizing a multidimensional presence consisting of political, humanitarian, military and civilian police liaison officers in key locations in Chad, including in the internally displaced persons and refugee camps and, if necessary, in the Central African Republic;

Whereas continuing hostilities will undermine efforts to bring security to the Darfur region of Sudan, dangerously destabilize volatile political and humanitarian situations in Chad and the Central African Republic, and potentially disrupt progress towards peace in southern Sudan;

Whereas a December 2006 United Nations assessment mission report outlined possibilities for a mission in Chad, including a force large enough to monitor the border, deter attacks, and provide civilian protection;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has requested proposals for a United Nations force in Chad and the Central African Republic to help protect and provide humanitarian assistance to tens of thousands of civilians affected by the conflict that began in Darfur; and

Whereas a technical assessment mission was dispatched in January 2007 toward that end: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern for the more than 1,000,000 citizens of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic who have been adversely affected by this interrelated violence and instability;

(2) calls upon the Governments of Chad and Sudan—

(A) to reaffirm their commitment to the Tripoli Declaration of February 8, 2006, and the N'Djamena Agreement of July 26, 2006;

(B) to refrain from any actions that violate these agreements; and

(C) to cease all logistical, financial, and military support to each others' insurgent groups;

(3) urges the Government of Chad to improve accountability and transparency as well as the provision of basic services to redeem the legitimacy of the Government in the eyes of its citizens;

(4) urges the Government of Chad to take action to increase political participation and to strengthen democratic institutions to ensure that all segments of society in Chad can participate in and benefit from a transparent, open, and capable government;

(5) urges the Government of Chad, the Government of Sudan, and other key regional and international stakeholders to commit to another round of inclusive political negotiations that can bring lasting peace and stability to the region;

(6) urges the Government of the Central African Republic—

(A) to engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with rebels in the northwestern region of the country;

(B) to hold accountable security forces engaging in human rights violations; and

(C) to strengthen government services in order to meet the needs of affected populations;

(7) calls upon the President to urge the United Nations Security Council to appoint a senior United Nations official to direct and coordinate all international humanitarian activities on both sides of Sudan's western border and expand the response to emergency needs related to the political and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic;

(8) urges the President to utilize the resources and leverage at the President's disposal to press for the immediate deployment of an advance United Nations mission to eastern Chad and northern Central African Republic to lay the groundwork for a robust multilateral and multidimensional presence;

(9) urges the United Nations Security Council to authorize a multilateral and multidimensional peacekeeping force to eastern Chad and northern Central African Republic with the mandate and means—

(A) to ensure effective protection of civilians, particularly refugees, and internally displaced persons, including by preempting, preventing, and deterring attacks on civilians;

(B) to organize regular patrols along the western border of Sudan and implement practical protection measures for asylum seekers;

(C) to maintain the civilian and humanitarian nature of the internally displaced persons and refugee camps in Chad and facilitate the efforts of aid workers;

(D) to deter, monitor, investigate, and report attacks on humanitarian personnel and assets;

(E) to provide around the clock physical security in the camps and surrounding areas, including organized patrols to guarantee freedom of movement to all civilians and humanitarian workers;

(F) to coordinate and share information with humanitarian organizations, actively preserve unhindered humanitarian access to all displaced persons, and ensure the safety of all humanitarian workers in accordance with international humanitarian law;

(G) to collect and report evidence of human rights violations and perpetrators to the United Nations on a timely and regular basis; and

(H) to support domestic and multilateral initiatives to strengthen local judicial, police, and correctional systems in Chad; and

(10) urges the President and the international community to coordinate efforts to make available sufficient resources in support of this multilateral and multidimensional mission, as well as adequate assistance to meet the continuing humanitarian and security needs of the individuals and areas most affected by this conflict.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session; that the Homeland Security Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN-288, the nomination of Claude M. Kicklighter to be Inspector General for the Department of Defense, and that the nomination be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the nomination will be placed on the calendar.

NOMINATION OF JAMES CLAPPER TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mr. HARKIN. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to the consideration of Calendar No. 59, James R. Clapper, Jr., of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination, considered and confirmed, is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

James R. Clapper, Jr., of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2007

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that upon conclusion of the vote on passage of S. 30 today and the clearance of any items by unanimous consent, the Senate stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 12; that on Thursday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first 30 minutes controlled by the majority leader or his designee and the last 30 minutes controlled by the Republican leader or his designee; that at the close of morning business, the Senate resume the motion to proceed to S. 372 and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOPE OFFERED THROUGH PRINCIPLED AND ETHICAL STEM CELL RESEARCH ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the issue of stem cell research, when those stem cells are derived from human embryos, is one of the most profound of our time. Confronting this issue means confronting a dilemma, one I am sure every one of my colleagues has grappled with as much as I have.

On the one hand, many scientists believe that research using stem cells holds the promise of one day curing diseases. But we must also remember that the embryos from which these stem cells are derived are human life. Extracting the stem cells destroys the embryo and ends that life's possibility. The moral boundaries this research crosses is greatly troubling to me, and to many others.