

Mitchell	Reichert	Snyder
Mollohan	Reyes	Space
Moore (KS)	Richardson	Speier
Moore (WI)	Rodriguez	Spratt
Moran (KS)	Roe (TN)	Stark
Moran (VA)	Rogers (AL)	Stearns
Murphy (CT)	Rogers (KY)	Stupak
Murphy (NY)	Rogers (MI)	Sullivan
Murphy, Patrick	Rooney	Sutton
Murphy, Tim	Ros-Lehtinen	Tanner
Myrick	Roskam	Taylor
Nadler (NY)	Ross	Teague
Napolitano	Rothman (NJ)	Terry
Neal (MA)	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)
Neugebauer	Ruppersberger	Thompson (MS)
Norton	Rush	Thompson (PA)
Nunes	Ryan (OH)	Thornberry
Nye	Ryan (WI)	Tiahrt
Oberstar	Sablan	Tiberi
Obey	Salazar	Tierney
Olson	Sánchez, Linda	Titus
Ortiz	T.	Tonko
Owens	Sanchez, Loretta	Sarbanes
Pallone	Sarbanes	Towns
Pascrell	Scalise	Tsongas
Pastor (AZ)	Schakowsky	Turner
Paul	Schauer	Upton
Paulsen	Schiff	Van Hollen
Payne	Schmidt	Velázquez
Pence	Schock	Visclosky
Perlmutter	Schrader	Walden
Perriello	Schwartz	Walz
Peters	Scott (GA)	Wasserman
Peterson	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Petri	Sensenbrenner	Watson
Pierluisi	Serrano	Watt
Pingree (ME)	Sestak	Waxman
Pitts	Shadegg	Weiner
Platts	Shea-Porter	Welch
Poe (TX)	Sherman	Westmoreland
Polis (CO)	Shimkus	Whitfield
Pomeroy	Shuler	Wilson (OH)
Posey	Shuster	Wilson (SC)
Price (GA)	Simpson	Wittman
Price (NC)	Sires	Wolf
Putnam	Skelton	Woolsey
Quigley	Slaughter	Wu
Rahall	Smith (NE)	Yarmuth
Rangel	Smith (TX)	Young (FL)
Rehberg	Smith (WA)	

NOES—10

Broun (GA)	McClintock	Sessions
Burgess	Miller, Gary	Young (AK)
Flake	Rohrabacher	
Johnson, Sam	Royce	

NOT VOTING—13

Barrett (SC)	Hoekstra	Smith (NJ)
Carney	Jackson Lee	Souder
Cole	(TX)	Wamp
Davis (AL)	Olver	Waters
Gingrey (GA)	Radanovich	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1831

Mr. GRIFFITH changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

□ 1830

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GARAMENDI) having assumed the chair, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5116) to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

poses, had come to no resolution thereon.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later in the week.

LORD’S RESISTANCE ARMY DISARMAMENT AND NORTHERN UGANDA RECOVERY ACT OF 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1067) to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord’s Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1067

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Lord’s Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) For over 2 decades, the Government of Uganda engaged in an armed conflict with the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda that led to the internal displacement of more than 2,000,000 Ugandans from their homes.

(2) The members of the Lord’s Resistance Army used brutal tactics in northern Uganda, including mutilating, abducting and forcing individuals into sexual servitude and forcing a large number of children and youth in Uganda, estimated by the Survey for War Affected Youth to be over 66,000, to fight as part of the rebel force.

(3) The Secretary of State has placed the Lord’s Resistance Army on the Terrorist Exclusion list pursuant to section 212(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)), and LRA leader Joseph Kony has been designated a “specially designated global terrorist” pursuant to Executive Order 13224.

(4) In late 2005, according to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Lord’s Resistance Army shifted their primary base of operations from

southern Sudan to northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and the rebels have since withdrawn from northern Uganda.

(5) Representatives of the Government of Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army began peace negotiations in 2006, mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan in Juba, Sudan, and signed the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on August 20, 2006, which provided for hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people to return home in safety.

(6) After nearly 2 years of negotiations, representatives from the parties reached the Final Peace Agreement in April 2008, but Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army, refused to sign the Final Peace Agreement in May 2008 and his forces launched new attacks in northeastern Congo.

(7) According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Relief and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the new activity of the Lord’s Resistance Army in northeastern Congo and southern Sudan since September 2008 has led to the abduction of at least 1,500 civilians, including hundreds of children, and the displacement of more than 540,000 people.

(8) In December 2008, the military forces of Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and southern Sudan launched a joint operation against the Lord’s Resistance Army’s bases in northeastern Congo, but the operation failed to apprehend Joseph Kony, and his forces retaliated with a series of new attacks and massacres in Congo and southern Sudan, killing an estimated 900 people in 2 months alone.

(9) Despite the refusal of Joseph Kony to sign the Final Peace Agreement, the Government of Uganda has committed to continue reconstruction plans for northern Uganda, and to implement those mechanisms of the Final Peace Agreement not conditional on the compliance of the Lord’s Resistance Army.

(10) Since 2008, recovery efforts in northern Uganda have moved forward with the financial support of the United States and other donors, but have been hampered by a lack of strategic coordination, logistical delays, and limited leadership from the Government of Uganda.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to work with regional governments toward a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the conflict in northern Uganda and other affected areas by—

(1) providing political, economic, military, and intelligence support for viable multilateral efforts to protect civilians from the Lord’s Resistance Army, to apprehend or remove Joseph Kony and his top commanders from the battlefield in the continued absence of a negotiated solution, and to disarm and demobilize the remaining Lord’s Resistance Army fighters;

(2) targeting assistance to respond to the humanitarian needs of populations in northeastern Congo, southern Sudan, and Central African Republic currently affected by the activity of the Lord’s Resistance Army; and

(3) further supporting and encouraging efforts of the Government of Uganda and civil society to promote comprehensive reconstruction, transitional justice, and reconciliation in northern Uganda as affirmed in the Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-283) and subsequent resolutions, including Senate Resolution 366, 109th Congress, agreed to February 2, 2006, Senate Resolution 573, 109th Congress, agreed to September 19, 2006, Senate Concurrent Resolution 16, 110th Congress, agreed to in the Senate March 1, 2007, and House Concurrent Resolution 80, 110th Congress, agreed to in the House of Representatives June 18, 2007.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT OF A STRATEGY TO SUPPORT THE DISARMAMENT OF THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategy to guide future United States support across the region for viable multilateral efforts to mitigate and eliminate the threat to civilians and regional stability posed by the Lord's Resistance Army.

(b) **CONTENT OF STRATEGY.**—The strategy shall include the following:

(1) A plan to help strengthen efforts by the United Nations and regional governments to protect civilians from attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army while supporting the development of institutions in affected areas that can help to maintain the rule of law and prevent conflict in the long term.

(2) An assessment of viable options through which the United States, working with regional governments, could help develop and support multilateral efforts to eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army.

(3) An interagency framework to plan, coordinate, and review diplomatic, economic, intelligence, and military elements of United States policy across the region regarding the Lord's Resistance Army.

(4) A description of the type and form of diplomatic engagement across the region undertaken to coordinate and implement United States policy regarding the Lord's Resistance Army and to work multilaterally with regional mechanisms, including the Tripartite Plus Commission and the Great Lakes Pact.

(5) A description of how this engagement will fit within the context of broader efforts and policy objectives in the Great Lakes Region.

(c) **FORM.**—The strategy under this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 5. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR AREAS OUTSIDE UGANDA AFFECTED BY THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY.

In accordance with section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292) and section 2 of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601), the President is authorized to provide additional assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo, southern Sudan, and Central African Republic to respond to the humanitarian needs of populations directly affected by the activity of the Lord's Resistance Army.

SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE FOR RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION IN NORTHERN UGANDA.

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—It is the sense of Congress that the President should support efforts by the people of northern Uganda and the Government of Uganda—

(1) to assist internally displaced people in transition and returnees to secure durable solutions by spurring economic revitalization, supporting livelihoods, helping to alleviate poverty, and advancing access to basic services at return sites, specifically clean water, health care, and schools;

(2) to enhance the accountability and administrative competency of local governance institutions and public agencies in northern Uganda with regard to budget management, provision of public goods and services, and related oversight functions;

(3) to strengthen the operational capacity of the civilian police in northern Uganda to enhance public safety, prevent crime, and deal sensitively with gender-based violence, while strengthening accountability measures to prevent corruption and abuses;

(4) to rebuild and improve the capacity of the justice system in northern Uganda, including the courts and penal systems, with

particular sensitivity to the needs and rights of women and children;

(5) to establish mechanisms for the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants and those abducted by the LRA, including vocational education and employment opportunities, with attention given to the roles and needs of men, women and children; and

(6) to promote programs to address psychosocial trauma, particularly post-traumatic stress disorder.

(b) **FUTURE YEAR FUNDING.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should work with the appropriate committees of Congress to increase assistance in future fiscal years to support activities described in this section if the Government of Uganda demonstrates a commitment to transparent and accountable reconstruction in war-affected areas of northern Uganda, specifically by—

(1) finalizing the establishment of mechanisms within the Office of the Prime Minister to sufficiently manage and coordinate the programs under the framework of the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP);

(2) increasing oversight activities and reporting, at the local and national level in Uganda, to ensure funds under the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda framework are used efficiently and with minimal waste; and

(3) committing substantial funds of its own, above and beyond standard budget allocations to local governments, to the task of implementing the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda such that communities affected by the war can recover.

(c) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONOR NATIONS.**—The United States should work with other donor nations to increase contributions for recovery efforts in northern Uganda and better leverage those contributions to enhance the capacity and encourage the leadership of the Government of Uganda in promoting transparent and accountable reconstruction in northern Uganda.

(d) **TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should withhold non-humanitarian bilateral assistance to the Republic of Uganda if the Secretary determines that the Government of Uganda is not committed to reconstruction and reconciliation in the war-affected areas of northern Uganda and is not taking proactive steps to ensure this process moves forward in a transparent and accountable manner.

SEC. 7. ASSISTANCE FOR RECONCILIATION AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN NORTHERN UGANDA.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that, despite reconstruction and development efforts, a continued failure to take meaningful steps toward national reconciliation and accountability risks perpetuating longstanding political grievances and fueling new conflicts.

(b) **AUTHORITY.**—In accordance with section 531 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346), the President is authorized to support efforts by the people of northern Uganda and the Government of Uganda to advance efforts to promote transitional justice and reconciliation on both local and national levels, including to encourage implementation of the mechanisms outlined in the Annexure to the Agreement on Accountability and Reconciliation between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army/Movement, signed at Juba February 19, 2008, namely—

(1) a body to investigate the history of the conflict, inquire into human rights viola-

tions committed during the conflict by all sides, promote truth-telling in communities, and encourage the preservation of the memory of events and victims of the conflict through memorials, archives, commemorations, and other forms of preservation;

(2) a special division of the High Court of Uganda to try individuals alleged to have committed serious crimes during the conflict, and a special unit to carry out investigations and prosecutions in support of trials;

(3) a system for making reparations to victims of the conflict; and

(4) a review and strategy for supporting transitional justice mechanisms in affected areas to promote reconciliation and encourage individuals to take personal responsibility for their conduct during the war.

SEC. 8. REPORT.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 1 year after the submission of the strategy required under section 4, the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the progress made toward the implementation of the strategy required under section 4 and a description and evaluation of the assistance provided under this Act toward the policy objectives described in section 3.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under section (a) shall include—

(1) a description and evaluation of actions taken toward the implementation of the strategy required under section 4;

(2) a description of assistance provided under sections 5, 6, and 7;

(3) an evaluation of bilateral assistance provided to the Republic of Uganda and associated programs in light of stated policy objectives;

(4) a description of the status of the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda and the progress of the Government of Uganda in fulfilling the steps outlined in section 6(b); and

(5) a description of amounts of assistance committed, and amounts provided, to northern Uganda during the reporting period by the Government of Uganda and each donor country.

(c) **FORM.**—The report under this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 9. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FUNDING.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) of the total amounts to be appropriated for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of State and foreign operations, up to \$10,000,000 should be used to carry out activities under section 5; and

(2) of the total amounts to be appropriated for fiscal year 2011 through 2013 for the Department of State and foreign operations, up to \$10,000,000 in each such fiscal year should be used to carry out activities under section 7.

SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **GREAT LAKES REGION.**—The term “Great Lakes Region” means the region comprising Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, southern Sudan, and Uganda.

(3) **LRA-AFFECTED AREAS.**—The term “LRA-affected areas” means those portions of northern Uganda, southern Sudan, northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and

southeastern Central African Republic determined by the Secretary of State to be affected by the Lord's Resistance Army as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate bill under consideration today is a companion to H.R. 2478, legislation authored by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN). I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Mr. MCGOVERN, for championing the cause of the people of northern Uganda who have been victimized for over two decades by the Lord's Resistance Army, a group designated as a terrorist organization by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Speaker, it is almost impossible to describe the horrors that the Lord's Resistance Army, also known as the LRA, has perpetrated on the people of northern Uganda and, more recently, in several neighboring countries.

Joseph Kony, the LRA leader, has led a militia group responsible for the slaughter of thousands of people and the displacement of over 2 million others since it was formed in 1986.

The LRA is most notorious for abducting young children, an estimated 30,000, over the past two decades, and forcing them into armed service and sexual servitude. While claiming to represent the legitimate grievances of the Ochoi people of northern Uganda, Kony has exploited those grievances to justify what only can be described as madness in his pursuit of power.

The Ugandan war is now the longest running war in Africa, longer than the conflict in Sudan. During the course of this war, the LRA has been responsible for widespread human rights violations, including murder, abduction, mutilation, sexual enslavement of women and children, and forcing children to participate in killing of Ugandans, often family members and neighbors.

The LRA shows no mercy for the young. Boys are kidnapped and turned into soldiers. Girls are kidnapped and used as sex slaves. And to terrorize communities, the LRA often amputates limbs and disfigures bodies as so-called lessons learned for those willing to resist.

The Ugandan government and the LRA began peace negotiations in 2006,

and signed an agreement in August of that year which provided for hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people to return home in safety. A final peace agreement was reached in 2008, but Kony refused to sign, and the LRA subsequently launched new attacks on civilians in eastern Congo.

Despite the LRA leader's refusal to sign the agreement, the Ugandan government has made a commitment to carry out reconstruction plans for northern Uganda, and to implement those mechanisms of the final peace agreement not conditioned on the compliance of the LRA.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Government is a friend to the people of northern Uganda, and it is in our interest to help rid Uganda and central Africa of the LRA. This bill authorizes the President to provide additional assistance to respond to the humanitarian needs of populations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, southern Sudan, and Central African Republic affected by LRA activity.

It further authorizes the President to support efforts by the people of northern Uganda and the government of Uganda to promote transitional justice and reconciliation on both local and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we pass this legislation today to draw attention to the LRA's reign of terror and to demonstrate our support for the people of Uganda. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I strongly support the policy objectives of Senate Bill 1067, the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act.

For nearly 27 years, the Lord's Resistance Army, LRA, has been terrorizing civilians, leaving a trail of death and despondency in its wake. The LRA's leader is a soulless mass murderer who has perpetrated some of the most deplorable human rights atrocities known to man.

The LRA is a predatory guerrilla force. They mutilate, torture, rape, and murder with impunity. They have abducted tens of thousands of civilians, mostly children, to serve as soldiers or sex slaves. Abducted children are forced to the front lines. And those who manage to escape find it difficult, if not impossible, to return home after being forced to commit atrocities in front of their very own families.

While the LRA has withdrawn from northern Uganda and security conditions there have improved, it continues to wreak havoc on neighboring southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic.

Recent reports indicate that, rather than being weakened, the LRA today is stronger and strategically more sophisticated than it was just last year. The bill before us seeks to change that.

It requires the President to develop a comprehensive strategy to deal with the LRA. It offers political, economic, military, and intelligence support for viable multilateral efforts to protect civilians, to apprehend or eliminate top LRA commanders, and disarm and demobilize the remaining LRA fighters.

It then expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should support humanitarian efforts in LRA-affected areas, as well as programs to advance transitional justice in northern Uganda.

I appreciate the chairman's efforts to ensure that this language does not represent an earmark in funding which would conflict with Republican Members' commitment to the American taxpayer to exercise fiscal restraint and discipline.

I also appreciate that the bill conditions future assistance to the government of Uganda upon transparency and a substantial commitment of Uganda's own resources to support reconstruction efforts in the North.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N. Office for Humanitarian Affairs has said that this conflict is "characterized by a level of cruelty seldom seen, and few conflicts rival it for its sheer brutality."

Even so, it remains one of the most overlooked humanitarian and human rights crises in the world today. The fact that we are even debating this topic today is largely due to the tireless efforts of young advocates throughout the United States, including in my own congressional district, who have passionately taken up the cause of those whose lives have been destroyed by the LRA. I urge my colleagues to join them in supporting the objectives of this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, the vice chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. MCGOVERN.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important day for U.S. policy in Africa. Just about 1 year ago, on May 19, my friend and colleague from California and the champion of human rights, Congressman ED ROYCE, and I introduced H.R. 2478, the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Recovery Act. In the Senate, Senators RUSS FEINGOLD and SAM BROWNBACK sponsored the same bill, S. 1067, which is the bill before us for consideration today. Today, H.R. 2478 has 200 bipartisan cosponsors.

When the House passes S. 1067 today, it will be sent directly to the President's desk for his signature, and for the first time the U.S. will be required to design and implement a comprehensive strategy with our multilateral and regional partners to address the violence of the LRA; protect the victims of LRA violence in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, southern

Sudan, and the Central African Republic; strengthen state presence and capacity in these regions to the benefit of the vulnerable civilian populations; and advance the recovery of northern Uganda from decades of violence.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal has happened across the country to ensure that this bill is before the House Chamber today in scarcely 1 year. I want to especially recognize and thank the national networks, organizations, and grassroots activists of Invisible Children, Resolve Uganda, the ENOUGH! Project, and many other religious and human rights groups who have rallied in support of the people and especially the children of this region of Africa.

These Americans, thousands of them high school and college students, understood that the children and people of northern Uganda, the DRC, the southern Sudan, and the CAR have no voice in Washington.

□ 1845

So they were determined to become their voice. They realized that these African children and families were invisible to Washington policymakers. So they decided to make them visible. They realized there is too much suffering, too much pain, too much destruction, too much killing in this region of Africa, so many thousands of miles away, and that there was just too much silence here in Washington. So they built a grassroots national movement of hope for peace, for justice, for reconciliation, for reconstruction, for the recovery of the human spirit. They believe that the people of northern Uganda, the children of Uganda, the DRC, Southern Sudan, and the CAR, have a right to protection and to have a voice in their own destiny.

So today is a good day, a very good day, Mr. Speaker, because today these hundreds of thousands of voices have brought this bill to the House floor today for final passage. The unresolved crisis with the Lord's Resistance Army is one of Africa's longest running and most gruesome militia-driven conflicts. It has morphed into a sadistic force, wreaking terror on the local populations, filling its ranks with abducted child soldiers and slaves.

Now, at this critical juncture in the conflict's history and when the terror once focused in northern Uganda is spreading throughout the region and surrounding countries, we must ensure that the United States commits to a proactive strategy to help see this conflict to its end, protect vulnerable populations, and support and strengthen recovery efforts in northern Uganda and the region.

I thank the many Americans, especially the young people, who have supported this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of final passage of S. 1067. I thank the gentleman from New York, again, for his leadership.

HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMANITARIAN, AND FAITH-BASED GROUPS BACK LANDMARK U.S. LEGISLATION TO HELP PROTECT CIVILIANS FROM THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY

WASHINGTON, DC, 21 MAY 2009.—THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION IN THE U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EARLIER THIS WEEK TO COMMIT THE UNITED STATES TO COMPREHENSIVE EFFORTS TO HELP CIVILIANS THREATENED BY ONE OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST-RUNNING AND BRUTAL INSURGENCIES IS A CRUCIAL STEP FORWARD FOR U.S. POLICY IN THE REGION, A COALITION OF TWENTY-TWO HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMANITARIAN, AND FAITH-BASED GROUPS SAID TODAY.

If passed, the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act would require the Obama Administration to develop a regional strategy to protect civilians in central Africa from attacks by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and enforce the rule of law and ensure full humanitarian access in LRA-affected areas. The Act additionally commits the United States to increase support to economic recovery and transitional justice efforts in Uganda. The coalition of supporting organizations includes groups in Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Uganda, where communities are currently threatened by the LRA.

"We continue to live in fear of LRA attacks and of our children being abducted," said Father Benoit Kinalegu of the Dunga/Doruma Justice and Peace Commission in DR Congo. "We are praying for help and protection and hope U.S. lawmakers will hear our cries."

Senators Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA), Brad Miller (D-NC), and Ed Royce (R-CA) introduced the bill. It affirms the need for U.S. leadership to help bring an end to atrocities by the Lord's Resistance Army and to advance long-term recovery in the region.

"The LRA has long posed a terrible threat to civilians," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa Director at Human Rights Watch. "This bill will help the U.S. government support for comprehensive multilateral efforts to protect civilians in LRA-affected areas and to apprehend or otherwise remove the group's leader, Joseph Kony, and his top commanders from the battlefield."

For more than twenty years, northern Ugandans were caught in a war between the Ugandan military and the rebel group. The violence killed thousands of civilians and displaced nearly two million people. Kony and his top commanders sustain their ranks by abducting civilians, including children, to use as soldiers and sexual slaves. Though the rebel group ended attacks in northern Uganda in 2006, it moved its bases to the northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo and has committed acts of violence against civilians in Congo, Sudan, and the Central African Republic. In December 2008, Sudan, Uganda and Congo began a joint military offensive, "Operation Lightning Thunder," against the rebel group, with backing from the United States. As a result, the Lord's Resistance Army has dispersed into multiple smaller groups and has brutally murdered more than 1,000 civilians and abducted over 400 people, mostly children.

"Given the catalytic involvement of the U.S. military in Operation Lightning Thunder—and the horrific aftermath of this operation—the U.S. government now has a responsibility to help end the threat posed by Joseph Kony once and for all," said John Prendergast, Co-Founder of the Enough Project. "One man should not be allowed to terrorize millions of people in four Central African countries. The bill is a crucial first

step in galvanizing immediate and effective U.S. action."

The legislation also aims to help secure a lasting peace in Uganda by supporting measures to assist war-affected communities in northern Uganda and to help resolve longstanding divisions between communities in Uganda's north and south. It authorizes increased funding for recovery efforts in northern Uganda, with a particular focus on supporting transitional justice and reconciliation. It also calls on the Ugandan government to reinvigorate its commitment to a transparent and accountable reconstruction process in war-affected areas.

"Smart investment in long-term recovery is essential if the people of northern Uganda are to live with peace and dignity," said Annalise Romoser, Lutheran World Relief Associate Director for Advocacy. "Transitional justice initiatives and the development of basic infrastructure such as food and water systems are crucial elements to lasting peace and reconciliation in Uganda. Such investment from the United States will support the inspiring efforts of northern Ugandans to return home and rebuild after decades of war and displacement."

With questions, please contact:

Michael Poffenberger, Resolve Uganda: 202.548.2517 / michael@resolveuganda.org; Eileen White Read, Enough Project: 202.741.6376 / eread@enoughproject.org; and Maria Burnett, Human Rights Watch: 917.379.1696 / burnetm@hrw.org.

Supporting organizations include:

Human Rights Watch, Enough Project, Resolve Uganda, International Rescue Committee, Invisible Children, Refugees International, AVSI, Global Action for Children, Lutheran World Relief, United States Fund for UNICEF, Women's Refugee Commission.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Genocide Intervention Network, Refugee Law Project, Uganda, Gulu NGO Forum, Uganda, Dunga/Doruma Justice and Peace Commission, Democratic Republic of Congo Azade Community World-wide Organisation, UK-South Sudan, Mbomu Charitable Organization, Sudan; Ibba Charitable Organization, South Sudan, Azade Women Organization, South Sudan, Hope Sudan Organization, South Sudan, Eso Development Organization, South Sudan.

Added after 21 May 2009: Nabanga Development Agency, South Sudan, Comboni Missionary Sisters, South Sudan.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the condemnation of the Lord's Resistance Army expressed in S. 1067 and the bill's goal of supporting civilian protection and development in northern Uganda. Four years ago, I chaired a hearing of the Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations Subcommittee on: The Endangered Children of Northern Uganda. A courageous young woman named Grace Akallo testified about her abduction at the age of 15, together with 138 classmates at a boarding school, by the LRA. They and approximately 30,000 other children have endured horrifying atrocities as

child soldiers and sex slaves. Ms. Akallo eventually escaped, and her remarkable story was recounted in a book entitled, "Girl Soldier: A Story of Hope for Northern Uganda's Children," that she coauthored with human rights activist Faith McDonnell. I highly recommend the book to my colleagues and anyone who wants to learn more about these incredible human rights violations and how we can all work together to address and to stop them.

Ms. Akallo stated back in 2006 that, unfortunately, her story was not uncommon. And I sadly add that, unfortunately, it is still not uncommon. Joseph Kony continues to lead the LRA in the commission of outrageous abuses and atrocities, including the abduction, rape, and killing of innocent civilians, not only in northern Uganda, but also in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and Southern Sudan. Although Kony has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for these and other crimes against humanity, he and his cohorts have yet to be brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, we must do everything possible to stop the widespread suffering that he is inflicting and to help those who have survived these atrocities to recover. In her testimony, Ms. Akallo specifically asked for more resources to help people suffering because of this conflict, emphasizing that "it will be important for the Government of Uganda and the international community to provide returnees with adequate resettlement assistance and support in restoring and developing community infrastructure so that people can begin to rebuild their lives." She went on to say, "I ask for your help and the help of others to take action to end this war so that my sisters and brothers and all children of northern Uganda can sleep in peace." Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues respond to Ms. Akallo's heartfelt request, and I do hope that this bill will pass.

Finally, I would like to engage my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) in a very short colloquy.

I would like a clarification that neither the term "reproductive health" as it appears in the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda, referenced in sections 6(b) and 8(b) of S. 1067, nor the term "sexual reproductive health and rights" in the Uganda Ministry of Health's Sector Strategic Plan II referenced in the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda, nor any other references in this Act, include access to abortion for purposes of S. 1067.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. ENGEL. The gentleman from New Jersey is correct.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I appreciate that.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009. As other Members have already said, for more than 20 years, the LRA has terrorized the Great Lakes region of Africa and continues to commit atrocities and abduct children across areas of northern Uganda, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Central African Republic, often targeting schools and churches. If the LRA ever sought to right some supposed wrong, if there was ever a grievance or cause that motivated the LRA, that has all long since been forgotten. The LRA's atrocities are barbarism for barbarism's own sake.

The United Nations estimates that 90 percent of the LRA's combatants are abducted children, often as young as 10. When the horrific conflict finally ends, those children must somehow return to civilized society after learning as children to kill innocent human beings without hesitation or remorse. Since the brutal Christmas Day massacres of 2008 in the Congo, the LRA has killed more than 1,000 people, abducted almost 2,000 others, and forced more than 300,000 others to flee their homes in vulnerable areas.

The LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act would support multilateral efforts to bring stability and peace to northern Uganda and to protect civilians from the Lord's Resistance Army. This legislation authorizes humanitarian funding for communities across central Africa victimized by the LRA and assistance to help with recovery and reconciliation efforts in northern Uganda. This bill will help end permanently the LRA's campaign of brutality and terror and help families rebuild their lives.

Please join me in supporting this legislation.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to end the atrocities of Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, and I am an original co-sponsor of the House version of this legislation. From my view, with the passage of this bill, which now goes to the President's desk, we now are in a situation where I think Kony's removal won't guarantee peace, but it certainly will make it possible in the region. I would also just add that the fact that this legislation has made it this far is really a tribute to a group of young people, young professionals who have come up here on their own time and gone to the universities around this country to organize in order to make people aware of the plight of these children in Africa. I really thank them for that work.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Kony is perhaps the most wanted man in Africa. He is an indicted war criminal. He is a des-

ignated terrorist. Many Americans don't know his name but the children of Uganda and Central East Africa certainly do. He is a very sadistic figure. He has a charismatic appeal to some. He heads a group called the Lord's Resistance Army, and under his two decades of tyrannical leadership that group has conscripted some 30,000 children into this killing squad. I can tell you as the former chairman of the Africa Subcommittee, if you talk to parents in Uganda or the Congo or South Sudan or the Central African Republic, the fear they have is the fear inspired by what he has been able to do.

Human rights groups report that this LRA remains powerful. It has still the ability to kill and to capture children. It may be even accelerating its program of fear and mind control over children. I'm reminded of the words of a recent researcher who interviewed a boy who escaped from the group. He reported that he was forced to kill eight other children who disobeyed Kony's rules in a 5-week time span. Those victims were surrounded in a circle. Children were forced to take turns bashing them with a bat in a "collective kill." That's eight times in 5 weeks.

The LRA's objective remains the same as it's been for a couple generations now: kill, capture, and resupply for its next pillage. There is no other reason for its being. Most experts agree that the removal of Kony and his top leadership would decapitate this group. Kony has long fought the government of Uganda. He has had the support of the Islamist government in Sudan for that war, which wanted to hit back at Uganda's leader for his support of Christians and animists in southern Sudan. Former LRA commanders report that Khartoum, Sudan, has provided "ammunition" and provides "intelligence training" for Kony's group. More recently, there have been credible reports of the LRA gaining sanctuary in Darfur. A referendum on Southern Sudan is looming next year. Unless the LRA is permanently dealt with now, you can bet that Khartoum will put this killing squad back to use again next year in Southern Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, this civil war, originally contained within Uganda's borders, is now a regional crisis in four countries. This bipartisan legislation aims to spur the administration into devising a strategy to remove Joseph Kony and remove his top commanders from the battlefield. Some targeted assistance from the U.S. could make a world of difference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 additional minute to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentlelady.

The world's problems can seem overwhelming at times. It is fashionable to blame conflict in Africa on poverty and other environmental factors. But sometimes just getting rid of one person does make a big difference. History is

full of captivating leaders with bad ideas who do great damage. It's a lesson I learned as chairman of the Africa Subcommittee, when Liberian president Charles Taylor ran a gangster regime in West Africa that brought havoc to neighboring Sierra Leone, where he pioneered this idea of using child soldiers and using amputations and using the techniques that Joseph Kony does now. After the hard-fought removal of Charles Taylor, and after his imprisonment, that region is peaceful.

Mr. Speaker, it isn't an exaggeration to say that the fate of hundreds of thousands of people—certainly of 30,000 children—rests in the hands of a few men. Kony's removal won't guarantee peace, but it will make it possible.

I urge the passage of this legislation.

□ 1900

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that we have this worthy legislation before us—and it certainly is that—is due to a group of young people who have dedicated their voices and energy to getting the heart-wrenching situation in Uganda the attention it demands. The Invisible Children Organization, which has its headquarters in my district, has brought the awful acts of the Lord's Resistance Army to light.

The group has galvanized an entire generation of young people here to care about children halfway around the world. Their activism has painted for many people in our country the grim, intense reality that is faced by so many Ugandans, especially the children abducted by the LRA and forced to become child soldiers. The volunteers have traveled to our cities, our schools, our businesses, probably even to many of our offices here in Washington to show their films and speak out against Joseph Kony and his army's brutality.

These young members of the Invisible Children Organization know that no child should live in fear of being abducted, mutilated or killed. With that belief, they have helped make the children of Uganda visible to us. And now with this legislation, we have the chance to truly join in this cause. This bill will require the President to devise an interagency strategy to address this crisis and heighten our country's level of support for stopping the LRA.

Last August, I had the privilege of speaking with members of the Invisible Children Organization who had come to San Diego for their training as what they called them, "roadies." I cannot do justice to their passion, their commitment, and their dedication to do what is right. Their energy absolutely ignites the room. Mr. Speaker, we cannot let them down, and more importantly, we cannot let down the suffering children this legislation will help.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2478—the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009. This legislation calls for the end of the reign of terror perpetrated by Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), and beginning the work of reconstruction and reconciliation efforts across northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Central African Republic.

This predatory rebel group has been allowed to roam unchecked across Central Africa for nearly a quarter century, leaving behind a wake of communities ravaged by their senseless violence and barbaric means of recruitment. Since 1986, the LRA has abducted tens of thousands of children to be used as soldiers or sex slaves in one of the worst and most neglected humanitarian crises on the planet.

On December 14, 2009, the LRA initiated a series of attacks in the Makombo region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where over the course of 4 days, the LRA massacred at least 10 villages, killing over 321 civilians and abducting over 250 civilians—80 of whom were children. In a continuation of the LRA's 24-year history of brutal, unchecked violence, the terrorist rebel group forced children to kill other children, raped girls as young as 11 years old, and gave a warning of silence to the local population by cutting off a number of villagers' ears and lips. Out of the over 321 civilians whose lives were lost, only two died from gunshot wounds, as LRA combatants are known to conserve ammunition by killing with clubs and machetes. Despite the horrific nature of the attack and the sheer number of casualties, the outside world did not receive word of the massacre before Human Rights Watch released their report almost three months later.

But ultimately there is hope in seeing an end to this crisis. For more than a year, American youth across the country have called for U.S. leadership in ending the conflict; Congress has listened, and in turn, taken concrete action in seeing an end to this war. The LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act stands today as the most cosponsored piece of legislation on an Africa-related policy issue in modern congressional history; 65 Senators and 197 of my colleagues in the House of Representatives have put their names on this crucial human rights legislation.

This legislation requires that the administration deliver a strategy to Congress within 180 days of the enactment of this legislation that outlines a multilateral, interagency plan for the apprehension of top LRA commanders and protection of civilians in LRA affected areas. This budget neutral bill also sets a priority within existing State Department funding for transitional justice mechanisms in northern Uganda, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former child soldiers, and immediate emergency humanitarian relief to communities devastated by the LRA in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and Southern Sudan.

Most importantly, this bill gives a mandate to the President from Congress and the American people in taking proactive steps to bring an end to the violence of the LRA and restoring peace and stability to Central Africa. By the end of the year, I and my colleagues will look forward to seeing a robust strategy sub-

mitted from President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and we will continue tirelessly fighting for its successful implementation. I ask of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as I travel across Kansas, I frequently visit classrooms to speak with high school and college students about the importance of civic engagement and to let young people know that their thoughts and opinions matter.

Today, the House of Representatives is considering legislation that in many ways is the result of civic engagement among young people, including hundreds of Kansans. We have before us S. 1067, the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act. It is important legislation that requires the President to create a strategy to deal with the 24-year-old conflict in central Africa that has killed thousands and disrupted the lives of an entire generation.

Many young Kansans have passionately advocated for vulnerable children and defenseless communities in Africa. They have participated in events like the Rescue and met with government officials. They have signed petitions, written letters to the editor, and educated others about the terrible violence committed by the LRA. They have done all of this and more knowing that they will not benefit in any material way—they have done it simply because it is the right thing to do.

The hundreds of thousands of young Americans that have advocated for this cause demonstrate to their peers and those younger than them that the voices of young people matter, that young people can make a difference.

I commend the concerned young people in Kansas and across the country for their hard work and dedication. You have reason to be proud today that your efforts are paying off.

As a sponsor of the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act, I encourage my colleagues to vote for this important bill. Let's do the right thing and bring an end to the LRA violence in central Africa.

Ms. HIRONO. I rise in support of S. 1067, the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act.

As a cosponsor of the House version of this legislation, I am grateful that the Senate passed S. 1067 by unanimous consent in March and that the House leadership has given this body the opportunity to vote on it today. I would also like to recognize the thousands of activists across the country, including students at Kalani High School and those affiliated with Invisible Children (Project Hope) in Hawaii, who have spoken out passionately about the need to act on this issue.

This bill provides a critically needed mandate for the United States to develop a comprehensive regional strategy that targets the LRA threat. For too long, the LRA has committed unspeakable atrocities throughout Uganda, including murder, mutilation, and the sexual enslavement of women and children. In addition to displacing an estimated two million Ugandans, the LRA has abducted about 66,000 children, forcing them to fight and commit human rights violations on behalf of this terrorist group. The violence has since spread beyond Uganda's borders to parts of Sudan, Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, resulting in increased instability throughout the region.

S. 1067 requires a plan to strengthen efforts by the United Nations and regional governments to protect civilians from attacks, support

the rule of law, and prevent conflict over the long term. S. 1067 also calls for the United States to develop an interagency strategy and an assessment of options to lead in multilateral efforts to eliminate the threat posed by the LRA, protect children and families from further attacks, enhance efforts to help LRA abductees return home safely, and bring those wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice.

Enactment of this legislation will give us the tools necessary to respond to the humanitarian needs of those affected by this crisis and begin to support reconciliation efforts in Uganda. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of S. 1067.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has devastated communities in northern Uganda for more than 20 years and is now killing and abducting men, women, and children across areas of southern Sudan, Democratic Republic Congo, and Central African Republic. Following the brutal massacre of more than 800 Congolese villagers attending holiday worship celebrations on Christmas Day 2008, the rebel group led by Joseph Kony continued its rampage throughout the region. Under his leadership, the LRA went on to kill more than 1,000 people, abduct nearly 2,000 others and force more than 300,000 villagers to flee their homes during the weeks surrounding the Christmas holiday. In another horrific massacre just months ago, the LRA killed 321 people and abducted 250 more, many of whom were children. This particular rebel army's violence far outpaces other violent conflicts in the region, yet it tragically gets little attention.

Thousands of Americans, especially our nation's youth, have recognized the urgency of this conflict. In my hometown of Chattanooga, I participated in an event last year called the Rescue, organized by college students as part of a national movement to raise awareness for the Invisible Children organization. I rescued a group that "abducted" themselves for a night and stayed at Coolidge Park symbolizing the thousands of Ugandan children that have been kidnapped and forced to become LRA soldiers. At that Rescue, I committed to doing what I could to help their cause. Several months later, I met with three students from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., who walked 800 miles from their college campus to Washington, D.C., as a symbolic journey similar to the "night commute" that children in Uganda make into the cities to hide in schools, churches or hospitals in groups to be less susceptible to kidnapers from the LRA, then return home during the day.

Today, I remain committed to bringing awareness to these atrocities as a cosponsor of the LRA Disarmament & Northern Uganda Recovery Act. The tremendous public and Congressional support behind this legislation calls on the Obama Administration to take robust steps to lead multilateral efforts to permanently stop the rebel group's brutal violence, protect these innocent children and families from LRA attacks and help rebuild the lives of those affected. I urge the President to devise an interagency strategy to address this crisis which has gone on far too long. Alongside my colleagues who support this legislation and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have advocated for its passage, I look forward to seeing decisive action by President Obama

and U.S. Department of State Secretary Hillary Clinton to bring about the U.S. leadership needed to see an end to this urgent and intolerable humanitarian tragedy.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the passage of the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act.

Since 1987, The Lord's Resistance Army has conducted mass killings, mutilation, and forced recruitment of children. It has terrorized the citizens and families of Uganda, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic.

This legislation calls for serious action to protect and heal victims of Joseph Kony's LRA—Lord's Resistance Army.

For more than two decades over 20,000 boys and girls have been abducted and over 1.5 million people have been displaced.

Survivors of these horrors are haunted by medical, psychological and social consequences. We must help the abducted return home, where they can receive treatment.

This tremendous humanitarian crisis involving young boys as child soldiers and girls as reward for combatants has almost completely destroyed a generation, in a post holocaust era, when we warn "never again."

This legislation calls for the capture of LRA leader Joseph Kony to be tried for crimes against humanity. It is imperative he is removed from society to pave the way for reintegration and reconciliation.

The United States and the appropriate agencies must assist in ending LRA violence and help the people of this region rebuild their lives.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the House version of this resolution, I stand in strong support of S. 1067. This measure expresses the frustration of many members of Congress who feel that efforts to disarm the Lord's Resistance Army and to bring its members to justice are progressing too slowly.

The LRA is currently branded a terrorist organization by the U.S. government for perpetrating two decades of violence in Uganda, Sudan, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Led by Joseph Kony, who proclaims himself the "spokesperson" of God and a spirit medium, the LRA is responsible for the deaths of thousands of people in northern Uganda and Congo and the displacement of 2,000,000 more.

This resolution requires the president to develop a comprehensive strategy to guide future U.S. support across the region to mitigate and eliminate the threat posed by the LRA. It requires that the strategy include a plan to bolster the efforts of the United Nations and regional governments with the goal of protecting civilians and strengthening regional institutions. Additionally, the resolution recommends that an interagency framework be developed to plan, coordinate and review the diplomatic, economic, intelligence and military elements of U.S. policy across the region. Finally, the measure expresses the sense of Congress that \$10 million should be provided in FY 2011 for assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo, southern Sudan, and Central African Republic to help them respond to the humanitarian needs of populations directly affected by the activity of the Lord's Resistance Army.

For 20 years, the LRA has led a bloody campaign of murder, abduction, sexual enslavement and mutilation across central Africa.

I ask my colleagues to join me in helping to establish a stable and lasting peace in northern Uganda and other areas affected by the LRA.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1067, the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Recovery Act, which recently passed the Senate and is under consideration today by the House of Representatives. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) formed in Uganda has committed countless atrocities. The LRA is responsible for the abduction of thousands of children from southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic. These children have been forced to become soldiers of the LRA, and more than a thousand have died. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced because of the LRA's actions.

The LRA Leader, Joseph Kony, is wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Leaders who commit war crimes and other atrocities can not be allowed to stay in power and obstruct the peace process that is necessary for the Ugandan people to live without the threat of abduction, violence, or death. That is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2478, the House companion to S. 1067, which calls upon President Obama to devise a strategy that will remove Mr. Kony from power and allow Ugandans to rebuild their lives. The U.S. should show leadership by working with international partners to bring stability to Uganda and surrounding areas. We must work to end this reign of violence in Uganda, which is why I encourage my colleagues to support S. 1067.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of H.R. 2478, the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009. The legislation has the kind of broad support necessary for unanimous passage and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I signed on as a co-sponsor to H.R. 2478 in November of last year. I am pleased to see that since that time, many of my colleagues have joined me in supporting this critical legislation. Unfortunately, the LRA's pattern of violence and intimidation in Uganda has shown no signs of slowing down. Joseph Kony, the LRA's leader, is overseeing atrocities and abductions in South Sudan, the Congo, and Central African Republic. Schools, churches, and community gathering places are often targeted by the LRA. Kony and two of his commanders are wanted by the International Criminal Court. The brutal and despicable nature of the LRA's crimes is unprecedented. We must act and we must act now.

H.R. 2478 would be a crucial step in ending the LRA's reign of terror and provide assistance to the victims of the violence in rebuilding their lives. The legislation is of paramount importance and I hope my colleagues join me and provide the leadership necessary to show our disapproval of Joseph Kony and the LRA.

I learned about this legislation when four young people came into my district office last year to urge me to support H.R. 2478. I was—and still am—incredibly impressed with their passion and knowledge. I have no doubt those young individuals will soon lead our nation forward; in fact, they already are. I hope this House will support their passion and knowledge and pass H.R. 2478.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1067.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING CLOSE U.S.-U.K. RELATIONSHIP

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1303) recognizing the close friendship and historical ties between the United Kingdom and the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1303

Whereas the Magna Carta, which subjected the English monarch and the English people to the rule of law and is considered one of the most important documents in the legal history of the United Kingdom and the United States, was recognized in 1957 by the American Bar Association for its importance to United States law and constitutionalism and remains on permanent display at the National Archives and Records Administration Building in Washington, DC;

Whereas the English philosopher John Locke, through his monumental works on social contract theory and natural law entitled "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding", "First Treatise on Government", and "Second Treatise on Government", greatly influenced the American Revolution;

Whereas Scottish economist Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" greatly contributed to the competition and free market principles of the United States;

Whereas the English lawyer Sir William Blackstone's "Commentaries on the Laws of England" had a lasting influence on the development of United States common law and legal institutions;

Whereas the arrival of more than 1,500,000 members of the United States Armed Forces in the United Kingdom in the 1940s was a turning point in World War II that further solidified the close friendship between the United Kingdom and the United States;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill, who heroically and skillfully guided the United Kingdom through World War II, articulated the close ties between the United Kingdom and the United States when he was recognized by becoming the first Honorary Citizen of the United States on April 9, 1963, stating, "In this century of storm and tragedy I contemplate with high satisfaction the constant factor of the interwoven and upward progress of our peoples. Our comradeship and our brotherhood in war were unexampled. We stood together, and because of that fact the free world now stands. Nor has our partnership any exclusive nature: the Atlantic community is a dream that can well be fulfilled to the detriment of none and to the enduring benefit and honour of the great democracies.";

Whereas, on August 14, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Prime Min-

ister Winston Churchill agreed to the Atlantic Charter which set forward principles meant to serve as the precursor for the formation of the United Nations;

Whereas when Sir Winston Churchill resigned from his second tour of duty as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, he warned his cabinet to "never be separated from the Americans";

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States were founding Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and were 2 of the original 12 countries to sign the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, in Washington, DC;

Whereas the special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States was further strengthened by the coordination of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Ronald Reagan whose firm opposition to communism ultimately led to the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Iron Curtain;

Whereas after the September 11, 2001, attacks, Prime Minister Tony Blair immediately flew to the United States to express solidarity with the United States, and President George W. Bush declared in a speech before Congress that the United States "has no truer friend than Great Britain";

Whereas the United Kingdom joined forces with the United States against the Taliban in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom from the first attacks in October 2001 and permitted the United States to fly missions from Diego Garcia, part of the British Indian Ocean Territory;

Whereas, as of March 15, 2010, a total of 273 United Kingdom military and civilian personnel have died while serving in Afghanistan since the start of operations;

Whereas there are approximately 1,700 United Kingdom military and civilian personnel currently deployed to assist with the military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq;

Whereas since 2003 the United Kingdom has pledged 744,000,000 British pounds toward reconstruction efforts in Iraq;

Whereas 179 United Kingdom military and civilian personnel have died in Iraq since the beginning of the campaign in March 2003;

Whereas, on August 17, 2006, the United States and the United Kingdom introduced a draft United Nations Security Council resolution for the "expeditious deployment" of a United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur, Sudan, and since have worked collaboratively to press for full implementation of the United Nations-Africa Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) mandate;

Whereas the United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office reports that the United States is the largest source of foreign direct investment in the United Kingdom's economy, while the United Kingdom is the largest single investor in the United States economy and, according to the United States Trade Representative, the United Kingdom is one of the European Union countries with the largest foreign direct investment in the United States; and

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States share a commitment to free speech, democracy, and the rule of law based on the rich history of a longstanding friendship and shared ideals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States;

(2) expresses sincere gratitude to the people of the United Kingdom for their generosity, camaraderie, and cooperation with the people of the United States in military operations, foreign assistance, and other joint efforts throughout the world;

(3) acknowledges the importance of the United Kingdom's political philosophy, law, and history on the cultural, political, and legal institutions of the United States; and

(4) looks forward to continued, deepening ties of friendship between the peoples of the United Kingdom and the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution that recognizes the special relationship and historical ties between the United Kingdom and the United States. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my good friend, Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART from Florida, for introducing this measure.

The United Kingdom and the United States have a long history born of shared values and experiences. British legal and philosophical traditions have greatly influenced American practices while both our nations remain committed to human rights, rule of law, and good governance. Our economies are deeply intertwined, as became particularly evident during the global financial crisis. Indeed, Britain is the largest single investor in our economy, while we are the largest source of foreign direct investment in theirs.

Our two nations also share a proud military history. British and American soldiers have stood shoulder to shoulder throughout the major conflicts of the last 100 years. Together we confronted the challenges of Nazism and communism, while today we are fighting together against the scourge of international terrorism. We remain grateful for Britain's active participation in the military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In recent months, some in Britain have begun to question this "special relationship," a phrase coined by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1945. As is in the case of all relationships, the dynamic link between the U.S. and the U.K. has evolved over time. However, it is clear that our relationship is unique, vitally important and must continue to be nurtured. The United Kingdom remains an essential ally, a valuable partner and a true friend. All British Prime Ministers and American Presidents have forged effective working relationships in order to confront together the challenges facing the present day.