

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 260

Condemning the Nigerian dictatorship for its abuse of United States
Ambassador Walter Carrington.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 1997

Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. THOMPSON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MILLER of California, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. WISE, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. GREEN, Mr. FROST, Mr. FAZIO of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GORDON, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. DIXON, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Ms. FURSE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FORD, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. REYES, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. EVANS, Mr. POSHARD, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HEFNER, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. BOYD, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. DANNER, and Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the Nigerian dictatorship for its abuse of United
States Ambassador Walter Carrington.

Whereas the Nigerian Government has conducted a campaign of intimidation and harassment against the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Walter Carrington, throughout his tenure including—

(1) accusing the United States of attempting to destabilize the Government of Nigeria;

(2) attempting to strip the Ambassador of diplomatic immunity in an effort to create false charges against him relating to a series of bombings; and

(3) harassing, intimidating, and embarrassing the Ambassador;

Whereas the United States has already imposed limited sanctions against Nigeria following a series of abuses including—

(1) the imprisonment of the duly elected President Moshood K.O. Abiola, arrested and imprisoned by current dictator Sani Abacha;

(2) the execution by hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and 8 Ogoni environmental activists, universally condemned by the international community as a travesty of justice; and

(3) the State Department's classification of Nigeria as a major drug-trafficking country in May 1994, followed by Nigeria's continuing refusal to cooperate on anti-narcotics efforts;

Whereas the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Walter Carrington, has suffered harassment, physical intima-

tion, and embarrassment throughout his tenure as Ambassador;

Whereas a farewell reception was organized for United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Walter Carrington, by some 15 Nigerian prodemocracy and human rights groups, including the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO);

Whereas at 6:15 p.m. on September 18, 1997, Ambassador Carrington, accompanied by 4 other Embassy officials, was enroute to the reception;

Whereas Ambassador Carrington's car was intercepted by vehicles and armed security forces and was prevented from proceeding to the residence where the reception was scheduled to occur;

Whereas Ambassador Carrington, having been forcibly barred from proceeding to the designated reception site, went to the private residential compound that had been designated as an alternative venue for the reception;

Whereas upon the arrival of Ambassador Carrington at the alternative venue at 7:15 p.m., the Ambassador was greeted by approximately 100 people waiting in an open yard surrounded by a high cement wall and a tall metal gate;

Whereas, around 7:30 p.m., approximately 20 uniformed security forces, heavily armed with automatic weapons, pounded on the gate, broke the lock, and entered the compound;

Whereas members of the Nigerian security forces rushed into the reception shouting at the guests, and cocking their weapons in an aggressive attempt to break up the gathering;

Whereas 1 armed police officer threatened to shoot a human rights activist who was attempting to address the crowd;

Whereas Ambassador Carrington quickly departed the compound with other Embassy officers and diplomats under duress;

Whereas the United States Department of State has lodged numerous complaints prior to this incident and several formal protests following these events with the Nigerian Government; and

Whereas the Nigerian Government has neither explained nor apologized for the incidents of September 18, 1997, instead, the Nigerian Minister for Presidential Affairs publicly derided the United States Ambassador's tenure as "four years of waste during which nothing was accomplished": Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) finds that the actions of the Nigerian secu-
3 rity forces on September 18, 1997, are the culmina-
4 tion of a campaign of political intimidation and per-
5 sonal harassment against United States Ambassador
6 Carrington by the regime of dictator Sani Abacha;

7 (2) condemns the Abacha dictatorship in Nige-
8 ria for these outrageous acts;

9 (3) calls for the United States Department of
10 State to take all necessary and appropriate measures
11 to ensure the physical safety of the United States
12 Ambassador and Embassy staff in Nigeria; and

1 (4) calls for stronger sanctions by the United
2 States against the Nigerian dictatorship of Sani
3 Abacha in response to these egregious events.

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