

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 154

Concerning the transition to democracy in the Republic of Burundi.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2003

Mr. PAYNE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred  
to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the transition to democracy in the Republic of  
Burundi.

Whereas more than 100,000 people have died and hundreds  
of thousands have been displaced due to the decade-long  
civil war in the Republic of Burundi;

Whereas in 2001, 19 political parties from Burundi signed an  
historic peace agreement in Arusha, Tanzania, which was  
mediated by former South African President Nelson  
Mandela;

Whereas in November 2001, a transitional national govern-  
ment for Burundi was established, consisting of rep-  
resentatives from political parties that signed the 2001  
peace agreement, with President Pierre Buyoya as in-  
terim head of state for the initial 18 months, and current  
Vice President Domitien Ndayizeye as successor head of

state for the remaining 18 months of the 36-month transition period;

Whereas the Government of South Africa has deployed more than 600 troops to provide protection for the politicians who are returning to Burundi and to support of the transitional national government;

Whereas although the formation of the transitional national government in Burundi offers hope for a permanent peace, Burundi still faces daunting challenges in the short-term, such as armed extremist groups which refused to sign the 2001 peace agreement and which continue to terrorize the civilian population and threaten the stability of the transitional government;

Whereas the Government of Burundi continues to face serious economic problems and a crushing external debt burden; and

Whereas hundreds of thousands of refugees from Burundi remain in desperate conditions in refugee camps in Tanzania and other neighboring countries: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3            (1) strongly commends the efforts of former  
4        South African President Nelson Mandela and others  
5        involved in the historic peace agreement for the Re-  
6        public of Burundi that was signed in 2001 in  
7        Arusha, Tanzania;

1           (2) calls on the President to significantly in-  
2       crease development and economic assistance to Bu-  
3       rundi;

4           (3) strongly urges the President to work with  
5       Congress to lift restrictions imposed on Burundi  
6       shortly after the 1996 coup in Burundi;

7           (4) strongly urges the President, acting through  
8       the Administrator of the United States Agency for  
9       International Development (USAID), to establish a  
10      USAID mission in Burundi;

11          (5) calls on the Administrator of USAID to  
12      provide funds in support of demobilization programs  
13      and to support efforts designed to bring lasting  
14      peace and democracy to Burundi; and

15          (6) strongly urges the international community  
16      to assist Burundi in its debt relief efforts, including  
17      through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initia-  
18      tive.

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