

## **H. Res. 194**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*July 16, 2003.*

Whereas the efforts of the government of Khartoum to subjugate the peoples of the southern Sudan have led to the death of more than 2,000,000 persons and the displacement of another 4,000,000 persons;

Whereas the Department of State's "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2001" estimates that between 5,000 and 15,000 Dinka women and children have been abducted during the past 15 years, and that between 10,000 and 12,000 persons remain in captivity;

Whereas credible observers report that some of the abductees were sold into slavery and others were used as forced labor or drafted into the military, including children;

Whereas the Department of State's "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2002" notes that persons held in government controlled "Peace" camps for internally displaced persons were reportedly subjected to forced labor;

Whereas the Special Rapporteur for Sudan to the General Assembly of the United Nations concluded, on November 4, 2002, that the dire human rights situation in Sudan had not significantly changed;

Whereas the United States Civilian Protection Monitoring Team (CPMT) reported in February 2003 that militia allied with the Government of Sudan and supported directly by Government of Sudan troops continued to abduct civilians in the western Upper Nile region of Sudan;

Whereas subsequent to the February 2003 report of the Civilian Protection Monitoring Team, the Government of Sudan restricted the movements of the CPMT and prevented it from carrying out its mandate;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights declares “[n]o one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms”;

Whereas numerous human rights organizations, including Christian Solidarity International, the Center for Religious Freedom of Freedom House, and the American Anti-Slavery Group have demanded an end to slavery in all its forms and, in particular, to the abuses practiced by the Government of Sudan;

Whereas the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People adopted, in May 1995, a Resolution to Combat Modern Day Slavery stating that slavery in Sudan was an “irrefutable fact, corroborated by numerous sources,” and pledging that “we will not rest until these slaves are freed”;

Whereas the House of Representatives has repeatedly decried human rights abuses in Sudan and called for the abolition of the slave trade and of chattel slavery in Sudan;

Whereas the House of Representatives committed itself to practical measures to suppress the slave trade and chattel slavery in the Sudan by the passage, by a vote of 359–8, in the 107th Congress of H.R. 5531, the “Sudan Peace Act”, and the Senate passed a similar measure, S. 180, unanimously;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights conducted its 59th session in Geneva from March 17 through April 25, 2003;

Whereas the head of the United States delegation to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, declared in her opening address that “[t]he Commission has the solemn duty to speak for those who are denied the right to speak for themselves”;

Whereas Human Rights Watch and many other concerned persons and organizations have called upon the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights for Sudan, and to condemn gross abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law by the Sudanese Government and rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) forces; and

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, by a vote of 26 to 24 with 3 abstentions, refused to classify Sudan as an “Item 9” country, one in which grave human rights problems justify the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to investigate abuses and to report on them: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) slavery, under any circumstances, is an unconscionable practice;

(2) the subjection inherent in slavery inevitably leads to other abuses, including torture and rape;

(3) human rights abuses and slavery in Sudan remain a matter of the most profound concern;

(4) the United States must condemn attempts to ignore or condone these outrages;

(5) the United States must make clear to all members of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that the refusal to condemn slavery in Sudan undermines any moral authority that the Commission might seek to exert in other areas;

(6) the United States must work to re-classify Sudan as an “Item 9” country, requiring a Special Rapporteur at the next session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; and

(7) the United States should encourage the United Nations to consider reinstating sanctions against Sudan and should urge the European Union, the African Union, and all others who express concern for human freedom and dignity to be engaged in activities that will

convince Sudan to abolish slavery and respect human rights.

Attest:

*Clerk.*