

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 194

Regarding the importance of international efforts to abolish slavery and other human rights abuses in the Sudan.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. WEXLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## **RESOLUTION**

Regarding the importance of international efforts to abolish slavery and other human rights abuses in the Sudan.

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 2001 State Department Country Report on Human Rights 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 used as forced labor or drafted into the military, including children;

Whereas the 2002 State Department Country Report on Human Rights 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 has 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 is now conducting its 59th session in Geneva from March 17 through April 25, 2003;

Whereas the United States rejoined the United Nations Commission on Human Rights having been elected to a three-term beginning in 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 current session of United Nations Commission on Human Rights will be discussing whether to change the status of Sudan from "Item 9", country with grave human rights problems justifying the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to investigate abuses and to report on them, to a lesser level of concern: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2       resentatives that—

3               (1) slavery, under any circumstances, is an un-  
4       conscionable practice;

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

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

9               (4) the United States must resist attempts to  
10      ignore or condone these outrages;

11              (5) the United States must support the mainte-  
12      nance, by the United Nations Commission on  
13      Human Rights, of Sudan as an "Item 9" country,  
14      requiring a Special Rapporteur; and

15              (6) the United States should encourage the  
16      United Nations to consider reinstating sanctions

1       against Sudan and urge the European Union, the  
2       African Union, and all others who express concern  
3       for human freedom and dignity to be engaged in ac-  
4       tivities that will convince Sudan to abolish slavery  
5       and respect human rights.

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