

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2264

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## AN ACT

To require a report on the conflict in Uganda, and for  
other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Uganda Cri-  
5 sis Response Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The United States and the Republic of  
4 Uganda enjoy a strong bilateral relationship and  
5 continue to work closely together in fighting the  
6 human immunodeficiency virus and acquired im-  
7 mune deficiency syndrome (“HIV/AIDS”) pandemic  
8 and combating international terrorism.

9 (2) For more than 17 years, the Government of  
10 Uganda has been engaged in a conflict with the  
11 Lord’s Resistance Army that has inflicted hardship  
12 and suffering on the people of northern and eastern  
13 Uganda.

14 (3) The members of the Lord’s Resistance  
15 Army have used brutal tactics during this conflict,  
16 including abducting and forcing individuals into sex-  
17 ual servitude, and forcing a large number of chil-  
18 dren, estimated to be between 16,000 and 26,000  
19 children, in Uganda to serve in such Army’s military  
20 forces.

21 (4) The Secretary of State has designated the  
22 Lord’s Resistance Army as a terrorist organization  
23 and placed the Lord’s Resistance Army on the Ter-  
24 rorist Exclusion list pursuant to section 212(a)(3) of  
25 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
26 1182(a)(3)).

1           (5) According to Human Rights Watch, since  
2           the mid-1990s the only known sponsor of the Lord's  
3           Resistance Army has been the Government of  
4           Sudan, though such Government denies providing  
5           assistance to the Lord's Resistance Army.

6           (6) More than 1,000,000 people have been dis-  
7           placed from their homes in Uganda as a result of  
8           the conflict.

9           (7) The conflict has resulted in a lack of secu-  
10          rity for the people of Uganda, and as a result of  
11          such lack, each night more than 18,000 children  
12          leave their homes and flee to the relative safety of  
13          town centers, creating a massive "night commuter"  
14          phenomenon that leaves already vulnerable children  
15          subject to exploitation and abuse.

16          (8) Individuals who have been displaced by the  
17          conflict in Uganda often suffer from acute malnutri-  
18          tion and the mortality rate for children in northern  
19          Uganda who have been displaced is very high.

20          (9) In the latter part of 2003, humanitarian  
21          and human rights organizations operating in north-  
22          ern Uganda reported an increase in violence directed  
23          at their efforts and at civilians, including a sharp in-  
24          crease in child abductions.

1           (10) The Government of Uganda’s military ef-  
2           forts to resolve this conflict, including the arming  
3           and training of local militia forces, have not ensured  
4           the security of civilian populations in the region to  
5           date.

6           (11) The continued instability and lack of secu-  
7           rity in Uganda has severely hindered the ability of  
8           any organization or governmental entity to deliver  
9           regular humanitarian assistance and services to indi-  
10          viduals who have been displaced or otherwise nega-  
11          tively affected by the conflict.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13          It is the sense of Congress that the Government of  
14          the United States should—

15               (1) work vigorously to support ongoing efforts  
16               to explore the prospects for a peaceful resolution of  
17               the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda;

18               (2) work with the Government of Uganda and  
19               the international community to make available suffi-  
20               cient resources to meet the immediate relief and de-  
21               velopment needs of the towns and cities in Uganda  
22               that are supporting large numbers of people who  
23               have been displaced by the conflict;

24               (3) urge the Government of Uganda and the  
25               international community to assume greater responsi-

1 bility for the protection of civilians and economic de-  
2 velopment in regions in Uganda affected by the con-  
3 flict, and to place a high priority on providing secu-  
4 rity, economic development, and humanitarian as-  
5 sistance to the people of Uganda;

6 (4) work with the international community, the  
7 Government of Uganda, and civil society in northern  
8 and eastern Uganda to develop a plan whereby those  
9 now displaced may return to their homes or to other  
10 locations where they may become economically pro-  
11 ductive;

12 (5) urge the leaders and members of the Lord's  
13 Resistance Army to stop the abduction of children,  
14 and urge all armed forces in Uganda to stop the use  
15 of child soldiers, and seek the release of all individ-  
16 uals who have been abducted;

17 (6) make available increased resources for as-  
18 sistance to individuals who were abducted during the  
19 conflict, child soldiers, and other children affected by  
20 the conflict;

21 (7) work with the Government of Uganda, other  
22 countries, and international organizations to ensure  
23 that sufficient resources and technical support are  
24 devoted to the demobilization and reintegration of

1 rebel combatants and abductees forced by their cap-  
2 tors to serve in non-combatant support roles;

3 (8) cooperate with the international community  
4 to support civil society organizations and leaders in  
5 Uganda, including Acholi religious leaders, who are  
6 working toward a just and lasting resolution to the  
7 conflict;

8 (9) urge the Government of Uganda to improve  
9 the professionalism of Ugandan military personnel  
10 currently stationed in northern and eastern Uganda,  
11 with an emphasis on respect for human rights, ac-  
12 countability for abuses, and effective civilian protec-  
13 tion;

14 (10) work with the international community to  
15 assist institutions of civil society in Uganda to in-  
16 crease the capacity of such institutions to monitor  
17 the human rights situation in northern Uganda and  
18 to raise awareness of abuses of human rights that  
19 occur in that area;

20 (11) urge the Government of Uganda to permit  
21 international human rights monitors to establish a  
22 presence in northern and eastern Uganda;

23 (12) monitor the creation of civilian militia  
24 forces in northern and eastern Uganda and publicize  
25 any concerns regarding the recruitment of children

1 into such forces or the potential that the establish-  
2 ment of such forces will invite increased targeting of  
3 civilians in the conflict or exacerbate ethnic tension  
4 and violence; and

5 (13) make clear that the relationship between  
6 the Government of Sudan and the Government of  
7 the United States cannot improve unless no credible  
8 evidence indicates that authorities of the Govern-  
9 ment of Sudan are complicit in efforts to provide  
10 weapons or other support to the Lord's Resistance  
11 Army.

12 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

13 (a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than 6 months after  
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State  
15 shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional  
16 committees on the conflict in Uganda.

17 (b) **CONTENT.**—The report required by subsection  
18 (a) shall include a description of the following:

19 (1) The individuals or entities that are pro-  
20 viding financial and material support for the Lord's  
21 Resistance Army, including a description of any such  
22 support provided by the Government of Sudan or by  
23 senior officials of such Government.

24 (2) The activities of the Lord's Resistance  
25 Army that create obstacles that prohibit the provi-

1 sion of humanitarian assistance or the protection of  
2 the civilian population in Uganda.

3 (3) The practices employed by the Ugandan  
4 People's Defense Forces in northern and eastern  
5 Uganda to ensure that children and civilians are  
6 protected, that civilian complaints are addressed,  
7 and that any member of the armed forces that  
8 abuses a civilian is held accountable for such abuse.

9 (4) The actions carried out by the Government  
10 of the United States, the Government of Uganda, or  
11 the international community to protect civilians, es-  
12 pecially women and children, who have been dis-  
13 placed by the conflict in Uganda, including women  
14 and children that leave their homes and flee to cities  
15 and towns at night in search of security from sexual  
16 exploitation and gender-based violence.

17 (c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report under subsection  
18 (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-  
19 clude a classified annex.

20 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
21 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-  
22 gressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign



- 1 Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Inter-
- 2 national Relations of the House of Representatives.

Passed the Senate May 7, 2004.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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