

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 533

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the political situation in
Zimbabwe.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 2008

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the political
situation in Zimbabwe.

Whereas, on March 29, 2008, parliamentary and presidential elections were held in Zimbabwe amid widespread reports of voting irregularities in favor of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party and President Robert Mugabe, including, according to the Department of State, “production of far more ballots than there were registered voters...[and] the allowance of police in polling places”;

Whereas official results showed that the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) won a majority of seats in the parliamentary elections, and independent monitors concluded based on initially posted results that MDC

leader Morgan Tsvangirai received substantially more votes than President Mugabe in the presidential election;

Whereas, as of April 24, 2008, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has still not released the results of the presidential election, despite calls to do so by the African Union (AU), the European Union, the Government of South Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, and the United States;

Whereas, on April 19, 2008, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission officially commenced recounting ballots cast in 23 parliamentary constituencies, primarily in districts that did not support candidates affiliated with ZANU-PF;

Whereas, on April 21, 2008, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband stated that the ongoing recount was potentially a “charade of democracy” that “only serves to fuel suspicion that President Mugabe is seeking to reverse the results that have been published, to regain a majority in parliament, and to amplify his own count in the presidential election,” and accused him of trying “to steal the election”;

Whereas, the Government of Zimbabwe has arrested numerous members of the media and election officials, and over 1,000 Zimbabweans have reportedly been fleeing into South Africa every day, while forces loyal to the government have engaged in a brutal and systematic effort to intimidate voters;

Whereas, on April 20, 2008, the MDC released a detailed report showing that more than 400 of its supporters had been arrested, 500 had been attacked, 10 had been killed,

and 3,000 families had been displaced, and Human Rights Watch reported on April 19, 2008, that ZANU–PF is operating “torture camps” where opposition supporters are being beaten;

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad stated on April 16, 2008, that he was “gravely concerned about the escalating politically motivated violence perpetrated by security forces and ruling party militias”;

Whereas, while there is currently no international embargo on arms transfers to Zimbabwe, a Chinese ship carrying weapons destined for Zimbabwe was recently prevented from unloading its cargo in Durban, South Africa, and has been denied access to other ports in the region due to concerns that the weapons could further destabilize the situation in Zimbabwe;

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated on April 17, 2008, that President Mugabe has “done more harm to his country than would have been imaginable. . .the last years have been really an abomination. . .,” and called for the AU and SADC to play a greater role in resolving the crisis;

Whereas, the Department of State’s 2007 Country Report on Human Rights Practices stated that, in Zimbabwe, “the ruling party’s dominant control and manipulation of the political process through intimidation and corruption effectively negated the right of citizens to change their government. Unlawful killings and politically motivated abductions occurred. State sanctioned use of excessive force increased, and security forces tortured members of the opposition, student leaders, and civil society activists”;

and

Whereas annual inflation in Zimbabwe is reportedly running over 150,000 percent, unemployment stands at over 80 percent, hunger affects over 4,000,000 people, and an estimated 3,500 people die each week from hunger, disease, and other causes related to extremely poor living conditions: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate—

2 (1) to support the people of Zimbabwe, who
3 have been subjected to incredible hardships, includ-
4 ing violence, political repression, and severe eco-
5 nomic deprivation, in their aspirations for a free,
6 democratic, and more prosperous future;

7 (2) to call for an immediate cessation of politi-
8 cally motivated violence, detentions, and efforts to
9 intimidate the people of Zimbabwe perpetrated by
10 Zimbabwe's security forces and militias loyal to
11 ZANU–PF;

12 (3) that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
13 should immediately release the legitimate results of
14 the presidential election and ratify the previously an-
15 nounced results of the parliamentary elections;

16 (4) that President Robert Mugabe should ac-
17 cept the will of the people of Zimbabwe in order to
18 effect a timely and peaceful transition to genuine
19 democratic rule;

20 (5) that regional organizations, including SADC
21 and the AU, should play a sustained and active role

1 in resolving the crisis peacefully and in a manner
2 that respects the will of the people of Zimbabwe;

3 (6) that the United Nations Security Council
4 should be seized of the issue of Zimbabwe, support
5 efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the
6 crisis that respects the will of the people of
7 Zimbabwe, and impose an international arms embar-
8 go on Zimbabwe until a legitimate democratic gov-
9 ernment has taken power;

10 (7) that the United States Government and the
11 international community should impose targeted
12 sanctions against additional individuals in the Gov-
13 ernment of Zimbabwe and state security services
14 and militias in Zimbabwe who are responsible for
15 human rights abuses and interference in the legiti-
16 mate conduct of the elections in Zimbabwe; and

17 (8) that the United States Government and the
18 international community should work together to
19 prepare a comprehensive economic and political re-
20 covery package for Zimbabwe in the event that a
21 genuinely democratic government is formed and
22 commits to implementing key constitutional, eco-
23 nomic, and political reforms.

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