

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 632

Calling on the Governments of the People's Republic of China and the international community to use the upcoming Olympic Games as an opportunity to push for the parties to the conflicts in Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic to cease hostilities and revive efforts toward a peaceful resolution of their national and regional conflicts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2008

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling on the Governments of the People's Republic of China and the international community to use the upcoming Olympic Games as an opportunity to push for the parties to the conflicts in Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic to cease hostilities and revive efforts toward a peaceful resolution of their national and regional conflicts.

Whereas, since the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, began in 2003, hundreds of thousands of people across the region have been murdered, tortured, and raped, with more than 2,500,000 people driven from their homes as a result of

ongoing violence, and all parties to the conflict continue to attack civilians throughout the region, while impeding access of humanitarian workers;

Whereas armed groups move freely among Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder, banditry, forced recruitment, mass displacement, gender-based violence, and other crimes undermining regional security and exacerbating a cross-border humanitarian crisis;

Whereas, on July 31, 2007, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), authorizing a joint United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and protect civilians;

Whereas only one-third of UNAMID peacekeepers have been deployed to the region and those deployed remain under-equipped to protect civilians and are the target of deliberate attacks by armed militias;

Whereas a new joint African Union-United Nations chief mediator, Burkina Faso's foreign minister, Djibril Bassole, has been appointed to reignite stalled peace talks between the parties in Darfur and help establish a cessation of hostilities;

Whereas fighting erupted in Sudan's oil-rich Abyei region on May 13 and 21, 2008, leaving 18 civilians dead and giving rise to concerns about a breakdown of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which could ruin progress made over the last three years toward lasting peace in southern Sudan and ensnare the wider region into overlapping conflicts;

Whereas the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court charged the President of Sudan on July 14, 2008, with orchestrating genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur, elevating hopes for accountability but also fears of retaliation against peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, and civilians;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has long-standing economic and military ties with Sudan, giving it significant influence on the Government of Sudan;

Whereas, from August 8 to August 24, 2008, China will host the Olympic Summer Games, the most venerated and prestigious international sporting event;

Whereas there is a tradition of an Olympic Truce, originating in ancient Greece, to ensure the safety of athletes traveling to the ancient Olympic Games, the importance of which was reaffirmed in 2003 by the United Nations;

Whereas the Olympic Truce traditionally begins one week before the Olympic Games and extends one week after the end of the Paralympic Games;

Whereas, on October 16, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution G/A 62/L.2, "Building a better and more peaceful world through sport," which urges Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, during the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, and to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to use sport as an instrument to promote peace, dialogue, and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the Olympic Games period; and

Whereas the situation in Sudan and the neighboring region remains highly volatile as the Olympics approach: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses its continued support and sym-
3 pathy for the hundreds of thousands of civilians of
4 Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic who
5 have been affected by the ongoing violence and re-
6 gional instability;

7 (2) recognizes the unique opportunity presented
8 by the Olympics and calls on the United Nations,
9 the African Union, and other international leaders to
10 use it to promote peace, dialogue, and reconciliation
11 in areas of conflict and commends those Olympic
12 and Paralympic athletes seeking to advance that
13 cause;

14 (3) recognizes the close relationship between the
15 Governments of People's Republic of China and
16 Sudan, and strongly urges the Government of the
17 People's Republic of China to use its full influence
18 to press the Government of Sudan to commit to a
19 cessation of hostilities, allow the full deployment of
20 UNAMID peacekeeping forces, and engage in good
21 faith in efforts to rejuvenate peace talks;

22 (4) calls upon the Government of Sudan and
23 other armed actors in the region to immediately

1 adopt a cessation of hostilities, during which they
2 allow unfettered humanitarian access and the full
3 deployment of UNAMID peacekeeping forces as well
4 as engage in good faith efforts to rejuvenate peace
5 talks;

6 (5) welcomes the efforts of the new joint Afri-
7 can Union-United Nations mediator, Mr. Djibril
8 Bassole, to revive a comprehensive peace process
9 with all stakeholders to end the violence, demobilize
10 militias, and promote voluntary return of internally
11 displaced persons and refugees;

12 (6) urges the President and the international
13 community to ensure that mediation efforts are sup-
14 ported and backed by credible leverage through tar-
15 geted pressure and an enforced arms embargo;

16 (7) calls upon the United Nations and African
17 Union to use the opportunity presented by a ces-
18 sation of hostilities to fully deploy and equip
19 UNAMID as well as strengthen the United Nations
20 Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to better monitor the
21 Abyei region; and

22 (8) encourages the United Nations Secretary-
23 General and other international leaders to publicly
24 promote the principles reflected in the Olympic
25 Truce among all the warring parties in Sudan,

- 1 Chad, the Central African Republic, and other areas
- 2 of conflict around the world.

