

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 76

Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, the Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

Whereas armed groups have been moving freely between Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder and engaging in banditry, forced recruitment of soldiers, and gender-based violence;

Whereas these and other crimes are contributing to insecurity and instability throughout the region, exacerbating the humanitarian crises in these countries and obstructing efforts to end violence in the Darfur region of Sudan and adjacent areas;

Whereas on January 5, 2007, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that cross-border attacks by alleged Arab militias from Sudan and related intercommunal ethnic hostilities in eastern Chad had resulted in the displacement of an estimated 20,000 people from Chad during the previous 2 weeks and posed a direct threat to camps housing refugees from Sudan;

Whereas these new internally displaced Chadians have strained the resources of 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad that are already serving more than 100,000 internally displaced Chadians and 230,000 refugees from Darfur and providing humanitarian support and protection to more than 46,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in southern Chad;

Whereas Chadian gendarmes responsible for providing security in and around the 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad are too few in number, too poorly equipped, and too besieged by Chadian rebel actions to carry out critical protection efforts sufficiently;

Whereas on January 16, 2007, the United Nations' Humanitarian Coordinator for the Central African Republic reported that waves of violence across the north have left more than 1,000,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 150,000 who are internally displaced, while some 80,000 have fled to neighboring Chad or Cameroon;

Whereas in a Presidential Statement issued on January 16, 2007 (S/PRST/2007/2), the United Nations Security Council reiterated its “concern about the continuing instability along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and about the threat which this poses to the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations” and requested “that the Secretary-General deploy as soon as possible an advance mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, in consultation with their Governments”;

Whereas the Presidential Statement acknowledged “the position taken by the Central African and Chadian authorities in favor in principle of such a presence and looks forward to their continued engagement in preparing for it”;

Whereas a December 22, 2006, report of the United Nations Secretary-General (S/2006/1019) expressed a need to address the rapidly deteriorating security situation of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic and to protect civilians in the border areas of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic and recommended a robust mission that “would, among other tasks: facilitate the political process; protect civilians; monitor the human rights situation; and strengthen the local judicial, police and correctional system”;

Whereas the December 22, 2006, report went on to recommend that the force also be mandated and equipped to deter attacks by armed groups and react preemptively to protect civilians, including refugees and internally displaced persons, with rapid reaction capabilities;

Whereas on August 30, 2006, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006), authorizing a multidimensional presence consisting of po-

litical, humanitarian, military and civilian police liaison officers in key locations in Chad, including in the internally displaced persons and refugee camps and, if necessary, in the Central African Republic;

Whereas continuing hostilities will undermine efforts to bring security to the Darfur region of Sudan, dangerously destabilize volatile political and humanitarian situations in Chad and the Central African Republic, and potentially disrupt progress towards peace in southern Sudan;

Whereas a December 2006 United Nations assessment mission report outlined possibilities for a mission in Chad, including a force large enough to monitor the border, deter attacks, and provide civilian protection;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has requested proposals for a United Nations force in Chad and the Central African Republic to help protect and provide humanitarian assistance to tens of thousands of civilians affected by the conflict that began in Darfur; and

Whereas a technical assessment mission was dispatched in January 2007 toward that end: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses concern for the more than
3 1,000,000 citizens of Sudan, Chad, and the Central
4 African Republic who have been adversely affected
5 by this interrelated violence and instability;

6 (2) calls upon the Governments of Chad and
7 Sudan—

1 (A) to reaffirm their commitment to the
2 Tripoli Declaration of February 8, 2006, and
3 the N'Djamena Agreement of July 26, 2006;

4 (B) to refrain from any actions that violate
5 these agreements; and

6 (C) to cease all logistical, financial, and
7 military support to each others' insurgent
8 groups;

9 (3) urges the Government of Chad to improve
10 accountability and transparency as well as the provi-
11 sion of basic services to redeem the legitimacy of the
12 Government in the eyes of its citizens;

13 (4) urges the Government of Chad to take ac-
14 tion to increase political participation and to
15 strengthen democratic institutions to ensure that all
16 segments of society in Chad can participate in and
17 benefit from a transparent, open, and capable gov-
18 ernment;

19 (5) urges the Government of Chad, the Govern-
20 ment of Sudan, and other key regional and inter-
21 national stakeholders to commit to another round of
22 inclusive political negotiations that can bring lasting
23 peace and stability to the region;

24 (6) calls upon the President to advocate for the
25 appointment of a senior United Nations official to

1 direct and coordinate all international humanitarian
2 activities on both sides of Sudan’s western border
3 and expand the response to emergency needs related
4 to the political and humanitarian situation in the
5 Central African Republic;

6 (7) urges the President to utilize the resources
7 and leverage at the President’s disposal to press for
8 the immediate deployment of an advance mission to
9 eastern Chad to lay the groundwork for a robust
10 multilateral and multidimensional presence;

11 (8) urges the United Nations Security Council
12 to authorize a multilateral and multidimensional
13 peacekeeping force to eastern Chad with the man-
14 date and means—

15 (A) to ensure effective protection of civil-
16 ians, particularly refugees and internally dis-
17 placed persons, including by preempting, pre-
18 venting, and deterring attacks on civilians;

19 (B) to organize regular patrols along the
20 western border of Sudan and implement prac-
21 tical protection measures for asylum seekers;

22 (C) to maintain the civilian and humani-
23 tarian nature of the internally displaced persons
24 and refugee camps in Chad and facilitate the
25 efforts of aid workers;

1 (D) to deter, monitor, investigate, and re-
2 port attacks on humanitarian personnel and as-
3 sets;

4 (E) to provide around the clock physical
5 security in the camps and surrounding areas,
6 including organized patrols to guarantee free-
7 dom of movement to all civilians and humani-
8 tarian workers;

9 (F) to coordinate and share information
10 with humanitarian organizations, actively pre-
11 serve unhindered humanitarian access to all dis-
12 placed persons, and ensure the safety of all hu-
13 manitarian workers in accordance with inter-
14 national humanitarian law;

15 (G) to collect and report evidence of
16 human rights violations and perpetrators to the
17 United Nations on a timely and regular basis;
18 and

19 (H) to support domestic and multilateral
20 initiatives to strengthen local judicial, police,
21 and correctional systems in Chad; and

22 (9) urges the President and the international
23 community to coordinate efforts to make available
24 sufficient resources in support of this multilateral
25 and multidimensional mission, as well as adequate

- 1 assistance to meet the continuing humanitarian and
- 2 security needs of the individuals and areas most af-
- 3 fected by this conflict.

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