

Calendar No. 103

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, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 29, 2007

Reported by Mr. BIDEN, without amendment

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 political, 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;

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

6 (B) to refrain from any actions that violate
7 these agreements; and

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

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

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

24 (C) to maintain the civilian and humani-
25 tarian nature of the internally displaced persons

1 and refugee camps in Chad and facilitate the
2 efforts of aid workers;

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

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

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

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

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

24 (9) urges the President and the international
25 community to coordinate efforts to make available

1 sufficient resources in support of this multilateral
2 and multidimensional mission, as well as adequate
3 assistance to meet the continuing humanitarian and
4 security needs of the individuals and areas most af-
5 fected by this conflict.

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