

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2478

To support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Lord’s Resistance
3 Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act
4 of 2009”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress makes the following findings:

7 (1) For over 2 decades, the Government of
8 Uganda engaged in an armed conflict with the
9 Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda
10 that led to the internal displacement of more than
11 2,000,000 Ugandans from their homes.

12 (2) The members of the Lord’s Resistance
13 Army used brutal tactics in northern Uganda, in-
14 cluding mutilating, abducting, and forcing individ-
15 uals into sexual servitude and forcing a large num-
16 ber of children and youth in Uganda, estimated by
17 the Survey for War Affected Youth to be over
18 66,000, to fight as part of the rebel force.

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

25 (4) In late 2005, according to the United Na-
26 tions Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Af-

1 fairs, the Lord’s Resistance Army shifted their pri-
2 mary base of operations from southern Sudan to
3 northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and the
4 rebels have since withdrawn from northern Uganda.

5 (5) Representatives of the Government of
6 Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army began
7 peace negotiations in 2006, mediated by the Govern-
8 ment of Southern Sudan in Juba, Sudan, and signed
9 the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on August
10 20, 2006, which provided for hundreds of thousands
11 of internally displaced people to return home in safe-
12 ty.

13 (6) After nearly 2 years of negotiations, rep-
14 resentatives from the parties reached the Final
15 Peace Agreement in April 2008, but Joseph Kony,
16 the leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army, refused to
17 sign the Final Peace Agreement in May 2008 and
18 his forces launched new attacks in northeastern
19 Congo.

20 (7) According to the United Nations Office for
21 the Coordination of Humanitarian Relief, the new
22 activity of the Lord’s Resistance Army in north-
23 eastern Congo and southern Sudan since September
24 2008 has led to the abduction of at least 711 civil-

1 ians, including 540 children, and the displacement of
2 more than 160,000 people.

3 (8) In December 2008, the military forces of
4 Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and
5 southern Sudan launched a joint operation against
6 the Lord's Resistance Army's bases in northeastern
7 Congo, but the operation failed to apprehend Joseph
8 Kony, and his forces retaliated with a series of new
9 attacks and massacres in Congo and southern
10 Sudan, killing an estimated 900 people in 2 months.

11 (9) The escalated activity of the Lord's Resist-
12 ance Army over recent months and the inability of
13 military operations to stop them or protect civilians
14 has perpetuated fears amongst communities in
15 northern Uganda that the rebels could cross back
16 into Uganda in the future, which complicates ongo-
17 ing recovery efforts.

18 (10) Despite the refusal of Joseph Kony to sign
19 the Final Peace Agreement, the Government of
20 Uganda has committed to continue reconstruction
21 plans for northern Uganda, and to implement those
22 mechanisms of the Final Peace Agreement not con-
23 ditional on the compliance of the Lord's Resistance
24 Army.

1 (11) Since April 2008, recovery efforts in
2 northern Uganda have moved forward with the fi-
3 nancial support of the United States and other do-
4 nors, but have been hampered by a lack of strategic
5 coordination, logistical delays, and limited capacity
6 of the Government of Uganda.

7 (12) Continued economic disparities between
8 northern Uganda and the rest of the country and a
9 failure to take meaningful steps toward reconcili-
10 ation and accountability, if unchanged, risk perpet-
11 uating longstanding political grievances and fueling
12 new conflicts.

13 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

14 It is the policy of the United States to work vigor-
15 ously for a lasting resolution to the conflict in northern
16 and eastern Uganda and other affected areas by—

17 (1) eliminating the threat posed by the Lord's
18 Resistance Army to civilians and regional stability
19 through political, economic, military, and intelligence
20 support for a comprehensive multilateral effort to
21 protect civilians in affected areas, to apprehend or
22 otherwise remove Joseph Kony and his top com-
23 manders from the battlefield, and to disarm and de-
24 mobilize Lord's Resistance Army fighters; and

1 (2) further supporting comprehensive recon-
2 struction, transitional justice, and reconciliation ef-
3 forts as affirmed in the Northern Uganda Crisis Re-
4 sponse Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–283) and sub-
5 sequent resolutions, including Senate Resolution
6 366, 109th Congress, agreed to February 2, 2006,
7 Senate Resolution 573, 109th Congress, agreed to
8 September 19, 2006, Senate Concurrent Resolution
9 16, 110th Congress, agreed to in the Senate March
10 1, 2007, and House Concurrent Resolution 80,
11 110th Congress, agreed to in the House of Rep-
12 resentatives June 18, 2007.

13 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT OF A REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR DIS-**
14 **ARMING THE LORD’S RESISTANCE ARMY.**

15 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY.—Not later than
16 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
17 President shall develop and submit to the appropriate
18 committees of Congress a regional strategy to guide
19 United States support for multilateral efforts to protect
20 civilians from attacks by the Lord’s Resistance Army, to
21 eliminate the threat to civilians and regional stability
22 posed by the Lord’s Resistance Army, and to enforce the
23 rule of law and ensure full humanitarian access in LRA-
24 affected areas.

1 (b) CONTENT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy should
2 include the following:

3 (1) A viable plan to protect civilians from at-
4 tacks by the Lord’s Resistance Army and eliminate
5 the threat posed by the Lord’s Resistance Army,
6 while building institutions in the affected areas that
7 can help to maintain the rule of law and prevent
8 conflict in the long term.

9 (2) An interagency framework to plan, coordi-
10 nate, and execute all diplomatic economic, intel-
11 ligence, and military elements of United States pol-
12 icy across the region regarding the Lord’s Resist-
13 ance Army.

14 (3) A description of the type and form of diplo-
15 matic engagement to work with regional mecha-
16 nisms, including the Tripartite Plus Commission and
17 the Great Lakes Pact, and to coordinate the imple-
18 mentation of United States policy toward the Lord’s
19 Resistance Army across the region.

20 (4) A description of how this engagement will
21 fit within the context of broader efforts and policy
22 objectives in the Great Lakes Region.

23 (5) A framework to evaluate the progress and
24 effectiveness of the United States strategy toward

1 eliminating the threat posed by the Lord's Resist-
2 ance Army.

3 (c) FORM.—The strategy under this section shall be
4 submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classi-
5 fied annex.

6 **SEC. 5. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR AREAS OUTSIDE**
7 **UGANDA AFFECTED BY THE LORD'S RESIST-**
8 **ANCE ARMY.**

9 (a) AUTHORITY.—In accordance with section 491 of
10 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292) and
11 section 2 of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of
12 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601), the President is authorized to
13 provide assistance to respond to the humanitarian needs
14 of populations in northeastern Congo, southern Sudan,
15 and Central African Republic affected by the activity of
16 the Lord's Resistance Army.

17 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year
19 2010 to carry out this section.

20 **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE FOR RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUC-**
21 **TION IN NORTHERN UGANDA.**

22 (a) AUTHORITY.—It is the sense of Congress that the
23 President should support efforts by the people of northern
24 Uganda and the Government of Uganda—

1 (1) to assist internally displaced people in tran-
2 sition and returnees to secure durable solutions by
3 spurring economic revitalization, supporting liveli-
4 hoods, helping to alleviate poverty, and advancing
5 access to basic services at return sites, specifically
6 clean water, health care, and schools;

7 (2) to enhance the accountability and adminis-
8 trative competency of local governance institutions
9 and public agencies in northern Uganda with regard
10 to budget management, provision of public goods
11 and services, and related oversight functions;

12 (3) to strengthen the operational capacity of the
13 civilian police in northern Uganda to enhance public
14 safety, prevent crime, and deal sensitively with gen-
15 der-based violence, while strengthening account-
16 ability measures to prevent corruption and abuses;

17 (4) to rebuild and improve the capacity of the
18 justice system in northern Uganda, including the
19 courts and penal systems, with particular sensitivity
20 to the needs and rights of women and children;

21 (5) to establish mechanisms for the disar-
22 mament, demobilization, and reintegration of former
23 combatants, including vocational education and em-
24 ployment opportunities; and

1 (6) to promote programs to address psycho-
2 social trauma, particularly post-traumatic stress dis-
3 order.

4 (b) FUTURE YEAR FUNDING.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the Secretary of State and Administrator of the
6 United States Agency for International Development
7 should work with the appropriate committees of Congress
8 to increase assistance in future fiscal years to support ac-
9 tivities described in this section if the Government of
10 Uganda demonstrates a commitment to transparent and
11 accountable reconstruction in war-affected areas of north-
12 ern and eastern Uganda, specifically by—

13 (1) finalizing the establishment of mechanisms
14 within the Office of the Prime Minister to suffi-
15 ciently manage and coordinate the programs under
16 the framework of the Peace Recovery and Develop-
17 ment Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP);

18 (2) increasing oversight activities and reporting
19 to ensure funds under the Peace Recovery and De-
20 velopment Plan for Northern Uganda framework are
21 used efficiently and with minimal waste; and

22 (3) committing substantial funds of its own,
23 above and beyond standard budget allocations to
24 local governments, to the task of implementing the
25 Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern

1 Uganda such that communities affected by the war
2 can recover.

3 (c) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONOR NA-**
4 **TIONS.**—The United States should work with other donor
5 nations, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, to increase
6 contributions for recovery efforts in northern Uganda and
7 strengthen accountability mechanisms to ensure the trans-
8 parent and timely use of those funds.

9 (d) **TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE.**—It is the sense
10 of Congress that the Secretary of State should withhold
11 bilateral assistance to the Republic of Uganda for the pur-
12 poses described under this section if the Secretary deter-
13 mines that the Government of Uganda is not committed
14 to transparent and accountable reconstruction and rec-
15 onciliation in the war-affected areas of northern and east-
16 ern Uganda.

17 **SEC. 7. ASSISTANCE FOR RECONCILIATION AND TRANSI-**
18 **TIONAL JUSTICE IN NORTHERN UGANDA.**

19 (a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that the President should support efforts by the peo-
21 ple of northern Uganda and the Government of Uganda
22 to advance efforts to promote transitional justice and rec-
23 onciliation on both local and national levels, including to
24 implement the following mechanisms outlined in the
25 Annexure to the Agreement on Accountability and Rec-

1 onciliation between the Government of Uganda and the
2 Lord's Resistance Army/Movement, signed at Juba Feb-
3 ruary 19, 2008, namely—

4 (1) a body to investigate the history of the con-
5 flict, inquire into human rights violations committed
6 during the conflict by all sides, promote truth-telling
7 in communities, and encourage the preservation of
8 the memory of events and victims of the conflict
9 through memorials, archives, commemorations, and
10 other forms of preservation;

11 (2) a special division of the High Court of
12 Uganda to try individuals alleged to have committed
13 serious crimes during the conflict, and a special unit
14 to carry out investigations and prosecutions in sup-
15 port of trials;

16 (3) a system for making reparations to victims
17 of the conflict; and

18 (4) a review and strategy for supporting transi-
19 tional justice mechanisms in affected areas to pro-
20 mote reconciliation and encourage individuals to
21 take personal responsibility for their conduct during
22 the war.

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fis-
25 cal years 2010 through 2012 to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORT.**

2 (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 1 year after
3 the submission of the strategy required under section 4,
4 the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit to the ap-
5 propriate committees of Congress a report on the progress
6 made toward the implementation of the strategy required
7 under section 4 and a description and evaluation of the
8 assistance provided under this Act toward the policy objec-
9 tives described in section 3.

10 (b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under section
11 (a) shall include—

12 (1) a description and evaluation of actions
13 taken toward the implementation of the strategy re-
14 quired under section 4;

15 (2) a description of assistance provided under
16 section 5 and section 6;

17 (3) an evaluation of bilateral assistance pro-
18 vided to the Republic of Uganda and associated pro-
19 grams in light of stated policy objectives;

20 (4) a description of the status of the Peace Re-
21 covery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda
22 and the progress of the Government of Uganda to
23 take the steps outlined in section 6(b); and

24 (5) a description of amounts of assistance com-
25 mitted, and amounts provided, to northern Uganda
26 during the reporting period by the Government of

1 Uganda, each donor country, and all relevant organi-
2 zations.

3 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
6 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress” means the Committee on Appropriations and
8 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate
9 and the Committee on Appropriations and the Com-
10 mittee on International Relations of the House of
11 Representatives.

12 (2) GREAT LAKES REGION.—The term “Great
13 Lakes Region” means the region comprising Bu-
14 rundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda,
15 southern Sudan, and Uganda.

16 (3) LRA-AFFECTED AREAS.—The term “LRA-
17 affected areas” means the territory affected by the
18 activity of the Lord’s Resistance Army in the past
19 and as of the date of the enactment of this Act,
20 comprising all or parts of northern Uganda, south-
21 ern Sudan, northeastern Democratic Republic of
22 Congo, and southeastern Central African Republic.

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