

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 402

Condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for committing crimes against humanity and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government and governments in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2012

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COATS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for committing crimes against humanity and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government and governments in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield.

Whereas the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) wreaked havoc in northern Uganda for two decades, during which time the World Bank estimates that they abducted some

66,000 youth of all ages and sexes and forced them to serve as child soldiers and sex slaves and commit terrible acts;

Whereas, under increasing pressure, Joseph Kony ordered the Lord's Resistance Army in 2005 and 2006 to withdraw from Uganda and to move west into the border region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, and what would become South Sudan;

Whereas, since September 2008, Joseph Kony has directed the Lord's Resistance Army to commit systematic, large-scale attacks against innocent civilians in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of South Sudan that have destabilized the region and resulted in the deliberate killing of at least 2,400 civilians from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of South Sudan, many of whom were targeted in schools and churches; the rape and brutal mutilation of an unknown number of men, women, and children; the abduction of over 3,400 civilians, including at least 1,500 children, many of them forced to become child soldiers or sex slaves; and the displacement of more than 465,000 civilians from their homes, many of whom do not have access to essential humanitarian assistance;

Whereas insecurity caused by the Lord's Resistance Army has undermined efforts by the governments in the region, with the assistance of the United States and the international community, to consolidate peace and stability in each of the countries affected, particularly the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of South Sudan;

Whereas, since December 2001, the Department of State has included the Lord's Resistance Army on its "Terrorist Exclusion List" and in August 2008, Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony was designated a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" by President George W. Bush pursuant to Executive Order 13224;

Whereas, on October 6, 2005, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants against Joseph Kony and four of his top commanders for war crimes and crimes against humanity, yet they remain at large;

Whereas, in May 2010, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed into law the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-172), which made it the policy of the United States to work with regional governments toward a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the conflict in northern Uganda and other affected areas by providing political, economic, military, and intelligence support for viable multilateral efforts to protect civilians from the Lord's Resistance Army, to apprehend or remove Joseph Kony and his top commanders from the battlefield, and to disarm and demobilize the remaining Lord's Resistance Army fighters;

Whereas, on November 24, 2010, as mandated by the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009, President Obama issued the Strategy to Support the Disarmament of the Lord's Resistance Army, which provides a comprehensive strategy for supporting regional efforts to mitigate and eliminate the threat to civilians and regional stability posed by the Lord's Resistance Army;

Whereas, on October 14, 2011, President Obama notified Congress that he had authorized approximately 100 combat-equipped members of the Armed Forces to deploy to central Africa to provide assistance to regional forces that are working toward the removal of Joseph Kony and senior leadership of the Lord's Resistance Army from the battlefield;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81) authorized the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide logistic support, supplies, and services for foreign forces participating in operations to mitigate and eliminate the threat of the Lord's Resistance Army;

Whereas the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74) directed the President to support increased peace and security efforts in areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army, including programs to improve physical access, telecommunications infrastructure, and early-warning mechanisms and to support the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former Lord's Resistance Army combatants, especially child soldiers;

Whereas the United Nations and African Union, acting with encouragement and support from the United States Government, have renewed their efforts to help governments in the region address the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army, and on November 22, 2011, the African Union designated the Lord's Resistance Army as a terrorist group and authorized a new initiative to help strengthen the coordination among the affected governments in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army; and

Whereas targeted United States assistance and leadership can help prevent further mass atrocities and curtail humanitarian suffering in central Africa: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns Joseph Kony and the Lord’s Re-
3 sistance Army for committing crimes against hu-
4 manity and mass atrocities, and supports ongoing
5 efforts by the United States and countries in central
6 Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord’s Resist-
7 ance Army commanders from the battlefield;

8 (2) commends continued efforts by the Govern-
9 ments of Uganda, the Democratic Republic of
10 Congo, the Republic of South Sudan, the Central Af-
11 rican Republic, and other counties in the region, as
12 well as the African Union and United Nations, to
13 end the threat posed by the Lord’s Resistance Army;

14 (3) welcomes the ongoing efforts of the United
15 States Government to implement a comprehensive
16 strategy to counter the Lord’s Resistance Army,
17 pursuant to the Lord’s Resistance Army Disar-
18 mament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of
19 2009, and to assist governments in the region to
20 bring Joseph Kony to justice and end atrocities per-
21 petuated by the Lord’s Resistance Army;

1 (4) calls on the President to keep Congress
2 fully informed of the efforts of the United States
3 Government and to work closely with Congress to
4 identify and address critical gaps and enhance
5 United States support for the regional effort to
6 counter the Lord's Resistance Army;

7 (5) commends the Department of Defense,
8 United States Africa Command (U.S. AFRICOM),
9 and members of the United States Armed Forces
10 currently deployed to serve as advisors to the na-
11 tional militaries in the region seeking to protect local
12 communities and pursuing Joseph Kony and top
13 Lord's Resistance Army commanders;

14 (6) supports continued efforts by the Secretary
15 of State and representatives of the United States to
16 work with partner nations and the international
17 community—

18 (A) to strengthen the capabilities of re-
19 gional military forces deployed to protect civil-
20 ians and pursue commanders of the Lord's Re-
21 sistance Army;

22 (B) to enhance cooperation and cross-bor-
23 der coordination among regional governments;

24 (C) to promote increased contributions
25 from donor nations for regional security and ci-

1 vilian efforts to address the Lord’s Resistance
2 Army; and

3 (D) to enhance overall efforts to increase
4 civilian protection and provide assistance to
5 populations affected by the Lord’s Resistance
6 Army;

7 (7) calls on the Secretary of State, the Sec-
8 retary of Defense, the Administrator of the United
9 States Agency for International Development, and
10 the heads of other government agencies to utilize ex-
11 isting funds for ongoing programs—

12 (A) to enhance mobility, intelligence, and
13 logistical capabilities for partner forces engaged
14 in efforts to protect civilians and apprehend or
15 remove Joseph Kony and his top commanders
16 from the battlefield;

17 (B) to expand physical access and tele-
18 communications infrastructure to facilitate the
19 timely flow of information and access for hu-
20 manitarian and protection actors;

21 (C) to support programs to encourage and
22 help non-indicted Lord’s Resistance Army com-
23 manders, fighters, abductees, and associated
24 noncombatants to safely defect from the group,

1 including through radio and community pro-
2 grams; and

3 (D) to rehabilitate children and youth af-
4 fected by war, which are tailored to address the
5 specific trauma and physical and mental abuse
6 they may face as a result of indoctrination by
7 the Lord's Resistance Army, and serve to re-
8 connect these children and youth with their
9 families and communities;

10 (8) calls for the President to place restrictions
11 on any individuals or governments found to be pro-
12 viding training, supplies, financing, or support of
13 any kind to Joseph Kony or the Lord's Resistance
14 Army;

15 (9) urges that civilian protection continue to be
16 prioritized in areas affected by the Lord's Resistance
17 Army and that steps be taken to inform potentially
18 vulnerable communities about known Lord's Resist-
19 ance Army movements and threats;

20 (10) welcomes the recent defections of men,
21 women, and children from the ranks of the Lord's
22 Resistance Army, and calls on governments in the
23 region and the international community to continue
24 to support safe return, demobilization, rehabilitation,
25 and reintegration efforts; and

1 (11) urges the Governments of Uganda, the
2 Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of
3 South Sudan, the Republic of Sudan, and the Cen-
4 tral African Republic to work together to address
5 the ongoing threat posed by the Lord's Resistance
6 Army.

○