

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3879

To support the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone in its peace-building efforts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON (for himself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. LEE, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, and Mr. WEXLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To support the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone in its peace-building efforts, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sierra Leone Peace
5 Support Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
8 findings:

1 (1) Eight years of civil war and massive human
2 rights violations have created a humanitarian crisis
3 in the Republic of Sierra Leone, leaving over 50,000
4 dead and 1,000,000 displaced from their homes.

5 (2) As many as 480,000 Sierra Leoneans have
6 fled into neighboring countries, especially Guinea.

7 (3) All parties to the conflict have committed
8 abuses, but the Revolutionary United Front (RUF)
9 and its ally, the former Sierra Leonean army
10 (AFRC) are responsible for the overwhelming major-
11 ity.

12 (4) The RUF and AFRC have systematically
13 abducted, raped, mutilated, killed, or forced children
14 to fight alongside RUF soldiers.

15 (5) The RUF continues to hold hundreds and
16 perhaps thousands of prisoners, including many
17 child soldiers, despite the agreement of RUF leader-
18 ship at Lome to release all children.

19 (6) The civil defense forces committed human
20 rights violations, including killings and recruitment
21 of child soldiers, and Economic Community of West
22 African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG)
23 forces have also committed human rights abuses, in-
24 cluding executions of captured combatants and
25 killings of civilians.

1 (7) Neighboring countries, especially Liberia
2 and Burkina Faso, have contributed greatly to the
3 destruction of Sierra Leone by aiding and arming
4 the RUF and providing sanctuary for RUF fighters.

5 (8) International humanitarian efforts to assist
6 Sierra Leoneans, both at home and in Guinea, have
7 fallen far short of need such that conditions in ref-
8 ugee camps and among displaced persons camps are
9 deplorable, food and medicine is dangerously inad-
10 equate, and the refugee population on the Sierra
11 Leonean border continues to be preyed upon by
12 RUF insurgents and subjected to rape, mutilation,
13 or killing.

14 (9) Demobilization, demilitarization, and re-
15 integration (DDR) efforts, as called for in the Lome
16 agreement of July 1999, have begun months late
17 and are still at beginning stages.

18 (10) With the withdrawal of the West African
19 peacekeeping forces, the United Nations Security
20 Council has approved the deployment of 11,000
21 peacekeeping forces for Sierra Leone.

22 (11) There are approximately 45,000 combat-
23 ants, including many child soldiers, in Sierra Leone
24 who must be demobilized, provided with alternate

1 employment, and reintegrated into their commu-
2 nities.

3 (12) Both the Government of Sierra Leone and
4 the RUF/AFRC formally agreed in the Lome Con-
5 vention of July 7, 1999, to uphold, promote, and
6 protect the human rights (including the right to life
7 and liberty, freedom from torture, the right to a fair
8 trial, freedom of conscience, expression, and associa-
9 tion, and the right to take part in the governance of
10 one's country) of every Sierra Leonean as well as
11 the enforcement of humanitarian law.

12 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The Congress urges the
13 President to vigorously promote efforts to end further deg-
14 radation of conditions in the Republic of Sierra Leone
15 from further degradation, to dramatically increase United
16 States assistance to demobilization, demilitarization, and
17 reintegration (DDR) efforts and humanitarian initiatives,
18 to assist in the collection of documentation about human
19 rights abuses by all parties, and to engage in diplomatic
20 initiatives aimed at consolidating the peace and protecting
21 human rights.

22 **SEC. 3. DEMOBILIZATION, DEMILITARIZATION, AND RE-**
23 **INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
25 priated to the President \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001

1 for assistance under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign
2 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2221 et seq.) to the
3 Sierra Leone DDR Trust Fund of the International Bank
4 for Reconstruction and Development for demobilization,
5 demilitarization, and reintegration assistance in Sierra
6 Leone. Assistance under the preceding sentence may not
7 be used to provide stipends to ex-combatants of the civil
8 war in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

9 (b) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—Amounts appro-
10 priated pursuant to subsection (a)—

11 (1) are in addition any other amounts available
12 for the purpose described in such subsection; and

13 (2) are authorized to remain available until ex-
14 pended.

15 **SEC. 4. DEMOCRATIZATION, ELECTORAL, AND JUDICIAL AS-**
16 **SISTANCE.**

17 (a) **DEMOCRATIZATION AND ELECTORAL ASSIST-**
18 **ANCE.**—

19 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be
20 appropriated to the President \$3,000,000 for fiscal
21 year 2001 for assistance—

22 (A) to train political parties in the Repub-
23 lic of Sierra Leone in democratic processes; and

24 (B) to assist with the preparation for
25 democratic elections in Sierra Leone.

1 (2) LIMITATION.—Assistance under paragraph
2 (1)(A) may only be provided to political parties
3 whose leaders and members cooperate with the
4 United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone
5 (UNAMSIL) and the Truth and Reconciliation Com-
6 mission described in section 5(b).

7 (b) JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE.—There is authorized to
8 be appropriated to the President \$5,000,000 for fiscal
9 year 2001 for assistance to rebuild and strengthen the ca-
10 pacity of the judiciary in the Republic of Sierra Leone and
11 to assist efforts to establish the rule of law and maintain
12 law and order in Sierra Leone.

13 (c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Amounts appro-
14 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
15 under each of subsections (a) and (b)—

16 (1) are in addition any other amounts available
17 for the purposes described in each such subsection,
18 respectively; and

19 (2) are authorized to remain available until ex-
20 pended.

21 **SEC. 5. ACCOUNTABILITY.**

22 (a) STATEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN
23 ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY.—It is the sense of the Congress
24 that a thorough and nonpartisan initiative to collect infor-
25 mation on human rights abuses by all parties to the con-

1 flict in the Republic of Sierra Leone be undertaken. Com-
2 prehensive and detailed information, particularly the iden-
3 tification of specific units, individuals, and commanders
4 found to have been especially abusive, will be essential for
5 vetting human rights abusers from the newly formed
6 armed forces and police forces of Sierra Leone and for
7 deterring abuses by all parties in the future. Accordingly,
8 the Congress calls upon the administration to strongly
9 support an independent process of data collection on
10 human rights abuses in Sierra Leone, for use by the Truth
11 and Reconciliation Commission when it has been estab-
12 lished, and to support any future initiatives of inter-
13 national accountability for Sierra Leone.

14 (b) ASSISTANCE FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
15 COMMISSION.—

16 (1) ASSISTANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND
17 SUPPORT OF COMMISSION.—The President is au-
18 thorized to provide assistance for the establishment
19 and support of a Truth and Reconciliation Commis-
20 sion to establish accountability for human rights
21 abuses in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

22 (2) ASSISTANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DATA
23 COLLECTION.—The Secretary of State, acting
24 through the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of
25 Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, is authorized

1 to collect human rights data with respect to Sierra
2 Leone and assist the Truth and Reconciliation Com-
3 mission in carrying out its functions.

4 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 (A) ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF
6 COMMISSION.—There is authorized to be appro-
7 priated to the President \$1,500,000 for fiscal
8 year 2001 for assistance under chapter 4 of
9 part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
10 to carry out paragraph (1).

11 (B) HUMAN RIGHTS DATA COLLECTION.—

12 There is authorized to be appropriated to the
13 Secretary of State \$500,000 for fiscal year
14 2001 to carry out paragraph (2). Amounts ap-
15 propriated pursuant to the authorization of ap-
16 propriations under the preceding sentence shall
17 be deposited in the “Human Rights Fund” of
18 the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and
19 Labor of the Department of State.

20 (C) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appro-

21 priated pursuant to the authorization of appro-
22 priations under subparagraphs (A) and (B) are
23 authorized to remain available until expended.

24 **SEC. 6. LIBERIA AND BURKINA FASO.**

25 (a) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

1 (1) ARMS FLOWS.—Not later than 6 months
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 President shall submit to the Congress a report to
4 the Committee on International Relations of the
5 House of Representatives, in classified or unclassi-
6 fied form, which provides information concerning in-
7 telligence estimates of arms flows into the Republic
8 of Sierra Leone, particularly detailing any role of Li-
9 beria and Burkina Faso.

10 (2) SIERRA LEONEAN MINERALS.—Not later
11 than 6 months after the date of the enactment of
12 this Act, the President shall submit a report to the
13 Committee on International Relations of the House
14 of Representatives, in classified or unclassified form,
15 which provides information concerning illicit sales of
16 Sierra Leonean gold and diamonds through Liberia.

17 (b) ASSISTANCE FOR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.—

18 (1) United States assistance may be provided to
19 the Central Government of a neighboring country if
20 such government—

21 (A) provides demonstrated support for the
22 peace process in the Republic of Sierra Leone;
23 and

24 (B) does not provide training or other sup-
25 port for the RUF/AFRC forces or any other

1 forces organized against the elected government
2 of Sierra Leone.

3 (2) United States assistance may be provided to
4 the Central Government of neighboring countries
5 only if such Government cooperates with efforts to
6 monitor arms flows to Sierra Leone.

7 (3) UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE.—In this sub-
8 section, the term “United States assistance” means
9 assistance of any kind which is provided by grant,
10 sale, loan, lease, credit, guaranty, or insurance, or
11 by any other means, by any agency or instrumen-
12 tality of the United States Government.

13 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

14 It is the sense of the Congress that—

15 (1) mechanisms should be in place to provide
16 for an increase in assistance to the United Nations
17 peacekeeping force to enable that force to protect ci-
18 vilians from atrocities in the event of a breakdown
19 in the peace agreement and a return to fighting; and

20 (2) if the governments of countries neighboring
21 the Republic of Sierra Leone are determined to be
22 aiding insurgents in Sierra Leone and armed conflict
23 resumes, the United States should impose sanctions
24 against RUF/AFRC supporters in the region by de-
25 nying visas to the President and other high govern-

1 ment officials in Liberia and Burkina Faso, freezing
2 their assets in the United States, and consideration
3 of an embargo of diamonds coming from areas not
4 under the control of the Government of Sierra
5 Leone.

6 **SEC. 8. DESIGNATION FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING TEM-**
7 **PORARY PROTECTED STATUS TO SIERRA**
8 **LEONEANS.**

9 (a) DESIGNATION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 244
11 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
12 1254a), the Republic of Sierra Leone shall each be
13 treated as if it had been designated under subsection
14 (b) of such section, subject to the provisions of this
15 section.

16 (2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—Such designa-
17 tion shall take effect on the date of the enactment
18 of this Act and shall remain in effect until such time
19 as the President certifies to the Congress that condi-
20 tions are sufficiently improved to allow aliens to re-
21 turn to Sierra Leone, or such time as the designa-
22 tion with respect to Sierra Leone expires and is not
23 extended, whichever occurs later.

24 (b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—In applying section 244 of
25 the Immigration and Nationality Act pursuant to the des-

1 designation under this Act, subject to section 244(c)(3) of
2 such Act, an alien who is a national of the Republic of
3 Sierra Leone meets the requirement of section 244(c)(1)
4 of such Act only if—

5 (1) the alien has been continuously physically
6 present in the United States since January 1, 1998;

7 (2) the alien is admissible as an immigrant, ex-
8 cept as otherwise provided under section
9 244(c)(2)(A) of such Act, and is not ineligible for
10 temporary protected status under section
11 244(c)(2)(B) of such Act; and

12 (3) the alien registers for temporary protected
13 status in a manner which the Attorney General shall
14 establish.

15 (c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—The Attorney
16 General shall give the prior consent to travel abroad de-
17 scribed in section 244(f)(3) of the Immigration and Na-
18 tionality Act to an alien who is granted temporary pro-
19 tected status pursuant to the designation under this Act,
20 if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Attorney
21 General that emergency and extenuating circumstances
22 beyond the control of the alien require the alien to depart
23 for a brief, temporary trip abroad. An alien returning to
24 the United States in accordance with such an authoriza-
25 tion shall be treated the same as any other returning alien

1 provided temporary protected status under section 244 of
2 such Act.

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