

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 233

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the dire humanitarian situation in Liberia and efforts to introduce peace and justice to that country.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA (for himself and Mr. TOWNS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the dire humanitarian situation in Liberia and efforts to introduce peace and justice to that country.

Whereas the United States has a special relationship with Liberia dating back to 1847, when Liberia was founded by freed slaves returning from the United States;

Whereas the people of Liberia have been suffering civil war and destruction since 1990;

Whereas the conflict in Liberia has destroyed property, infrastructure, and thousands of lives;

Whereas the conflict has forced thousands of children to participate as soldiers of warring factions;

Whereas the conflict has created hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons, many currently without adequate food, shelter, or medical treatment;

Whereas the conflict has destabilized other nations in the region, including Guinea, Sierra Leone, and the Ivory Coast;

Whereas the current Liberian leader in Monrovia, Charles Taylor, obtained his position only through brazen intimidation and mayhem;

Whereas Charles Taylor has robbed Liberia of valuable natural resources such as timber and diamonds and damaged Liberia's environment and economy;

Whereas Charles Taylor has recently been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone for Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes while waging war against Liberia's neighbors;

Whereas peace and reconciliation cannot begin until the departure of President Charles Taylor from Liberia; and

Whereas the Liberian community in the United States tirelessly works toward peace and justice for their former homeland: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That Congress calls for—*

3            (1) the departure of Charles Taylor from Libe-  
4        ria and his trial at the Special Court for Sierra  
5        Leone for Crimes Against Humanity and War  
6        Crimes;

1           (2) international support for peacekeeping oper-  
2           ations in Liberia to end the civil war, achieve peace,  
3           and restore stability;

4           (3) innovative ways to support such a peace-  
5           keeping operation and disarmament program and  
6           ensure their success;

7           (4) international support for a transition lead-  
8           ing to free and fair elections and the restoration of  
9           legitimate governing capacity to a new and truly  
10          democratic Liberian government;

11          (5) international support for the efforts of the  
12          Economic Community of West African States  
13          (ECOWAS) to assist Liberians in building a more  
14          secure and free Liberia; and

15          (6) support for the Liberian people's long quest  
16          for peace, justice, and prosperity.

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