

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2264

To require a report on the conflict in Uganda, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 31, 2004

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require a report on the conflict in Uganda, 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 “Northern Uganda Cri-
5 sis Response Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The United States and the Republic of
9 Uganda enjoy a strong bilateral relationship and
10 continue to work closely together in fighting the
11 human immunodeficiency virus and acquired im-

1 mune deficiency syndrome (“HIV/AIDS”) pandemic
2 and combating international terrorism.

3 (2) For more than 17 years, the Government of
4 Uganda has been engaged in a conflict with the
5 Lord’s Resistance Army that has inflicted hardship
6 and suffering on the people of northern and eastern
7 Uganda.

8 (3) The members of the Lord’s Resistance
9 Army have used brutal tactics during this conflict,
10 including abducting and forcing individuals into sex-
11 ual servitude, and forcing a large number of chil-
12 dren, estimated to be between 16,000 and 26,000
13 children, in Uganda to serve in such Army’s military
14 forces.

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

21 (5) According to Human Rights Watch, since
22 the mid-1990s the only known sponsor of the Lord’s
23 Resistance Army has been the Government of
24 Sudan, though such Government denies providing
25 assistance to the Lord’s Resistance Army.

1 (6) More than 1,000,000 people have been dis-
2 placed from their homes in Uganda as a result of
3 the conflict.

4 (7) The conflict has resulted in a lack of secu-
5 rity for the people of Uganda, and as a result of
6 such lack, each night more than 18,000 children
7 leave their homes and flee to the relative safety of
8 town centers, creating a massive “night commuter”
9 phenomenon that leaves already vulnerable children
10 subject to exploitation and abuse.

11 (8) Individuals who have been displaced by the
12 conflict in Uganda often suffer from acute malnutri-
13 tion and the mortality rate for children in northern
14 Uganda who have been displaced is very high.

15 (9) In the latter part of 2003, humanitarian
16 and human rights organizations operating in north-
17 ern Uganda reported an increase in violence directed
18 at their efforts and at civilians, including a sharp in-
19 crease in child abductions.

20 (10) The Government of Uganda’s military ef-
21 forts to resolve this conflict, including the arming
22 and training of local militia forces, have not ensured
23 the security of civilian populations in the region to
24 date.

1 (11) The continued instability and lack of secu-
2 rity in Uganda has severely hindered the ability of
3 any organization or governmental entity to deliver
4 regular humanitarian assistance and services to indi-
5 viduals who have been displaced or otherwise nega-
6 tively affected by the conflict.

7 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that the Government of
9 the United States should—

10 (1) work vigorously to support ongoing efforts
11 to explore the prospects for a peaceful resolution of
12 the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda;

13 (2) work with the Government of Uganda and
14 the international community to make available suffi-
15 cient resources to meet the immediate relief and de-
16 velopment needs of the towns and cities in Uganda
17 that are supporting large numbers of people who
18 have been displaced by the conflict;

19 (3) urge the Government of Uganda and the
20 international community to assume greater responsi-
21 bility for the protection of civilians and economic de-
22 velopment in regions in Uganda affected by the con-
23 flict, and to place a high priority on providing secu-
24 rity, economic development, and humanitarian as-
25 sistance to the people of Uganda;

1 (4) work with the international community, the
2 Government of Uganda, and civil society in northern
3 and eastern Uganda to develop a plan whereby those
4 now displaced may return to their homes or to other
5 locations where they may become economically pro-
6 ductive;

7 (5) urge the leaders and members of the Lord's
8 Resistance Army to stop the abduction of children,
9 and urge all armed forces in Uganda to stop the use
10 of child soldiers, and seek the release of all individ-
11 uals who have been abducted;

12 (6) make available increased resources for as-
13 sistance to individuals who were abducted during the
14 conflict, child soldiers, and other children affected by
15 the conflict;

16 (7) work with the Government of Uganda, other
17 countries, and international organizations to ensure
18 that sufficient resources and technical support are
19 devoted to the demobilization and reintegration of
20 rebel combatants and abductees forced by their cap-
21 tors to serve in non-combatant support roles;

22 (8) cooperate with the international community
23 to support civil society organizations and leaders in
24 Uganda, including Acholi religious leaders, who are

1 working toward a just and lasting resolution to the
2 conflict;

3 (9) urge the Government of Uganda to improve
4 the professionalism of Ugandan military personnel
5 currently stationed in northern and eastern Uganda,
6 with an emphasis on respect for human rights, ac-
7 countability for abuses, and effective civilian protec-
8 tion;

9 (10) work with the international community to
10 assist institutions of civil society in Uganda to in-
11 crease the capacity of such institutions to monitor
12 the human rights situation in northern Uganda and
13 to raise awareness of abuses of human rights that
14 occur in that area;

15 (11) urge the Government of Uganda to permit
16 international human rights monitors to establish a
17 presence in northern and eastern Uganda;

18 (12) monitor the creation of civilian militia
19 forces in northern and eastern Uganda and publicize
20 any concerns regarding the recruitment of children
21 into such forces or the potential that the establish-
22 ment of such forces will invite increased targeting of
23 civilians in the conflict or exacerbate ethnic tension
24 and violence; and

1 (13) make clear that the relationship between
2 the Government of Sudan and the Government of
3 the United States cannot improve unless no credible
4 evidence indicates that authorities of the Govern-
5 ment of Sudan are complicit in efforts to provide
6 weapons or other support to the Lord's Resistance
7 Army.

8 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

9 (a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than 6 months after
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
11 shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional
12 committees on the conflict in Uganda.

13 (b) **CONTENT.**—The report required by subsection
14 (a) shall include a description of the following:

15 (1) The individuals or entities that are pro-
16 viding financial and material support for the Lord's
17 Resistance Army, including a description of any such
18 support provided by the Government of Sudan or by
19 senior officials of such Government.

20 (2) The activities of the Lord's Resistance
21 Army that create obstacles that prohibit the provi-
22 sion of humanitarian assistance or the protection of
23 the civilian population in Uganda.

24 (3) The practices employed by the Ugandan
25 People's Defense Forces in northern and eastern

1 Uganda to ensure that children and civilians are
2 protected, that civilian complaints are addressed,
3 and that any member of the armed forces that
4 abuses a civilian is held accountable for such abuse.

5 (4) The actions carried out by the Government
6 of the United States, the Government of Uganda, or
7 the international community to protect civilians, es-
8 pecially women and children, who have been dis-
9 placed by the conflict in Uganda, including women
10 and children that leave their homes and flee to cities
11 and towns at night in search of security from sexual
12 exploitation and gender-based violence.

13 (c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report under subsection
14 (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-
15 clude a classified annex.

16 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
17 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
18 gressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign
19 Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Inter-
20 national Relations of the House of Representatives.

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