

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2264

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2004

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

AN ACT

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The United States and the Republic of
4 Uganda enjoy a strong bilateral relationship and
5 continue to work closely together in fighting the
6 human immunodeficiency virus and acquired im-
7 mune deficiency syndrome (“HIV/AIDS”) pandemic
8 and combating international terrorism.

9 (2) For more than 17 years, the Government of
10 Uganda has been engaged in a conflict with the
11 Lord’s Resistance Army that has inflicted hardship
12 and suffering on the people of northern and eastern
13 Uganda.

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

21 (4) The Secretary of State has designated the
22 Lord’s Resistance Army as a terrorist organization
23 and placed the Lord’s Resistance Army on the Ter-
24 rorist Exclusion list pursuant to section 212(a)(3) of
25 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
26 1182(a)(3)).

1 (5) According to Human Rights Watch, since
2 the mid-1990s the only known sponsor of the Lord's
3 Resistance Army has been the Government of
4 Sudan, though such Government denies providing
5 assistance to the Lord's Resistance Army.

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

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

16 (8) Individuals who have been displaced by the
17 conflict in Uganda often suffer from acute malnutri-
18 tion and the mortality rate for children in northern
19 Uganda who have been displaced is very high.

20 (9) In the latter part of 2003, humanitarian
21 and human rights organizations operating in north-
22 ern Uganda reported an increase in violence directed
23 at their efforts and at civilians, including a sharp in-
24 crease in child abductions.

1 (10) The Government of Uganda’s military ef-
2 forts to resolve this conflict, including the arming
3 and training of local militia forces, have not ensured
4 the security of civilian populations in the region to
5 date.

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

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that the Government of
14 the United States should—

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

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

24 (3) urge the Government of Uganda and the
25 international community to assume greater responsi-

1 bility for the protection of civilians and economic de-
2 velopment in regions in Uganda affected by the con-
3 flict, and to place a high priority on providing secu-
4 rity, economic development, and humanitarian as-
5 sistance to the people of Uganda;

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

12 (5) urge the leaders and members of the Lord's
13 Resistance Army to stop the abduction of children,
14 and urge all armed forces in Uganda to stop the use
15 of child soldiers, and seek the release of all individ-
16 uals who have been abducted;

17 (6) make available increased resources for as-
18 sistance to individuals who were abducted during the
19 conflict, child soldiers, and other children affected by
20 the conflict;

21 (7) work with the Government of Uganda, other
22 countries, and international organizations to ensure
23 that sufficient resources and technical support are
24 devoted to the demobilization and reintegration of

1 rebel combatants and abductees forced by their cap-
2 tors to serve in non-combatant support roles;

3 (8) cooperate with the international community
4 to support civil society organizations and leaders in
5 Uganda, including Acholi religious leaders, who are
6 working toward a just and lasting resolution to the
7 conflict;

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

14 (10) work with the international community to
15 assist institutions of civil society in Uganda to in-
16 crease the capacity of such institutions to monitor
17 the human rights situation in northern Uganda and
18 to raise awareness of abuses of human rights that
19 occur in that area;

20 (11) urge the Government of Uganda to permit
21 international human rights monitors to establish a
22 presence in northern and eastern Uganda;

23 (12) monitor the creation of civilian militia
24 forces in northern and eastern Uganda and publicize
25 any concerns regarding the recruitment of children

1 into such forces or the potential that the establish-
2 ment of such forces will invite increased targeting of
3 civilians in the conflict or exacerbate ethnic tension
4 and violence; and

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

12 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

13 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 6 months after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
15 shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional
16 committees on the conflict in Uganda.

17 (b) CONTENT.—The report required by subsection
18 (a) shall include a description of the following:

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

24 (2) The activities of the Lord's Resistance
25 Army that create obstacles that prohibit the provi-

1 sion of humanitarian assistance or the protection of
2 the civilian population in Uganda.

3 (3) The practices employed by the Ugandan
4 People's Defense Forces in northern and eastern
5 Uganda to ensure that children and civilians are
6 protected, that civilian complaints are addressed,
7 and that any member of the armed forces that
8 abuses a civilian is held accountable for such abuse.

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

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

20 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
21 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
22 gressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign

1 Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Inter-
2 national Relations of the House of Representatives.

Passed the Senate May 7, 2004.

Attest: EMILY J. REYNOLDS,
Secretary.