

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5847

To prohibit United States funding for the 2009 United Nations Durban Review Conference (“Durban II Conference”) or any other activity relating to the planning, preparation, or implementation of a follow-up meeting to the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (“Durban I Conference”) in Durban, South Africa.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. POE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PENCE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit United States funding for the 2009 United Nations Durban Review Conference (“Durban II Conference”) or any other activity relating to the planning, preparation, or implementation of a follow-up meeting to the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (“Durban I Conference”) in Durban, South Africa.

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 “United Nations Dur-

5 ban Review Conference (Durban II) Funding Prohibition

6 Act of 2008”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds as follows:

9 (1) On December 22, 2007, the United States

10 and 45 other member states of the United Nations

11 voted not to support the 2009 United Nations Dur-

12 ban Review Conference (“Durban II Conference”), a

13 follow-up meeting to the 2001 United Nations World

14 Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination,

15 Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (“Durban I

16 Conference”) in Durban, South Africa;

17 (2) The Durban I Conference was used as a

18 platform to advance anti-Semitism and, con-

19 sequently, the United States and Israeli delegates

20 walked out.

21 (3) The United States has taken strong steps

22 to avoid giving support to the Durban II Conference,

23 including implementing a policy of voting against the

24 Durban II Conference in the United Nations (in-

25 cluding voting against funding for the Durban II

1 Conference) and forgoing participation in pre-
2 paratory meetings for the Durban II Conference.

3 (4) The United States has pledged to boycott
4 the Durban II Conference if it appears to be a re-
5 peat of the Durban I Conference.

6 (5) Canada's Multiculturalism Secretary of
7 State, Jason Kennedy, announced in January 2008
8 that Canada will not participate in the Durban II
9 Conference.

10 (6) Israel's Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Livni
11 announced that Israel will boycott the Durban II
12 Conference unless it is proven that it will not be
13 used as a platform of further anti-Israeli and anti-
14 Semitic behavior.

15 (7) Pre-conference drafts for the Durban I Con-
16 ference condemned Israel for allegedly pursuing a rac-
17 ist Zionist agenda and committing crimes against
18 humanity.

19 (8) An African-led effort at the Durban I Con-
20 ference sought to include a demand for reparations
21 from the West for slavery.

22 (9) Conferees at the Durban I Conference tried
23 to condemn the United States for refusing to adopt
24 certain United Nations treaties.

1 (10) The United States cannot accept treaty re-
2 quirements that are incompatible with the United
3 States Constitution.

4 (11) Former United States Secretary of State
5 Colin Powell gave the following statement after the
6 Durban I Conference: “I know that you do not com-
7 bat racism by conferences that produce declarations
8 containing hateful language, some of which is a
9 throwback to the days of ‘Zionism equals racism;’ or
10 support the idea that we have made too much of the
11 Holocaust; or suggest that apartheid exists in Israel;
12 or that single out only one country in the world—
13 Israel—for censure and abuse.”.

14 (12) The United Nations Human Rights Coun-
15 cil is responsible for organizing the Durban II Con-
16 ference.

17 (13) The United Nations Human Rights Coun-
18 cil has ignored ongoing repression in Belarus, the
19 People’s Republic of China, Cuba, North Korea,
20 Zimbabwe, and other countries.

21 (14) The United Nations Human Rights Coun-
22 cil has condemned Israel 15 times in two years.

23 (15) The Preparatory Committee for the Dur-
24 ban II Conference includes Libya, Cuba, Iran, Paki-
25 stan, Russia, and South Africa, none of which has

1 demonstrated consistent equality or respect for
2 human rights.

3 (16) Libya is the chair and Iran is the co-chair
4 of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban II
5 Conference.

6 (17) Both Libya and Iran are strong supporters
7 of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)
8 in the United Nations Human Rights Council, which
9 has historically been hostile to Israel.

10 (18) Libya is a member of the League of Arab
11 States, whose Arab Charter on Human Rights calls
12 for the elimination of “Zionism”.

13 (19) United Nations General Assembly Resolu-
14 tion 46/86 rejects the position that Zionism is rac-
15 ism or a form of racial discrimination.

16 (20) In December 2007, the United States dele-
17 gation to the United Nations rejected the United
18 Nations biennial budget for 2008–2009 due, in part,
19 because of proposals to fund the Durban II Con-
20 ference.

21 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES FUNDING FOR**
22 **THE 2009 UNITED NATIONS DURBAN REVIEW**
23 **CONFERENCE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.**

24 Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

1 (1) no funds appropriated or otherwise made
2 available by any Act may be made available to sup-
3 port the 2009 United Nations Durban Review Con-
4 ference (“Durban II Conference”) or any other ac-
5 tivity relating to the planning, preparation, or imple-
6 mentation of a follow-up meeting to the 2001 United
7 Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial
8 Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
9 (“Durban I Conference”) in Durban, South Africa;
10 and

11 (2) the United States shall withhold from its
12 assessed contributions to the United Nations regular
13 budget, in proportion to the United States assess-
14 ment for the United Nations regular budget, the
15 amount allocated for the Durban II Conference and
16 any other activity relating to the planning, prepara-
17 tion, or implementation of a follow-up meeting to the
18 Durban I Conference.

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