

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1500

To support democracy and human rights in Zimbabwe, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2007

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. LUGAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To support democracy and human rights in Zimbabwe, 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 “Support for Democracy
5 and Human Rights in Zimbabwe Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) When Zimbabwe achieved independence in
9 1980, its economic and democratic prospects were
10 bright and President Robert Mugabe was hailed as

1 a liberator. However, 27 years later, the economy of
2 Zimbabwe has collapsed as income per capita has
3 fallen below the 1953 level and President Mugabe's
4 Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front
5 (ZANU-PF) government has increasingly and sys-
6 tematically exercised repression of political opposi-
7 tion and engaged in violations of human rights.

8 (2) The Department of State's 2006 Country
9 Report on Human Rights Practices states that
10 Zimbabwe's 2002 presidential election and 2005
11 parliamentary elections were neither free nor fair,
12 and reports that President Mugabe's government
13 interfered with the campaign activities of the opposi-
14 tion, intimidated voters, and distributed food in a
15 partisan manner.

16 (3) The Department of State Report also finds
17 that the Government of Zimbabwe continues to—

18 (A) restrict freedom of assembly, move-
19 ment, and association;

20 (B) forcibly evict civilians from their land;
21 and

22 (C) harass and abuse members of the op-
23 position, the media, the religious community,
24 civil society, and organized labor.

1 (4) According to the Freedom House Freedom
2 in the World 2007 report, “In 2006, Zimbabwe suf-
3 fered from a further deterioration of political rights
4 and civil liberties amid a near-total collapse of the
5 country’s economy.”.

6 (5) Zimbabwe is a member of the United Na-
7 tions, the African Union, the Southern African De-
8 velopment Community, the African Development
9 Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the
10 World Trade Organization, and a party to the Uni-
11 versal Declaration of Human Rights, the African
12 Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and the
13 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

14 (6) Section 2 of the Zimbabwe Democracy and
15 Economic Recovery Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–
16 99; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note) states, “It is the policy of
17 the United States to support the people of
18 Zimbabwe in their struggle to effect peaceful, demo-
19 cratic change, achieve broad-based and equitable
20 economic growth, and restore the rule of law.”.

21 (7) In 2002 and 2003, the United States im-
22 posed financial and immigration sanctions targeted
23 against selected individuals, a ban on the transfer of
24 defense items and services, and a suspension of non-
25 humanitarian government-to-government assistance,

1 although the United States remains one of the lead-
2 ing providers of humanitarian assistance to the peo-
3 ple of Zimbabwe.

4 (8) The United Nations, the European Union,
5 the United States, human rights organizations, and
6 many others have condemned the security forces of
7 Zimbabwe for the beating, detention, and arrest of
8 opposition and civil society members attending a
9 prayer meeting on March 11, 2007.

10 (9) In March 2007, the heads of state of the
11 Southern African Development Community an-
12 nounced that the President of South Africa, Thabo
13 Mbeki, will mediate between President Mugabe and
14 the opposition Movement for Democratic Change in
15 advance of the 2008 presidential election, but failed
16 to condemn the Government of Zimbabwe for its
17 human rights abuses and restriction of democratic
18 space.

19 (10) On March 30, 2007, it was announced
20 that the ZANU–PF central committee had chosen
21 President Mugabe as the party’s candidate for the
22 2008 election and that the parliamentary elections
23 will also be held in 2008, instead of 2010.

24 (11) A Human Rights Watch report released in
25 May 2007 concluded, “Arbitrary arrests, detentions,

1 and brutal beatings by police and security forces
2 skyrocketed in March and April, and continue
3 unabated. . . . The Zimbabwean government is vio-
4 lating the human rights of its citizens with impu-
5 nity.”.

6 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States—

8 (1) to support the people of Zimbabwe in their
9 efforts to promote democracy and respect for human
10 rights in Zimbabwe; and

11 (2) to call on President Mugabe to immediately
12 restore democracy and human rights in Zimbabwe.

13 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE.**

14 The following is the sense of Congress:

15 (1) The United States welcomes and commends
16 the announcement by the Southern African Develop-
17 ment Community that the President of South Africa,
18 Thabo Mbeki, will lead negotiations between the rul-
19 ing and opposition parties in Zimbabwe to resolve
20 the political and humanitarian crisis in a way that
21 reflects the will of the people of Zimbabwe and re-
22 spects international standards.

23 (2) The creation of a level playing field for
24 those who want to participate in the political process
25 in Zimbabwe and the encouragement of trans-

1 parency in the political process should be priority ob-
2 jectives in the negotiations.

3 (3) All preparations should be made to hold
4 free, fair, and peaceful elections in accordance with
5 international standards, such as the Southern Afri-
6 can Development Community Parliamentary Forum
7 Election Norms and Guidelines.

8 (4) Cooperation between the United States, re-
9 gional players in Africa, and the wider international
10 community is an important component of a proactive
11 strategy to support democratic rule and respect for
12 human rights in Zimbabwe.

13 (5) Normalized relations with the Government
14 of Zimbabwe are desirable, but until the Government
15 of Zimbabwe promotes democracy and the rule of
16 law, the United States will continue to isolate the
17 Government of Zimbabwe and expand financial and
18 travel sanctions targeted against those responsible
19 for repressing the people of Zimbabwe.

20 (6) The United States Permanent Representa-
21 tive to the United Nations should use the voice and
22 vote of the United States in the United Nations Se-
23 curity Council to emphasize the threat to inter-
24 national peace and security posed by the Govern-
25 ment of Zimbabwe.

1 **SEC. 5. BRIEFING.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly there-
4 after, the Secretary of State shall provide to Congress a
5 briefing on the strategy of the United States for engage-
6 ment with Zimbabwe.

7 (b) CONTENT.—The briefing required by subsection
8 (a) shall include the following:

9 (1) The details of a comprehensive policy of the
10 United States to support the people of Zimbabwe in
11 their efforts to promote democratic rule and respect
12 for human rights in Zimbabwe, including support for
13 free, fair and peaceful elections.

14 (2) An assessment of the resources necessary to
15 most effectively enable Zimbabwe to return peace-
16 fully to a state of democratic governance, with re-
17 spect for human rights and the rule of law.

18 (3) A diplomatic strategy for engaging and en-
19 couraging regional partners in Africa to help facili-
20 tate the transition of Zimbabwe to democracy.

21 (4) A review of policy options in the event of
22 further deterioration of the situation in Zimbabwe.

23 (5) A review of policy options in the event of an
24 improvement in the situation in Zimbabwe.

25 (6) Indicators of progress toward democracy
26 and respect for human rights that would allow for

1 the removal of targeted bilateral sanctions on
2 Zimbabwe and strengthened relations with the Gov-
3 ernment of Zimbabwe.

4 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of State shall, to
5 the extent possible, develop the strategy described in sub-
6 section (a) in consultation with—

7 (1) the United Nations;

8 (2) the African Union;

9 (3) the Southern African Development Commu-
10 nity;

11 (4) other multilateral organizations; and

12 (5) interested States.

13 (d) SUNSET.—The requirements of this section shall
14 cease to be effective after the date that is 3 years after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
18 sion of law, there are authorized to be appropriated up
19 to \$10,000,000 for the purpose described in subsection
20 (b).

21 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose described in this sub-
22 section is to support democracy and governance activities
23 in Zimbabwe consistent with the provisions of the
24 Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of

1 2001 (Public Law 107–99; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note), includ-
2 ing through—

3 (1) support for free, fair, and peaceful national
4 elections in accordance with international standards;

5 (2) support for the capacity of civil society to
6 create nonviolent political space in Zimbabwe; and

7 (3) support for programs to defend and protect
8 the human rights of the people of Zimbabwe.

