

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 583

Expressing support for robust efforts by the United States to see Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, and his top commanders brought to justice and the group's atrocities permanently ended.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. ROYCE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for robust efforts by the United States to see Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, and his top commanders brought to justice and the group's atrocities permanently ended.

Whereas in February 2007, the World Bank estimated in its report, "Development and the Next Generation", that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) forcibly recruited some 66,000 youth of all ages and sexes over the prior two decades from northern Uganda;

Whereas since September 2008, Joseph Kony has directed the LRA in systematic, large-scale attacks against innocent civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

the Central African Republic, and the newly formed Republic of South Sudan that have destabilized the region and resulted in the—

(1) deliberate killing of at least 2,400 Congolese, Central African, and South Sudanese civilians, many of whom were targeted in schools and churches;

(2) rape and brutal mutilation of an unknown number of men, women, and children;

(3) abduction of over 3,400 civilians, including at least 1,500 children, many of them forced to become child soldiers or sex slaves; and

(4) displacement of more than 465,000 civilians from their homes, many of whom do not have access to essential humanitarian assistance;

Whereas insecurity caused by the LRA has undermined efforts by the governments in the region, with the assistance of the United States and international community, to consolidate peace and stability in each of the countries affected, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the newly formed Republic of South Sudan;

Whereas LRA leader Joseph Kony was designated a “Specially Designated Global Terrorist” by President George W. Bush pursuant to Executive Order 13224, and found by the Secretary of State to pose “a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism that threaten the security of United States nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States”;

Whereas, on October 6, 2005, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants against Joseph Kony and his top commanders for war crimes and crimes against humanity, yet they remain at large;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans from across the country, especially youth activists, have expressed outrage at the atrocities of the LRA and called for renewed efforts to bring an end to their violent activities;

Whereas in May 2010, Congress passed the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–172) with widespread bipartisan support;

Whereas Public Law 111–172 made it the policy of the United States to work with regional governments toward a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the conflict in northern Uganda and other affected areas by providing political, economic, military, and intelligence support for viable multilateral efforts to protect civilians from the LRA, to apprehend or remove Joseph Kony and his top commanders from the battlefield in the continued absence of a negotiated solution, and to disarm and demobilize the remaining LRA fighters;

Whereas, on November 24, 2010, as mandated by Public Law 111–172, the White House issued its Strategy to Support the Disarmament of the Lord's Resistance Army, providing a comprehensive guide for United States support across the affected region to mitigate and eliminate the threat to civilians and regional stability posed by the LRA;

Whereas, on October 14, 2011, the President notified Congress that, consistent with the United States strategy, he had authorized a small number of United States military personnel to deploy to the region to serve as advisors to national military forces pursuing the LRA and seeking to protect local populations;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81) authorized the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide logistic support, supplies, and services for foreign forces participating in operations to mitigate and eliminate the threat of the LRA;

Whereas the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–74) directed the Administration to support increased peace and security efforts in areas affected by the LRA, including programs to improve physical access, telecommunications infrastructure, and early warning mechanisms and to support the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former LRA combatants, especially child soldiers;

Whereas the United Nations and African Union, acting with encouragement from the United States, have renewed their efforts to help governments in the region address the LRA threat, and on November 22, 2011, the African Union designated the LRA as a terrorist group and authorized a regional cooperation initiative to end LRA atrocities;

Whereas despite these efforts, governments in the region have not yet been successful in apprehending or removing Joseph Kony or his top commanders from the battlefield or ending the group’s threat to civilians and regional security; and

Whereas targeted United States assistance and leadership can help prevent further mass atrocities and curtail humanitarian suffering: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) condemns the LRA’s continued senseless
2 atrocities, and calls for renewed, robust efforts by
3 the United States, governments in the affected re-
4 gion, and the international community to bring an
5 end to the LRA’s terror once and for all;

6 (2) commends American citizens for their con-
7 cern and creative efforts to help the communities af-
8 fected by the LRA;

9 (3) welcomes and encourages the Ugandan and
10 other regional governments, as well as the African
11 Union, for their efforts to end the LRA threat;

12 (4) welcomes United States ongoing efforts to
13 implement a comprehensive strategy to counter the
14 LRA, in line with Public Law 111–172, and to as-
15 sist governments in the region to bring Joseph Kony
16 to justice and end LRA atrocities;

17 (5) calls on the Administration to keep Con-
18 gress fully informed of its efforts and to work closely
19 with Congress in 2012 to address critical gaps and
20 enhance United States support for the regional ef-
21 fort to counter the LRA;

22 (6) calls on the Secretary of State and heads of
23 other government agencies to undertake diplomatic
24 efforts with partner nations focused on—

1 (A) expanding the number of capable re-
2 gional military forces deployed to protect civil-
3 ians and pursue LRA commanders;

4 (B) enhancing cooperation and cross-bor-
5 der coordination among regional governments;
6 and

7 (C) promoting increased contributions
8 from European and other donor nations for re-
9 gional security efforts;

10 (7) calls on the Secretary of State, the Sec-
11 retary of Defense, the Administrator of the United
12 States Agency for International Development, and
13 the heads of other government agencies to utilize ex-
14 isting funds to address shortcomings in current ef-
15 forts, especially by—

16 (A) enhancing mobility, intelligence, and
17 logistical capabilities for partner forces engaged
18 in efforts to protect civilians and to apprehend
19 or remove Joseph Kony and his top com-
20 manders from the battlefield;

21 (B) expanding physical access and tele-
22 communications infrastructure to facilitate the
23 timely flow of information and access for hu-
24 manitarian and protection actors; and

1 (C) providing increased opportunities for
2 LRA commanders, fighters, abductees, and as-
3 sociated noncombatants to safely escape and de-
4 fect from the group, including through radio
5 and community programs;

6 (8) calls for the United States to place restric-
7 tions on any individuals or governments, including
8 the Republic of Sudan, found to be providing train-
9 ing, supplies, financing, or support of any kind to
10 Joseph Kony or the LRA;

11 (9) stresses the importance that civilian protec-
12 tion be prioritized and that steps be taken to keep
13 communities vulnerable to LRA attacks informed
14 about known LRA movements and threats;

15 (10) notes the increased number of people who
16 have been released or escaped from the LRA's ranks
17 since October 2011 and calls on governments in the
18 region and the international community to push for
19 greater defections from the group; and

20 (11) urges the governments of Uganda, Demo-
21 cratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of South
22 Sudan, Republic of Sudan, and Central African Re-
23 public to work together and redouble their efforts to
24 address the LRA threat.

○