

JAN 23 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE GENOCIDE AND VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN UGANDA AND
URGING CONGRESS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO ENGAGE
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT THE
CHILDREN OF UGANDA.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is committed to supporting the dignity and
2 worth of each human being; and

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4 WHEREAS, for more than twenty years, the Government of
5 Uganda has been engaged in an armed conflict with the Lord's
6 Resistance Army led by Joseph Kony, resulting in ten thousand
7 people murdered, at least twice that number of children
8 abducted, and over 1,600,000 people displaced; and

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10 WHEREAS, the government forces, or the Uganda People's
11 Defense Forces, have also committed abuses against civilians
12 such as rape and murder, especially with the internally
13 displaced persons camps under their protection; and

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15 WHEREAS, the former United Nations Undersecretary-General
16 for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator called
17 the civil war in northern Uganda "the biggest forgotten,
18 neglected humanitarian emergency in the world today"; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has
21 labeled the Lord's Resistance Army "vicious and cult-like" and
22 designates it as a terrorist organization under the Immigration
23 and Nationality Act; and

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25 WHEREAS, on April 26, 2006, the State Department's Deputy
26 Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and
27 Labor testified before Congress that those who suffer most from
28 the Lord's Resistance Army tactics are the children, who face
29 enslavement, sexual exploitation, and forced soldiering; and

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1 WHEREAS, many of the children serving in armed forces or
2 paramilitaries were forcibly conscripted through kidnapping or
3 coercion, a form of human trafficking, while others joined due
4 to economic necessity, to avenge the loss of a family member, or
5 for their own personal safety; and

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7 WHEREAS, some military and militia commanders force child
8 soldiers to commit gruesome acts of ritual killings or torture,
9 including acts of violence against other children; and

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11 WHEREAS, child soldiers are exposed to hazardous conditions
12 and are at risk of physical injury and disability, psychological
13 trauma, sexually transmitted diseases, and often death; and

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15 WHEREAS, due to the threat of abduction, at one time as
16 many as thirty-five thousand child "night commuters" traveled
17 nightly from conflict areas or camps to spend the night in
18 shelters, schools, churches or balconies in urban centers with
19 greater capacity to protect them; and

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21 WHEREAS, the continuing violence and instability obstruct
22 the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of
23 northern Uganda and impede national and regional trade,
24 development and democratization efforts, and counter-terrorism
25 efforts; and

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27 WHEREAS, although the Government of Uganda and the Lord's
28 Resistance Army signed a cessation of hostilities agreement in
29 August 2006, it was never fully implemented, and they have not
30 yet arrived at a sustainable negotiated settlement and observers
31 remain concerned that hostilities between rebel and government
32 forces could resume; and

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34 WHEREAS, Hawaii and its citizens cannot be bystanders, as
35 genocide and human trafficking are moral and ethical issues that
36 implicate us all; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
40 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
41 disapproves of the Lord's Resistance Army leadership's
42 inconsistent commitment to resolving the conflict in northern
43 Uganda peacefully; and

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S.C.R. NO. 12

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii congressional
2 delegation is urged to support legislation allocating sufficient
3 funds for continued humanitarian aid the people of Uganda as
4 well as legislation urging the Lord's Resistance Army to engage
5 in good faith negotiations to pursue a political solution to
6 this conflict; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that leaders on both sides of the
9 conflict in Uganda are urged to renounce any intentions and halt
10 any preparations to resume violence and to ensure that this
11 message is clearly conveyed to armed elements under their
12 control; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Secretary of
15 State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for
16 International Development, and the heads of other similar
17 government agencies and nongovernmental agencies and
18 nongovernmental organizations within the international community
19 are urged to continue augmenting efforts to alleviate the
20 humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda and to support a peaceful
21 resolution to this crisis by publicly and forcefully reiterating
22 the proceeding demands; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
26 delegation, the President of the United States, and the United
27 States Ambassador to the United Nations.
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OFFERED BY: Theranne Chun Caliland

