

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 114

Expressing the sense of the Senate on humanitarian crises in Nigeria,
Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (legislative day, APRIL 4), 2017

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on humanitarian crises
in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

Whereas Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen are all
in famine, pre-famine, or “at risk of famine” stages in
2017;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Office for the Co-
ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA),
20,000,000 people are at risk of starvation within the
next six months in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and
Yemen;

Whereas, on March 22, 2017, Mr. Yves Daccord, the Direc-
tor-General of the International Committee of the Red
Cross, testified that the crisis represents “one of the
most critical humanitarian issues to face mankind since
the end of the Second World War” and warned that “we

are at the brink of a humanitarian mega-crisis unprecedented in recent history”;

Whereas, according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), “More than 5.1 million people face severe food insecurity in northeastern Nigeria”;

Whereas, according to USAID, “An estimated 6.2 million people—more than half of Somalia’s total population—currently require urgent humanitarian assistance.”;

Whereas, according to USAID, “An estimated 5.5 million people—nearly half of South Sudan’s population—will face life threatening hunger by July.”;

Whereas, according to USAID, in Yemen, “More than seventeen million people—an astounding 60% of the country’s population—are food insecure, including seven million people who are unable to survive without food assistance.”;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), “Some 22 million children have been left hungry, sick, displaced and out of school in the four countries. Nearly 1.4 million are at imminent risk of death this year from severe malnutrition.”;

Whereas the humanitarian crises in each of these regions are, to varying degrees, man-made and preventable—exacerbated by armed conflict, disregard for international humanitarian law, and deliberate restrictions on humanitarian access;

Whereas parties to the conflicts have harassed, attacked, and killed humanitarian workers, blocking and hindering humanitarian access and depriving the world’s most hungry people of the food they need;

Whereas humanitarian actors, coordinated by UNOCHA, are appealing for \$5,600,000,000 in 2017 to address famines in Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Somalia, \$4,400,000,000 of which is required urgently; and

Whereas Mr. Daccord testified on March 22, 2017, “Our message is clear: immediate, decisive action is needed to prevent vast numbers of people starving to death.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

3 (A) United States national security inter-
4 ests and the values of the American people de-
5 mand that the United States lead an urgent
6 and comprehensive international diplomatic ef-
7 fort to address obstacles in Nigeria, Somalia,
8 South Sudan, and Yemen that are preventing
9 humanitarian aid from being delivered to mil-
10 lions of people who desperately need it;

11 (B) the President should encourage other
12 governments to join the United States in pro-
13 viding the resources necessary to meet the
14 \$5,600,000,000 UNOCHA appeal to address
15 the humanitarian crises in Nigeria, Somalia,
16 South Sudan, and Yemen;

17 (C) parties to the conflicts in Nigeria, So-
18 malia, South Sudan, and Yemen must respect
19 fully international humanitarian law by allowing

1 and facilitating rapid and unimpeded passage of
2 humanitarian relief for civilians in need and re-
3 specting and protecting humanitarian and med-
4 ical relief personnel and objects; and

5 (D) the President, working with inter-
6 national partners, should work to identify and
7 document violations of international humani-
8 tarian law in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan,
9 and Yemen seeking to bring perpetrators to jus-
10 tice where possible; and

11 (2) the Senate—

12 (A) urges the President, in close coordina-
13 tion with international partners, to employ
14 every appropriate strategy to persuade the Gov-
15 ernment of South Sudan to stop blocking aid
16 for people who desperately need it;

17 (B) calls on the President to notify Con-
18 gress without delay if the Government of South
19 Sudan does not immediately and fully respect
20 international humanitarian law so that Con-
21 gress can work with the President to impose
22 additional costs on the government and leaders
23 of South Sudan for their deplorable actions;

24 (C) urges the President to press the Gov-
25 ernment of Nigeria to take tangible and imme-

1 diate steps to ensure accountability for security
2 forces that violate human rights and fail to co-
3 operate fully with international aid efforts;

4 (D) calls on the President to send the Sec-
5 retary of State or other high level representa-
6 tive to attend the upcoming United Kingdom's
7 Ministerial Conference on Somalia and publicly
8 announce a contribution to the humanitarian
9 assistance efforts which will help leverage other
10 international donors; and

11 (E) urges the President to work urgently
12 with stakeholders to persuade parties to conflict
13 in Yemen to permit humanitarian groups in-
14 creased access to Red Sea ports like Hodeida to
15 deliver much-needed assistance to vulnerable
16 communities.

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