

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, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO,
Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JUNE 5, 2017

Reported by Mr. CORKER, with an amendment and an amendment to the
preamble

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in *italic*]

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

Considered, amended, and agreed to with an amended preamble

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 in 2017;

Whereas according to the United Nations Office for the Co-
ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 20,000,000
people are at risk of starvation this year in Nigeria, So-
malia, South Sudan, and Yemen;

Whereas, on March 22, 2017, Mr. Yves Daccord, the Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, testified before Congress 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), “[m]ore 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), “[s]ome 22 million children have been left hungry, sick, displaced and out of school in the four countries” and “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 and deliberate restrictions on humanitarian access;

Whereas parties to the conflicts, including even some government forces, have harassed, attacked, and killed humanitarian workers, blocked and hindered humanitarian access, and continue to deprive the world's most hungry people of the food they need;

Whereas humanitarian actors, coordinated by OCHA, have appealed for \$5,600,000,000 in 2017 to address famines in Yemen, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Somalia; and

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

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

3 It is the sense of the Senate that—

4 (1) an urgent and comprehensive international
5 diplomatic effort is necessary to address obstacles in
6 Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen that are
7 preventing humanitarian aid from being delivered to
8 millions of people who desperately need it;

9 (2) the United States should encourage other
10 governments to join in providing the resources necessary to address the humanitarian crises in Nigeria,
11 Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen;

13 (3) parties to the conflicts in Nigeria, Somalia,
14 South Sudan, and Yemen should allow and facilitate
15 rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief

1 for civilians in need and respect and protect humani-
2 tarian and medical relief personnel and objects;

3 (4) the United States, working with inter-
4 national partners, should support efforts to hold ac-
5 countable those responsible for deliberate restrictions
6 on humanitarian access in Nigeria, Somalia, South
7 Sudan, and Yemen; and

8 (5) the contributions of charities, non-profit or-
9 ganizations, religious organizations, and businesses
10 of the United States have an important role in ad-
11 dressing humanitarian crises.

12 **SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

13 Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as a dec-
14 laration of war or authorization to use force.

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