

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 387

Condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2019

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. FORTENBERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict.

Whereas the overthrow of the Government of the Central African Republic in March 2013 and subsequent violence has led to the proliferation of multiple armed groups, which have been responsible for widespread atrocities based on perceived or actual religious or ethnic identities;

Whereas the United Nations (UN) concluded in 2014 that the Central African Republic's minority Muslim community had been the target of ethnic cleansing, and multiple UN officials have warned of a risk of genocide;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, an estimated 2,900,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, over 590,000 Central Africans are refugees in neighboring countries, and over 640,000 people are displaced, most of whom are women and children;

Whereas armed groups continue to engage in gross human rights abuses, violence, pillaging, and the illicit trafficking of natural resources such as ivory, gold, cattle, and diamonds;

Whereas armed groups have intentionally targeted personnel from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), aid workers, and journalists, making the Central African Republic one of the world's most dangerous operating environments for humanitarian actors;

Whereas the Central African Republic has made significant progress toward democracy by conducting democratic elections despite the lack of security around electoral polling stations and some irregularities, and inaugurated President Faustin-Archange Touadéra in March 2016;

Whereas the establishment of the Special Criminal Court in June 2017 and the creation of more than 1,000 peace committees across the country demonstrate a genuine commitment to justice and accountability on the part of the people of the Central African Republic; and

Whereas, since 2013, the United States has been the largest single donor to the humanitarian response in the Central African Republic, promoted peace and social cohesion, supported the deployment of MINUSCA, enacted sanctions against senior leaders of armed groups, and provided life-saving assistance to communities in the Central

African Republic affected by the crisis: Now, therefore,
be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes that strong United States leader-
3 ship and support for the stability of the Central Af-
4 rican Republic is necessary for the security and fu-
5 ture stability of the region;

6 (2) condemns violence against civilians, humani-
7 tarian workers, journalists, faith leaders, and United
8 Nations peacekeepers by all armed actors operating
9 within the Central African Republic;

10 (3) welcomes the signing of the Khartoum
11 Peace Agreement in February 2019 and urges all
12 parties to adhere to the terms of the agreement, in-
13 cluding participating in efforts to disarm and de-
14 mobilize combatants, to advance long-term sustain-
15 able peace for the citizens of the Central African Re-
16 public;

17 (4) supports continued efforts by the Govern-
18 ment of the Central African Republic, with support
19 from the African Union and United Nations, to com-
20 bat the threat posed by armed groups;

21 (5) calls on the international community, in-
22 cluding all members of the United Nations Security
23 Council as well as neighboring countries, to support

1 constructive efforts toward peace in the Central Af-
2 rican Republic;

3 (6) calls on the Government of the Central Afri-
4 can Republic to ensure that all state security forces
5 adhere to civilian command, refrain from human
6 rights abuses, and sever any and all links to armed
7 groups except in the framework of disarmament, de-
8 mobilization, and reintegration under the Khartoum
9 Agreement; and

10 (7) urges the Secretary of State and the Ad-
11 ministrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
12 national Development (USAID), in coordination with
13 other relevant Federal departments and agencies,
14 to—

15 (A) provide life-saving humanitarian and
16 development assistance to support vulnerable
17 populations and build local capacity to support
18 sustainable agricultural production in the Cen-
19 tral African Republic;

20 (B) support the efforts of local commu-
21 nities, nongovernmental organizations, and the
22 Government of the Central African Republic to
23 prevent atrocities along religious and ethnic
24 lines, including through programs that focus on
25 peacebuilding, reconciliation, human rights,

1 good and inclusive governance, justice, security
2 sector reform, and the implementation of the
3 Khartoum Agreement;

4 (C) work with the United Nations, African
5 Union, and regional governments and organiza-
6 tions to enforce existing sanctions related to the
7 Central African Republic and address cross-bor-
8 der flows of illicit arms, natural resources, and
9 armed groups;

10 (D) ensure that United States assistance is
11 well-coordinated among agencies and with other
12 donors to maximize diplomatic, development,
13 and defense resources to support peace, sta-
14 bility, and the Central African Republic's jour-
15 ney to self-reliance;

16 (E) undertake efforts to prioritize mutual
17 interests between the United States and the
18 Central African Republic and take steps to po-
19 sition the United States as a leader working
20 with the Government of the Central African Re-
21 public in the areas of reconstruction, postcon-
22 flict remediation, and institution building, as
23 well as taking steps to combat Russian influ-
24 ence in the country and region;

1 (F) support rehabilitation and reintegra-
2 tion programs led by the Central African Re-
3 public Government, nongovernmental organiza-
4 tions, and regional government partners for
5 children, youth, and adults that have demobi-
6 lized from armed groups, including the Lord's
7 Resistance Army;

8 (G) ensure that the United States Em-
9 bassy in Bangui, including USAID presence,
10 and the Department of State Africa Bureau
11 have adequate staffing and funding to carry out
12 their programs and objectives; and

13 (H) ensure that the United Nations Multi-
14 dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in
15 the Central African Republic has adequate re-
16 sources, including personnel and force enabling
17 equipment, and full funding to carry out its
18 mandate.

○