

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 298

Condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 9 (legislative day, OCTOBER 2), 1998

Mr. ABRAHAM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

---

## RESOLUTION

Condemning the terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses against the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

Whereas the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta and the rebel fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have mounted a campaign of terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses on the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF violence against civilians continues with at least 1,200 persons having hands or feet amputated by rebels;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that only 1 in 4 victims of mutilation actually makes it to medical help;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF continue to abduct children and forcibly train them as combatants;

Whereas UNICEF estimates the number of children forcibly abducted since March 1998 exceeds 3,000;

Whereas the consequences of this campaign have been the flight of more than 250,000 refugees to Guinea and Liberia in the last 6 months and the increase of over 250,000 displaced Sierra Leoneans in camps and towns in the north and east;

Whereas the Governments of Guinea and Liberia are having great difficulty caring for the huge number of refugees, now totaling 600,000 in Guinea and Liberia, and emergency appeals have been issued by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for \$7,300,000 for emergency food, shelter, and sanitation, and medical, educational, psychological, and social services;

Whereas starvation and hunger-related deaths have begun in the north where more than 500 people have died since August 1, 1998, a situation that will only get worse in the next months;

Whereas the humanitarian community is unable, because of continuing security concerns, to deliver food and medicine to the vulnerable groups within the north and east of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Economic Community of West African States and its peacekeeping arm, the Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG), are doing their best, but are still lacking in the logistic support needed to either bring this AFRC and RUF rebel war to a conclusion or force a negotiated settlement;

Whereas arms and weapons continue to be supplied to the AFRC and RUF in direct violation of a United Nations arms embargo;

Whereas the United Nations Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Refugees International, following visits to Sierra Leone in May and June 1998, condemned, in the strongest terms, the terrible human rights violations done to civilians by the AFRC and RUF rebels; and

Whereas the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, following a May 1998 visit to Sierra Leone, called upon the United Nations to make Sierra Leone one of the pilot projects for the rehabilitation of child combatants: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) urges the President and the Secretary of  
3       State to give high priority to solving the conflict in  
4       Sierra Leone and to bring stability to West Africa  
5       in general;

6               (2) urges the Department of State to give the  
7       needed logistical support to ECOMOG and the Gov-  
8       ernment of Sierra Leone to bring this conflict to a  
9       rapid conclusion;

10              (3) condemns the use of children as combatants  
11      in the conflict in Sierra Leone;

1           (4) urges the establishment of a secure humani-  
2           tarian corridor to strategic areas in the north and  
3           east of Sierra Leone for the safe delivery of food and  
4           medicines by the Government of Sierra Leone and  
5           humanitarian agencies already in the country man-  
6           dated to deliver this aid;

7           (5) urges the President and the Secretary of  
8           State to strictly enforce the United Nations arms  
9           embargo on the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council  
10          and Revolutionary United Front;

11          (6) urges the President and the Secretary of  
12          State to work with the Economic Community of  
13          West African States to ensure there are sufficient  
14          African forces and arms provided to its peacekeeping  
15          arm, ECOMOG;

16          (7) urges the President and the Secretary of  
17          State to support the United Nations High Commis-  
18          sion for Refugees appeal for aid to the Sierra  
19          Leonean refugees in Guinea, Liberia, and other  
20          countries;

21          (8) urges the President and the Secretary of  
22          State to support the United Nations agencies and  
23          nongovernmental organizations working in Sierra  
24          Leone to bring humanitarian relief and peace to the  
25          country;

1           (9) urges the President and the Secretary of  
2           State to support the Government of Sierra Leone in  
3           its demobilization, disarmament, and reconstruction  
4           plan for the country as peace becomes a reality; and

5           (10) encourages and supports the United Na-  
6           tions Special Representative of the Secretary Gen-  
7           eral for Children and Armed Conflict, to continue in  
8           the efforts to work in Sierra Leone to establish pro-  
9           grams designed to rehabilitate child combatants.

○