

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1230

Condemning postelection violence in Zimbabwe and calling for a peaceful resolution to the current political crisis.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2008

Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WATT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WYNN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. WATSON, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning postelection violence in Zimbabwe and calling for a peaceful resolution to the current political crisis.

Whereas the Zimbabwean African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), led by President Robert Mugabe, has controlled Zimbabwe's executive and legislative branches for 28 years;

Whereas over the past 8 years, ZANU–PF has suppressed political dissidents and won elections and referendums through the use of vote rigging, localized violence, harassment, and intimidation;

Whereas the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe has been worsening since 2000, culminating in the current electoral crisis;

Whereas Presidential and Parliamentary elections were held in Zimbabwe on March 29, 2008;

Whereas the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) released the results for the 2008 presidential election 5 weeks after the contest took place, announcing President Mugabe won 43.2 percent of the vote, while Morgan Tsvangirai of the opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), won 47.8 percent of the vote;

Whereas as the ZEC announced neither candidate won over 50 percent of the vote, the 2 candidates have to compete in a runoff election;

Whereas the long delay in announcing the presidential election results undermined the credibility of the ZEC;

Whereas the Zimbabwean people have indicated through the ballot box that they want a change in leadership;

Whereas in the wake of the elections, President Mugabe has unleashed security forces and militia against opposition supporters and members of civil society;

Whereas over 900 people have been tortured and beaten, and 22 have been confirmed dead;

Whereas government security forces raided the MDC party headquarters, arresting 300 people, some of them children;

Whereas the offices of the Zimbabwe Election Support Network have been raided and some of its employees detained;

Whereas security forces have attacked humanitarian organizations and civil society groups;

Whereas the African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) have been continually engaged in efforts to bring about an end to the political crisis in Zimbabwe;

Whereas the AU and SADC dispatched delegations to Harare, but have not yet successfully compelled the Government of Zimbabwe to restore the rule of law;

Whereas Zimbabwe's gross domestic product declined about 43 percent between 2000 and 2007 and the unemployment rate is 80 percent;

Whereas Zimbabwe's inflation rate, at almost 165,000 percent, is the highest in the world and has contributed significantly to the country's economic collapse;

Whereas worsening economic conditions and commodity shortages have caused at least 3,000,000 people to flee the country;

Whereas after the March 29, 2008, elections the opposition offered to enter into a dialogue to bring about an end to the ensuing political crisis;

Whereas all parties must engage constructively towards peace and reconciliation for the sake of the Zimbabwean people;
and

Whereas the people of Zimbabwe deserve the assistance of the international community in the restoration of funda-

mental human rights, democratic freedom, and the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls on all security forces, informal militias,
3 and individuals to immediately cease attacks on and
4 abuse of civilians;

5 (2) strongly condemns the orchestrated cam-
6 paign of violence, torture, and harassment conducted
7 by the ruling party and its supporters and sympa-
8 thizers in the police and military against members of
9 the opposition, opposition parties, and all other civil-
10 ians;

11 (3) supports an international arms embargo
12 until the current political situation has been re-
13 solved;

14 (4) encourages the government and opposition
15 to begin a dialogue aimed at establishing a govern-
16 ment of national unity which would allow for the
17 restoration of democratic governance structures, and
18 create an environment conducive to a peaceful tran-
19 sition of power through free and fair elections;

20 (5) advocates for a mechanism such as a truth
21 and reconciliation commission through which to en-
22 sure accountability for all groups and individuals
23 who are found to have orchestrated or committed

1 human rights violations in the context of the elec-
2 tions;

3 (6) urges the United Nations, with the coopera-
4 tion and support of the African Union (AU) and
5 Southern African Development Community (SADC)
6 to dispatch a special envoy to Zimbabwe without
7 delay, with a mandate to monitor the runoff elec-
8 tions and the human rights situation, and to support
9 efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the political
10 crisis;

11 (7) urges the international community, under
12 the leadership of the United Nations, AU, SADC,
13 and the SADC Parliamentary Forum, to deploy
14 teams of credible persons to serve as monitors to en-
15 sure that the outcome of the presidential runoff elec-
16 tions reflects the will of the Zimbabwean people;

17 (8) commends the people of Zimbabwe for their
18 continued courage in the face of systematic persecu-
19 tion, intimidation, and abuse, and commits to pro-
20 viding continued humanitarian assistance until the
21 economic crisis is resolved;

22 (9) commends the recent actions taken by re-
23 gional trade unions, churches, activists, and civil so-
24 ciety organizations in support of democracy and re-
25 spect for basic human rights and the rule of law in

1 Zimbabwe, and encourages these entities to maintain
2 their activities; and
3 (10) stands in solidarity with the people of
4 Zimbabwe.

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