

S. RES. 314

Whereas people around the world supported the Republic of Zimbabwe's quest for independence, majority rule, and the protection of human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas Zimbabwe, at the time of independence in 1980, showed bright prospects for democracy, economic development, and racial reconciliation;

Whereas the people of Zimbabwe are now suffering the destabilizing effects of a serious, government-sanctioned breakdown in the rule of law, which is critical to economic development as well as domestic tranquility;

Whereas a free and fair national referendum was held in Zimbabwe in February 2000 in which voters rejected proposed constitutional amendments to increase the president's authorities to expropriate land without payment;

Whereas the President of Zimbabwe has defied two high court decisions declaring land seizures to be illegal;

Whereas previous land reform efforts have been ineffective largely due to corrupt practices and inefficiencies within the Government of Zimbabwe;

Whereas recent violence in Zimbabwe has resulted in several murders and brutal attacks on innocent individuals, including the murder of farm workers and owners;

Whereas violence has been directed toward individuals of all races;

Whereas the ruling party and its supporters have specifically directed violence at democratic reform activists seeking to prepare for upcoming parliamentary elections;

Whereas the offices of a leading independent newspaper in Zimbabwe have been bombed;

Whereas the Government of Zimbabwe has not yet publicly condemned the recent violence;

Whereas President Mugabe's statement that thousands of law-abiding citizens are enemies of the state has further incited violence;

Whereas 147 out of 150 members of the Parliament in Zimbabwe (98 percent) belong to the same political party;

Whereas the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe now exceeds 60 percent and political turmoil is on the brink of destroying Zimbabwe's economy;

Whereas the economy is being further damaged by the Government of Zimbabwe's ongoing involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has issued a warning that Zimbabwe faces a food emergency due to shortages caused by violence against farmers and farm workers; and

Whereas events in Zimbabwe could threaten stability and economic development in the entire region: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends its support to the vast majority of citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe who are committed to peace, economic prosperity, and an open, transparent parliamentary election process;

(2) strongly urges the Government of Zimbabwe to enforce the rule of law and fulfill its responsibility to protect the political and civil rights of all citizens;

(3) supports those international efforts to assist with land reform which are consistent with accepted principles of international law and which take place after the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections;

(4) condemns government-directed violence against farm workers, farmers, and opposition party members;

(5) encourages the local media, civil society, and all political parties to work together toward a campaign environment conducive to free, transparent and fair elections within the legally prescribed period;

(6) recommends international support for voter education, domestic and international election monitoring, and violence monitoring activities;

(7) urges the United States to continue to monitor violence and condemn brutality against law abiding citizens;

(8) congratulates all the democratic reform activists in Zimbabwe for their resolve to bring about political change peacefully, even in the face of violence and intimidation; and

(9) desires a lasting, warm, and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and a democratic, peaceful Zimbabwe.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, Zimbabwe is in the midst of a political crisis that threatens its future, and that is destabilizing its regional neighbors. I believe the Senate should go on record in support of Zimbabwe's democratic activists and against the authoritarian tactics of President Robert Mugabe, whose campaign of state-directed violence and intimidation against opposition party members, farmers, and farm workers are devastating the nation he leads, impoverishing his people and tarnishing his country's prospects.

As my colleagues know, in February, President Mugabe lost a referendum he had called in expectation of victory to grant himself additional constitutional powers. This historic loss, coupled with the emergence of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, signaled that Mugabe's days as President were numbered.

But after twenty years in power, hopes that Mugabe would go quietly into the night after founding and presiding over his nation for two decades are demonstrably naive. Mugabe today is clearly doing everything in his power to avoid joining the tiny cadre of African leaders who have voluntarily transferred power following free and fair elections. On the contrary: Mugabe has incited a racial crisis over property rights and sent his army to fight a war in which Zimbabwe has no stake, all in the hopes of prolonging his hold on the power he apparently regards as his birthright. But the average Zimbabwean, who is poorer by one-third than when Mugabe came to power twenty years ago and who currently suffers the effects of 50 percent unemployment and an inflation rate of 70 percent, would likely disagree with Mugabe's assessment of the continuing benefits of his rule.

President Mugabe has shamelessly encouraged the squatter occupation of Zimbabwe's commercial farms for political purposes. In doing so, he actively abandons the rule of law in favor of mob rule, in the process destroying the nation's wealth. An internationally agreed-upon process of land redistribution funded by Britain, the United States, and other powers collapsed

after it became clear that the only land redistribution Mugabe favored was that which transferred white-owned farms intact to his political cronies.

As if economic collapse and politically motivated race-baiting weren't enough, Mugabe has dispatched 12,000 troops to fight in the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, at a cost of millions of dollars to his government, while an AIDS crisis and economic stagnation grow. Independent observers cannot discern any tangible Zimbabwean national interest in Congo that merits a costly troop deployment, although such observers do note that Mugabe and his military allies have profited handsomely from using the mission to exploit Congo's natural resource base.

Facing heavy domestic and international pressure, Mugabe has finally scheduled elections for next month. Based on its level of popular support, the beleaguered Movement for Democratic Change should do very well in the upcoming parliamentary elections, assuming they are not stolen by Mugabe and his ZANU-PF. The current rubber-stamp parliament, in which the ZANU-PF controls 147 of 150 seats, would likely change hands, altering the country's course and hopefully reinstating the rule of law and the democratic protections Zimbabwe's people deserve. Many observers believe, however, that only intense and sustained international pressure can prevent an electoral outcome inconsistent with the wishes of Zimbabwe's voters.

The level of election-related violence and intimidation against the opposition is made clear by a May 22, 2000, International Republican Institute report, from which I quote:

The [Movement for Democratic Change] released on May 10 a comprehensive report documenting more than 5,000 acts of violence and intimidation throughout the country in the past 10 weeks. At least 15 black MDC members and supporters, four white farmers, and a policeman have been killed since the February constitutional referendum that marked ZANU-PF's first defeat at the ballot box since taking power in 1980. At least 300 people have been driven from rural homes that have been wrecked or burned. Hundreds have been beaten and maimed. At least eight women have been raped because of perceived allegiance to opposition parties. In 92 percent of the cases, the perpetrators of the violence were either known supporters of the ruling party or government employees. Of the victims, 41 percent were MDC supporters and 51 percent were black farm workers and suspected MDC sympathizers. Most observers agree that land reform is not the real issue, but is being used as a smokescreen to mask government efforts to crush political opposition.

The International Republican Institute, which I chair, is deeply involved in pre-election security, training, and registration and will play an important monitoring role throughout Zimbabwe's electoral process. IRI is sponsoring an audit of Zimbabwe's

voter registration rolls, training 3,000 domestic poll monitors, conducting voter education and public opinion polling, providing funding to support legal challenges to electoral conditions inimical to a free and fair vote, sponsoring an election-related violence-monitoring unit, and fielding a bipartisan international election observation team to observe and report on the electoral process in Zimbabwe. Both IRI and its counterpart, the National Democratic Institute, have indicated that the conditions for credible democratic elections simply do not exist at present.

In light of these grim pre-electoral assessments, and the heavy-handedness of Mugabe's rule in the period preceding the vote, I believe the Senate should clearly state its support for free and transparent elections in Zimbabwe, the rule of law, appropriate international assistance for a peaceful process of land reform, and the political activists who brave Mugabe's wrath in the name of democratic rule. My resolution makes a series of findings concerning the violence, breakdown of rule of law, and troubled pre-election period in Zimbabwe. The resolution resolves that the Senate:

(1) extends its support to the vast majority of citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe who are committed to peace, economic prosperity, and an open, transparent parliamentary election process;

(2) strongly urges the Government of Zimbabwe to enforce the rule of law and fulfill its responsibility to protect the political and civil rights of all citizens;

(3) supports those international efforts to assist with land reform which are consistent with accepted principles of international law and which take place after the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections;

(4) condemns government-directed violence against farm workers, farmers, and opposition party members;

(5) encourages the local media, civil society, and all political parties to work together toward a campaign environment conducive to free, transparent and fair elections within the legally prescribed period;

(6) recommends international support for voter education, domestic and international election monitoring, and violence monitoring activities;

(7) urges the United States to continue to monitor violence and condemn brutality against law-abiding citizens;

(8) congratulates all the democratic reform activists in Zimbabwe for their resolve to bring about political change peacefully, even in the face of violence and intimidation; and

(9) desires a lasting, warm, and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and a democratic, peaceful Zimbabwe.

I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing our strong support for the

democratic rights and freedoms of the people of Zimbabwe. Their will, not President Mugabe's personal whims, should determine their country's course. Democratic rule in neighboring South Africa, Botswana, and Mozambique has served those countries well. Zimbabwe's citizens should be no less fortunate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 315—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE CRIMES AND ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE BY THE REVOLUTIONARY UNITED FRONT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 315

Whereas more than 1,000,000 of Sierra Leone's 5,200,000 population are internally displaced and more than 500,000 are refugees as a direct result of the civil war in Sierra Leone, at least 50,000 people have been killed during the civil war, untold numbers of people have been mutilated and disabled largely by the Revolutionary United Front, and more than 20,000 individuals, including many children, are missing or have been kidnapped by the Revolutionary United Front;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front continues to terrorize the population of Sierra Leone by mutilating their enemies and innocent civilians, including women and children, by chopping off their ears, noses, hands, arms, and legs;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front continues to terrorize the population of Sierra Leone by decapitating innocent victims, including children as young as 10 months old and elderly men and women;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front abducts women and children for use as forced laborers, sex slaves, and as human shields during skirmishes with government forces and the forces of the Economic Community of West African States;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front has kidnapped boys as young as 6 or 7 years old and used them to kill and steal and to become soldiers, and its forces have routinely raped women and young girls as a terror tactic;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front has abducted civilians, missionaries, humanitarian aid workers, United Nations peacekeepers, and journalists;

Whereas Charles Taylor, the President of Liberia, has provided and continues to provide significant support and direction to the Revolutionary United Front in exchange for diamonds and other natural resources and is therefore culpable for the abuses in Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Lome Peace Accords did not hold the Revolutionary United Front accountable for their abuses and, in fact, rewarded Foday Sankoh and other Revolutionary United Front leaders with high government offices and control of diamond mining throughout Sierra Leone;

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone is not a legitimate political movement, entity, or party;

Whereas all sides in the civil war in Sierra Leone are guilty of serious human rights abuses; and

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front led by Foday Sankoh is responsible for breaking the Lome Peace Accords and for the violent aftermath that has consumed Sierra Leone since May 1, 2000: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Government should do all in its power to help ensure that the Revolutionary United Front and its leaders, as well as other groups committing human rights abuses in Sierra Leone, are held accountable for the crimes and abuses committed against the people of Sierra Leone;

(2) the United States Government should not condone, support, or be a party to, any agreement that provides amnesty to those responsible for the crimes and abuses in Sierra Leone; and

(3) the United States Government should not provide incentives of any kind to regional supporters of the Revolutionary United Front until all support from them to the Revolutionary United Front has ceased.

SENATE RESOLUTION 316—HONORING SENIOR JUDGE DANIEL H. THOMAS OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 316

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas devoted his life to the dedicated and principled service of his country, his State, and his community;

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas, a native of Prattville, Alabama, was born August 25, 1906, to Judge C.E. Thomas and Augusta Pratt.

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas obtained his law degree from the University of Alabama in 1928, where his uncle, Daniel H. Pratt, served as President pro tem of the Board of Trustees of the University;

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas, having served his country with distinction for 3 years as a Navy Lieutenant during World War II, returned to Mobile, Alabama and continued in the practice of law with Mr. Joseph C. Lyons and Sam Pipes in the law firm of Lyons, Thomas and Pipes until he was elevated to the Federal bench;

Whereas Daniel H. Thomas was appointed a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama by President Truman in 1951, joining in distinguished judicial service his father, C.E. Thomas, who was a probate judge of Augusta County, Alabama, his uncle, William Thomas, who served the State of Alabama as a Supreme Court Justice, and his uncle, J. Render Thomas, who served many years as the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Alabama;

Whereas 49 years of judicial service made Judge Thomas one of the longest serving Federal judges in American history;

Whereas the years of distinguished judicial service by Judge Thomas were characterized by unflinching integrity and unquestioned legal ability;

Whereas in a time of great political and social turmoil, Judge Thomas inspired continued respect for the rule of law established under the Constitution of the United States, and for the propositions that "all men are created equal" and deserve "equal protection