



H.Res. 1351 – Expressing support for the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and calling upon United Nations Member States and the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of UNAMID

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1351 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH) on July 16, 2008. The Committee on Foreign Affairs ordered the resolution to be reported, as amended, by voice vote on July 24, 2008.

H.Res. 1351 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 30, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1351 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Strongly condemns the attack on the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) peacekeepers and expresses its condolences to the people of Rwanda, Ghana, and Uganda, and to the family and friends of those killed and wounded;
- Calls for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- Expresses its commitment to the Darfuri people;
- Expresses support for UNAMID and the UNAMID peacekeepers;
- Calls upon United Nations Member States and the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of UNAMID;
- Urges nations that possess the capability to provide the tactical and utility helicopters needed for the United Nations - African Union peacekeeping mission to do so as soon as possible;
- Urges the President to continue to personally intervene by contacting other heads of state and asking them to contribute the aircraft and crews for the Darfur mission;
- Urges the Department of State to organize a special meeting of the United Nations Security Council, the Friends of UNAMID working group, and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations to resolve outstanding force resource and equipment issues;
- Calls upon Member States of the United Nations and all responsible nations to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of UNAMID; and
- Calls upon the parties to the conflict in Darfur to immediately commit to and respect binding cessations of hostilities agreement and seize upon the opportunity that has been afforded by the deployment of UNAMID to find a political solution to the crisis in Darfur.

BACKGROUND

In July 2007, the United Nations Security Council approved the deployment of 26,000 peacekeeping troops to the Darfur region of Sudan. The ensuing United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has repeatedly been undermined by the Sudanese government and rebel groups. Most recently, on July 8, 2008, seven UNAMID peacekeepers were killed while carrying out their mission.

Darfur is a region in western Sudan which has been in a state of humanitarian emergency since 2003. This emergency is the result of ethnic and tribal conflict between Sudanese military and the Janjaweed, a militia group, and a variety of rebel factions. The United Nations estimates that the conflict has left as many as 400,000 dead from violence and disease.

On April 18, 2007, President George W. Bush declared at the United States Holocaust Museum that the United States has a moral obligation to help end the genocide in Darfur.



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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