

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 345

Deploring the rape and assault of women in Guinea and the killing of political protesters on September 28, 2009.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Reported by Mr. KERRY, without amendment

FEBRUARY 22, 2010

Considered, amended, and agreed to with an amended preamble and an amendment to the title

RESOLUTION

Deploring the rape and assault of women in Guinea and the killing of political protesters on September 28, 2009.

Whereas, on December 23, 2008, a group of military officers calling itself the National Council for Democracy and Development (referred to in this preamble as the “CNDD”) seized power in a coup in Guinea, installed as interim President Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, and promised to hold elections;

Whereas, on September 28, 2009, authorities of the Government of Guinea opened fire on a crowd of thousands of unarmed opposition protesters who were gathered in and around an outdoor stadium to protest statements made by Captain Camara that he may run for president, after he said that he would not;

Whereas, on September 29, 2009, the United States Department of State condemned the brazen and inappropriate use of force by the military against civilians in Guinea, and demanded the immediate release of opposition leaders and a return to civilian rule as soon as possible;

Whereas according to the United Nations Security Council Report of the International Commission of Inquiry Mandated to Establish the Facts and Circumstances of the Events of 28 September 2009 in Guinea, 156 people were killed or disappeared and at least 109 women and girls “were subjected to rape and other sexual violence, including sexual mutilation and sexual slavery”;

Whereas according to Human Rights Watch, these killings and assaults were part of a “premeditated massacre” in which the “level, frequency, and brutality of sexual violence that took place at and after the protests strongly suggests that it was part of a systematic attempt to terrorize and humiliate the opposition, not just random acts by rogue soldiers”;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights characterized the events as a “blood bath” and stated that they “must not become part of the fabric of impunity that has enveloped Guinea for decades”;

Whereas according to the humanitarian organization CARE, “What happened in Guinea is an outrage—and a stark

reminder of a larger epidemic of violence against women and girls around the world.”;

Whereas Amnesty International reports that violence against women knows few bounds, and that “in armed conflicts, countless women and girls are raped and sexually abused by security forces and opposition groups as an act of war, and often face additional violence in refugee camps. Government sponsored violence also exists in peacetime, with women assaulted while in police custody, in prison, and at the hands of any number of state actors.” and that “violence against women is a violation of human rights that cannot be justified by any political, religious, or cultural claim”;

Whereas the International Commission of Inquiry of the United Nations concluded that “the crimes perpetrated on 28 September 2009 and in the immediate aftermath can be described as crimes against humanity” and that there is sufficient evidence that Captain Camara “incurred individual criminal liability and command responsibility for the events that occurred during the attack and related events in their immediate aftermath”;

Whereas, on January 15, 2010, General Sékouba Konate and Captain Camara of the Republic of Guinea and President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso signed the Joint Declaration of Ouagadougou pledging to form a transitional government of national unity in Guinea, to hold elections within six months without the participation of candidates from the military junta, and to permit the entry of an international observer mission from the Economic Community of West African States; and

Whereas, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of Ouagadougou, a prime minister from the coalition of op-

position forces, Forces Vives, has been named to the transitional government: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) deplores the rape and assault of women and
3 the killing of political protestors in Guinea;

4 (2) urges the prosecution, by the appropriate
5 authorities, of those responsible for orchestrating or
6 carrying out the violence in Guinea;

7 (3) urges the President, in coordination with
8 leaders from the European Union and the African
9 Union, to continue to consider punitive measures
10 that could be taken against senior officials in Guinea
11 found to be complicit in the violence, and in par-
12 ticular, the atrocities perpetrated against women and
13 other gross human rights violations;

14 (4) encourages the President to remain actively
15 engaged in the political situation in Guinea, and to
16 continue to convey that the blatant abuse of women
17 will not be tolerated;

18 (5) calls on President Blaise Compaoré of
19 Burkina Faso to ensure that Captain Camara does
20 not return to Guinea in order to allow a peaceful
21 transition to civilian rule;

22 (6) notes that the first steps set forth in the
23 Joint Declaration of Ouagadougou have been initi-
24 ated with the naming of a prime minister and urges

1 all parties to continue to adhere to the agreement to
2 see the process through free, fair, and timely elec-
3 tions; and

4 (7) recognizes the importance of the multilat-
5 eral observer mission to help ensure peace and secu-
6 rity in Guinea during the period of transition.

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