

Support the Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2007

Of nine governments worldwide that are accused of recruiting or using children as soldiers, eight currently receive US military assistance.

Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Sam Brownback (R-KS) introduced the Child Soldier Prevention Act (S. 1175) to cut off military support to the Ugandan government until they are able to curb the use of children in both the UPDF and Local Defense Units in the North.

Though this is now co-sponsored by a dozen other US Senators, there needs to be more co-sponsors to get this bill passed...

Call your Senators.

Here are the co-sponsors thus far:

Bingaman (D-NM), Boxer (D-CA), Brownback (R-KS), Casey (D-PA), Coburn (R-OK), Cochran (R-MS), Durbin (D-IL), Feingold (D-WI), Feinstein (D-CA), Johnson (D-SD), Kerry (D-MA), Menendez (D-NJ), Mikulski (D-MD), Reed (D-RI), Roberts (R-KS), Snowe (R-ME).

Here are some Senators that are on the Foreign Relations Committee and SHOULD be on the bill:

Christopher Dodd (D-CT) @ (202) 224-2823

Bill Nelson (D-FL) @ (202) 224-5274

Barack Obama (D-IL) @ (202) 224-2854

Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) @ (202) 224-4524

Jim Webb (D-VA) @ (202) 224-4024

Norm Coleman (R-MN) @ (202) 224-5641

Johnny Isakson (R-GA) @ (202) 224-3643

Bob Corker (R-TN) @ (202) 224-3344

Jim DeMint (R-SC) @ (202) 224-6121

Chuck Hagel (R-NE) @ (202) 224-4224

Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) @ (202) 224-6665

John Sununu (R-NH) @ (202) 224-2841

David Vitter (R-LA) @ (202) 224-4623

George Voinovich (R-OH) @ (202) 224-3353

Or to find your Senator, go to www.senate.gov.

Information on the Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2007:

- Encourages governments to disarm and rehabilitate child soldiers after fighting in both government and government-endorsed militias.
- Places limits on the availability of the US International Education and Training, Foreign Military Financing, Foreign Military Sales, Direct Commercial Sales and Excess Defense Articles and all other military assistance in our foreign involvement for countries in violation of the bill.
- For countries identified in the Human Rights Report to be recruiting/using child soldiers, they will only receive military assistance to address the issue of disbanding their child soldiers.
- Does not automatically stop military involvement. If governments are taking active steps to demobilize child soldiers, those countries will remain eligible for assistance directed towards "professionalization" of their militia for up to two years before any prohibition.
- Encourages US to expand funding of rehabilitation of former child soldiers and also work with the international community to elevate activism towards rebel armies.
- Will only provide clear incentives for governments currently using or recruiting child soldiers to end those practices.

Your voice can make a difference.

<http://www.invisiblechildren.com/news&press/news/detail.php?pID=2082016198>