

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 345

Deploring the rape and assault of women in Guinea and the killing of political protesters.

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, and Mrs. McCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Deploring the rape and assault of women in Guinea and the killing of political protesters.

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, tens of thousands of unarmed opposition protesters met 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 government security forces killed at least 157 demonstrators, after opening fire on the crowd, and brutalized and raped dozens of women openly in public;

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, 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 members of the United Nations Security Council condemned “the violence that caused reportedly more than 150 deaths and hundreds of wounded and other blatant violations of human rights including rapes in public streets in broad day light, and violence that led to the arrest of opposition party leaders”;

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 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”; and

Whereas, on October 16, 2009, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the creation of an international commission of inquiry to investigate the events: 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, and calls
4 for an immediate cessation of violence, including
5 gender-based violence and targeted killings by secu-
6 rity forces;

7 (2) strongly supports efforts by the United Na-
8 tions Security Council’s commission of inquiry into
9 the violence, and calls for Captain Moussa Dadis
10 Camara and the National Council for Democracy
11 and Development to abide by their pledge to cooper-
12 ate with the commission;

13 (3) urges the identification and prosecution, by
14 the appropriate authorities, of those responsible for
15 orchestrating or carrying out the violence in Guinea;

16 (4) urges President Barack Obama, in coordi-
17 nation with leaders from the European Union and
18 the African Union, to seriously consider punitive
19 measures that could be taken against senior officials

1 in Guinea found to be complicit in the violence, in
2 particular the atrocities perpetrated against women
3 and other gross human rights violations; and

4 (5) encourages President Obama to remain ac-
5 tively engaged in the political situation in Guinea, to
6 continue to convey that the blatant abuse of women
7 will not be tolerated, and to continue supporting the
8 efforts of the appointed facilitator, President Blaise
9 Compaore of Burkina Faso, to pave a way forward
10 to credible elections.

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