

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1259

To amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to prohibit the provision of peacekeeping operations assistance to governments of countries that recruit and use child soldiers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2011

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to prohibit the provision of peacekeeping operations assistance to governments of countries that recruit and use child soldiers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Trafficking Victims
5 Enhanced Protection Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) There are as many as 300,000 child soldiers
2 in use by state-run armies, paramilitaries, and gue-
3 rilla groups in roughly 21 countries around the
4 world and in almost every region of the world.

5 (2) The 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report de-
6 fines a child soldier as any person under 18 years
7 of age who directly takes part in hostilities, has been
8 compulsorily or voluntarily recruited as a member of
9 a government's armed forces, or has been recruited
10 or used in hostilities by armed forces distinct from
11 the armed forces of a state.

12 (3) Children are used as soldiers, combatants,
13 spies, scouts, decoys, guards, cooks, human mine de-
14 tectors, and even sex slaves, robbing them of their
15 childhood. Children are forced to join such groups
16 physically, economically, or socially, or lured with
17 promises of food, money, or security.

18 (4) Exploitation of these children leaves them
19 stigmatized and traumatized. Children also suffer
20 higher mortality, disease, and injury rates in combat
21 situations than adults, putting their health and lives
22 at risk.

23 (5) The William Wilberforce Trafficking Vic-
24 tims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public
25 Law 110-457) prohibits the provision of Inter-

1 national Military Education and Training (IMET)
2 and Foreign Military Funds (FMF) assistance to
3 countries found to use child soldiers.

4 (6) The first report required under WTVPRA,
5 published in 2010, identified 6 countries found to
6 use child soldiers: Burma, Somalia, the Democratic
7 Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, Yemen, and
8 Chad.

9 (7) On October 25, 2010, President Barack
10 Obama exercised his waiver authority for 4 of the 6
11 countries to include the Democratic Republic of
12 Congo (DRC), Sudan, Yemen, and Chad, which al-
13 lowed the United States Government to provide both
14 IMET and FMF funding to these countries.

15 (8) United States peacekeeping funds that were
16 not restricted in the William Wilberforce Trafficking
17 Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008
18 have been provided to Somalia, despite the use of
19 child soldiers in that country and United States ef-
20 forts to halt such practices.

21 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PROVISION OF PEACEKEEPING**
22 **OPERATIONS ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN GOV-**
23 **ERNMENTS.**

24 Section 404(a) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking
25 Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (22

1 U.S.C. 2370c-1(a)) is amended by striking “section 516
2 or 541 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
3 2321j or 2347)” and inserting “section 516, 541, or 551
4 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j,
5 2347, or 2348)”.

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