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Senate Resolution on Rwanda April 25, 1994

US Senate

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*Am
prel - 05*
Rutherford
4/25/94

S.RES. _____

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the tragic humanitarian and political catastrophe in Rwanda.

Mr. Simon (for himself, Mr. Jeffords, Mrs. Kassebaum and Mr. Kennedy) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

Whereas on April 6, Presidents Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi were killed when their plane *crashed* was shot down just outside Kigali, leading to an eruption of violence in Rwanda;

Whereas the systematic and indiscriminate massacre of civilians, estimated in the tens of thousands, is a crime against humanity;

Whereas the violence currently being perpetrated by the Rwandan government forces, *and the Rwandan Patriotic Front* and their allied militias against members of both the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups is deplorable and violates all standards of human rights;

Whereas food shortages and lack of medical supplies in Rwanda, and the evacuation of humanitarian relief workers, has put millions of lives at risk;

Whereas a peace accord signed in Arusha by the Habyarimana government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front in August 1993 created the basis for formation of an integrated transitional government in Rwanda;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council voted in October 1993 to deploy a force of 2,500 peacekeepers, the U.N. Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to assist in implementation of the Arusha accords;

Whereas *Arusha* tens of thousands of Rwandans have sought the protection of UNAMIR forces and refuge from the continuing violence;

Whereas the Belgian government *Ex-BANGLADESH* has withdrawn its troop contingent from the UNAMIR operation and other nations contributing forces may follow suit;

Whereas continued unrest and violence in Rwanda threatens the stability of the entire Central African region; therefore be it

Resolved that the Senate:

(1) deplores the brutal and systematic massacre of civilians and individuals sympathetic to the political opposition in Rwanda by the Rwandan military and associated groups, particularly by those coordinating militia attacks, namely Colonel Bagosora, Colonel Augustin Bizimungu, and Captain Pasqual Simbikangwa; ~~as the President has stated~~

(2) urges the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to continue efforts to gain agreement on a credible ceasefire and to facilitate negotiations between the parties to the conflict, based upon the Arusha accords;

(3) calls on all parties, including the Rwandan army, related militias and the Rwandan Patriotic Front, to exercise restraint and control over their forces, to accede to an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, to respect such ceasefire, ensure the safety of innocent civilians; guarantee free passage of humanitarian assistance to all in need of such aid; and to recommit themselves to the principles set forth in the Arusha accords;

(4) calls on the United Nations to carefully consider both military and diplomatic options which are consistent with the Arusha accords and will ensure the safety of innocent civilians, assist in monitoring an eventual cease-fire or peace agreement, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian relief, and ensure the viability of these options.

(5) commends President Clinton for his swift condemnation of and response to this crisis, and applauds the efforts of United States Ambassador to Rwanda, David Rawson, in ensuring the safe and swift evacuation of Americans from Rwanda;

(6) urges President Clinton to continue diplomatic efforts at the highest levels to achieve prompt resolution of the political and humanitarian crisis in Rwanda.