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AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2583

OFFERED BY MR. Payne

At the end of title VIII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 8___. COTE D'IVOIRE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, which
4 resulted from the disputed November 2010 Presi-
5 dential election, imperiled the civic, economic, and
6 human rights of its citizens and the political stability
7 of the entire sub-region.

8 (2) With 17 scheduled elections across Africa in
9 2011, Ivoirian and international acceptance of Mr.
10 Gbagbo's electoral claim would have aided and abet-
11 ted the efforts of those who may seek to undermine
12 the democratic will of Africa's citizens and reversed
13 gains in democracy and governance across the con-
14 tinent.

15 (3) On April 11, 2011, Mr. Gbagbo was ar-
16 rested and taken into the custody of the forces
17 aligned with the elected President, thereby creating
18 an opportunity for the political and security crisis in
19 Cote d'Ivoire to be resolved and for rule of law to
20 be restored.

1 (4) The United States has a strong interest in
2 promoting democracy and peace in Cote d'Ivoire and
3 across all of Africa.
4 (b) STATEMENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress—
5 (1) supports the democratic aspirations of the
6 Ivoirian people;
7 (2) strongly condemns Mr. Gbagbo's attempt to
8 circumvent the will of the people of Cote d'Ivoire the
9 majority of whom voted on November 29, 2010, to
10 elect Alassane Ouattara as their president;
11 (3) welcomes the arrest of former president
12 Laurent Gbagbo and calls upon him to urge his sup-
13 porters to lay down their weapons and contribute to
14 peace and reconciliation in the country;
15 (4) calls for an immediate end to acts of vio-
16 lence, human rights abuses, the intimidation of
17 United Nations troops, and the hindrance of United
18 Nations access to investigate alleged violations of
19 international human rights and humanitarian law;
20 (5) asserts that Mr. Gbagbo and his military
21 and paramilitary forces must be held accountable for
22 any human rights crimes and abuses that they have
23 perpetrated against citizens and residents of Cote
24 d'Ivoire, as must all other persons or entities who
25 have committed such violations;

(6) calls on the United States Government and international community to continue to provide support for the ongoing efforts of the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union efforts to resolve the Ivoirian crisis, in particular through support for implementation of the conflict resolution framework and related recommendations contained in the Report of the High Level Panel of the African Union for the Resolution of the Crisis in Cote d'Ivoire of March 10, 2011;

(7) calls on the United Nations Security Council, with the support of the elected Government of Cote d'Ivoire, the African Union, and ECOWAS, to continue to ensure that legal democratic processes and international human rights and humanitarian law are upheld in Cote d'Ivoire, and that there is accountability for violations thereof;

(8) supports the application of smart, targeted sanctions against Mr. Gbagbo and his key supporters by the United States Government and international community in order to send a clear message that his rejection of the democratic process is unacceptable and that impunity for human rights violations and economic crimes against the Ivoirian people will not be tolerated;

(9) supports the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union's aggressive steps to constrict the access of the Gbagbo regime's access to financial resources, including all actions taken by the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) to achieve that end;

(10) calls on the United States Government and other responsible nations to continue, in a coordinated manner, to provide humanitarian assistance to those with emergency needs, both within Cote d'Ivoire and in neighboring countries hosting Ivoirian refugees, as necessary and appropriate;

(11) calls on President Ouattara to demonstrate restraint and uphold rule of law with respect to the capture and potential prosecution of Mr. Gbagbo and his supporters, while demonstrating commitment to reconciliation and recovery;

(12) calls for an independent, and impartial investigation of all allegations of mass killings and other human rights abuses, and calls on President Ouattara to provide unfettered access and the necessary resources for such an investigation to occur, with the support of the United States and other responsible nations, as necessary and appropriate;

(13) calls for the disarmament of all irregular security forces and militias; and

(14) urges the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to immediately commence national reconciliation efforts, invest in rebuilding infrastructure, facilities, and institutions damaged as a result of the military and political crisis, to ensure the safety of all persons resident within Cote d'Ivoire and, facilitate the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced people.

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