

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# **S. RES. 611**

Supporting the efforts of the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Government of Nigeria, political parties, civil society, religious organizations, and the people of Nigeria, to facilitate the first democratic transition of Nigeria from one civilian government to another in the general elections to be held in April 2007.

---

## **IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**

SEPTEMBER 30 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 29), 2006

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. DEWINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

NOVEMBER 16, 2006

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

---

## **RESOLUTION**

Supporting the efforts of the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Government of Nigeria, political parties, civil society, religious organizations, and the people of Nigeria, to facilitate the first democratic transition of Nigeria from one civilian government to another in the general elections to be held in April 2007.

Whereas the United States maintains strong and friendly relations with Nigeria and values the leadership role that Nigeria plays throughout the continent of Africa, particularly in the establishment of the New Partnership for African Development and the African Union;

Whereas Nigeria is an important strategic partner with the United States in combating terrorism, promoting regional stability, and improving energy security;

Whereas Nigeria has been, and continues to be, a leading supporter of the peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States by contributing troops to operations in Lebanon, Yugoslavia, Kuwait, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Rwanda, and Sudan;

Whereas past corruption and poor governance have resulted in weak political institutions, crumbling infrastructure, a feeble economy, and an impoverished population;

Whereas political aspirants and the democratic process of Nigeria are being threatened by increasing politically-motivated violence, including the assassination of 3 gubernatorial candidates in different states during the previous 2 months; and

Whereas the Chairperson of the Independent National Electoral Commission has—

- (1) announced that governorship and state assembly elections will be held on April 14, 2007;
- (2) stated that voting for the president and national assembly will take place on April 21, 2007; and
- (3) vowed to organize free and fair elections to facilitate a smooth democratic transition: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2                (1) recognizes the importance of Nigeria as a  
3                strategic partner and long-time friend of the United  
4                States;

1 (2) acknowledges the increasing significance of  
2 the leadership of Nigeria throughout the region and  
3 continent;

4 (3) commends the decision of the National As-  
5 sembly of Nigeria to reject an amendment to the  
6 constitution that would have lifted the existing 2-  
7 term limit and allowed for a third presidential term;

12 (A) developing an aggressive plan for voter  
13 registration and education;

14 (B) addressing charges of past or intended  
15 corruption in a transparent manner; and

16 (C) conducting objective and unbiased re-  
17 cruitment and training of election officials;

22 (A) to freely assemble:

23 (B) to organize and conduct public events;

24 and

(C) to exercise those and other rights in a manner free from intimidation or harassment;

(A) preventing and investigating politically-motivated violence; and

10 (7) urges—

11 (A) President Bush to ensure that the  
12 United States supports the democratic gains  
13 made in Nigeria during the last 8 years; and

14 (B) the Government of Nigeria to actively  
15 seek the support of the international community  
16 for democratic, free, and fair elections in April  
17 2007; and

1       tions in April 2007 to further consolidate the democ-  
2       racy of Nigeria.

○