

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H. RES 131**  
**OFFERED BY MS. BASS OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas since the 1990s, an estimated 5,000,000 people have died and more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced due to repeated cycles of conflict and atrocities, particularly those in North and South Kivu provinces;

Whereas the United Nations and humanitarian groups have reported staggering rates of sexual violence indicating tens of thousands of cases perpetrated by the Congolese army and armed groups, including the M23, Mai Mai militias, the Lord's Resistance Army, and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, which continue to operate with nearly total impunity;

Whereas human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been subject to intimidation and attack;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo's wealth of natural resources, including minerals and high-value wildlife products such as elephant ivory, have been a driver of insurrection and violence, and the discovery and exploitation of oil could motivate further conflict;

Whereas the deeply flawed November 2011 elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo laid bare significant political, economic, and social challenges;

Whereas the Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to one of the world's largest and most expensive international peacekeeping operations;

Whereas the November 20, 2012, seizure of the city of Goma by the M23 rebel group, despite bilateral and multilateral efforts to address longstanding humanitarian crises, forge lasting peace, and pursue security sector reform and accountability, demonstrates that the underlying causes of the recurring conflicts in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remain unresolved;

Whereas on November 15, 2012, the United Nations Group of Experts provided compelling evidence, in report findings corroborated by the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in testimony before the United States House of Representatives on December 11, 2012, and December 19, 2012, that the M23 crisis has been fueled and exacerbated by the Government of Rwanda, including through the provision of significant military and logistical assistance, and of operational and political guidance and support, to the M23;

Whereas the United Nations and United States have imposed sanctions on the M23 and its leaders for human rights atrocities including rape, massacres, and the recruitment and physical and psychological torture of child soldiers;

Whereas on March 18, 2013, International Criminal Court (ICC) indictee and leader of a faction of the M23 rebel group, Bosco Ntaganda, turned himself in to the United States Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, and asked to be and was transferred to the ICC in The Hague, where he voluntary surrendered on March 22, 2013;

Whereas the Lord's Resistance Army continues to perpetrate attacks against civilian populations in affected areas of northeastern Congo, creating widespread insecurity and displacement; and

Whereas members of civil society and political parties from both the majority and the opposition created the National Preparatory Committee (Comité National Préparatoire or CNP) to lay the groundwork for convening a national forum and dialogue with the goal of putting an end to the multifaceted crisis that afflicts the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) asserts that the region's leaders bear pri-  
3 mary responsibility for the security of their territory  
4 and citizens and, with support from the inter-  
5 national community, must break the cycle of violence  
6 and impunity in the Democratic Republic of the  
7 Congo and surrounding region and urgently address  
8 the root causes of conflict;

9 (2) calls on the signatories of the February 24,  
10 2013, Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework  
11 for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the  
12 Region to abide by the provisions outlined in the  
13 framework agreement in addition to ensuring that  
14 those troops being integrated into the Congolese

1        army are not those accused of human rights viola-  
2        tions;

3            (3) calls on governments of the Great Lakes re-  
4        gion of Africa to respect the national security and  
5        territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of  
6        the Congo, and to immediately halt and prevent any  
7        and all forms of support to the M23 and other  
8        nonstate armed groups, including any support pro-  
9        vided by individuals independently of government  
10       policy;

11           (4) recognizes the recent efforts by the Govern-  
12        ment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to  
13        end the recruitment of children into the armed  
14        forces and demands the immediate cessation of the  
15        recruitment and exploitation of children by militias,  
16        and further calls on all armed groups to free chil-  
17        dren and other civilians held against their will;

18           (5) calls on the Administration, in close coordi-  
19        nation with international and regional partners and  
20        consistent with Public Law 109–456, to support the  
21        Government of the Democratic Republic of the  
22        Congo in mobilizing a comprehensive response to  
23        prevent further deterioration of regional peace and  
24        stability and to ensure unhindered humanitarian ac-  
25        cess;

1           (6) acknowledges the good work of the United  
2 States Special Advisor on the Great Lakes and the  
3 Democratic Republic of the Congo, and finds that  
4 the challenges of helping to resolve the cycle of vio-  
5 lence and impunity in the Democratic Republic of  
6 the Congo requires higher-level United States diplo-  
7 matic and political engagement;

8           (7) requests that Secretary of State John Kerry  
9 demonstrate the high-level concern that the United  
10 States attaches to ensuring stability and security in  
11 the Democratic Republic of the Congo by elevating  
12 the existing role of the Special Advisor for the Great  
13 Lakes and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to  
14 the designation of a Special Envoy who will help  
15 lead the United States and international efforts to  
16 end violence carried out by armed militias and se-  
17 cure permanent peace, stability, and safety for the  
18 people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

19           (8) calls on all nations to increase cooperation  
20 in order to cease the trade of illegal goods, including  
21 poached ivory and conflict minerals, that continues  
22 to fuel violence in the Democratic Republic of the  
23 Congo;

24           (9) calls on the Administration, including the  
25 Atrocities Prevention Board, in close coordination

1 with international and regional partners, to develop  
2 and make actionable recommendations to address,  
3 prevent, and ensure accountability for serious viola-  
4 tions of international humanitarian law and human  
5 rights abuses by all actors in the Democratic Repub-  
6 lic of the Congo, including by fully implementing  
7 sanctions outlined in section 1284 of the National  
8 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013,  
9 notwithstanding transactions that are customary,  
10 necessary, and incidental to the provision of critical,  
11 life-saving aid to civilian populations, and the policy  
12 goals set out under Public Law 109–456;

13 (10) urges the Government of the Democratic  
14 Republic of the Congo, with close support from the  
15 international community, to investigate and pros-  
16 ecute those who have committed war crimes, crimes  
17 against humanity, and violations of international hu-  
18 manitarian law and human rights, including those  
19 against women and children;

20 (11) calls on the Government of the Democratic  
21 Republic of the Congo to meaningfully engage in  
22 electoral reforms, in addition to security sector re-  
23 forms to prevent militia combatants, particularly  
24 M23 members, accused of abuses from integrating  
25 into the military, and to host inclusive inter-Congo-

1        lese dialogues to address critical internal political  
2        issues and strengthen processes of state institution  
3        building in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

4            (12) urges the Administration to address sup-  
5        port provided to militias operating in the Democratic  
6        Republic of the Congo by foreign governments and  
7        entities;

8            (13) acknowledges the United Nations' appoint-  
9        ment of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes re-  
10        gion of Africa; and

11           (14) acknowledges the authorization by the  
12        United Nations Security Council of the deployment  
13        of an intervention brigade within the United Nations  
14        Organization Stabilization Mission in the Demo-  
15        cratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) with a  
16        robust civilian protection mandate, and urges the  
17        United Nations Security Council to continue to lead  
18        efforts to reinforce and strengthen MONUSCO and  
19        its capacity to protect civilians, deter violence, and  
20        ensure peace and stability.

