

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To provide that no funds appropriated or otherwise made available by any Act for contributions for international organizations may be made available to support the United Nations Human Rights Council.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COLEMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide that no funds appropriated or otherwise made available by any Act for contributions for international organizations may be made available to support the United Nations Human Rights Council.

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 “The Human Rights
5 Council Funding Reform Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Senate makes the following findings:

1 (1) The severe loss of credibility of the United
2 Nations Human Rights Commission, whose members
3 have included Libya, Sudan, and Cuba, led United
4 Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to remark in
5 2005 that the Human Rights Commission was
6 “casting a shadow on the reputation of the United
7 Nations system as a whole” and to call for the cre-
8 ation of a new United Nations human rights institu-
9 tion.

10 (2) Calls for the reform of United Nations
11 human rights institutions led to a proposal for a new
12 Human Rights Council to replace the Human Rights
13 Commission, which was adopted by the United Na-
14 tions General Assembly on March 15, 2006, in Gen-
15 eral Assembly Resolution 60/251 (2006).

16 (3) The United States voted against General
17 Assembly Resolution 60/251 (2006) because the pro-
18 posed structure of the Human Rights Council did
19 not contain provisions designed to address the fun-
20 damental flaws of its predecessor body, such as a re-
21 quirement that members of the Council be democ-
22 racies that respect human rights.

23 (4) The United States chose not to run in the
24 elections for membership in the Human Rights
25 Council in 2006 and 2007 for fear that the Council

1 would reflect the same patterns as the Human
2 Rights Commission.

3 (5) The stated purpose of the Human Rights
4 Council is to objectively and non-selectively promote
5 and protect human rights in the entire world, and
6 therefore in all 192 Member States of the United
7 Nations.

8 (6) The Human Rights Council is composed of
9 47 members, 24 of which are considered “free de-
10 mocracies” by Freedom House in its 2007 “Free-
11 dom in the World” report.

12 (7) The current members of the Human Rights
13 Council include countries such as Cuba, Angola,
14 Azerbaijan, and Saudi Arabia.

15 (8) During the first year of operation of the
16 Human Rights Council, which included 5 regular
17 sessions and 4 special sessions, the only country in
18 the world that was directly condemned as a violator
19 of human rights was Israel.

20 (9) In its first year of operation, the Human
21 Rights Council passed only 12 state-specific resolu-
22 tions: 9 resolutions that condemned the Government
23 of Israel, and 3 resolutions on Sudan that did not
24 condemn the Government of Sudan.

1 (10) Freedom House lists 19 countries in its
2 2007 “Freedom in the World” report as the “Worst
3 of the Worst” regimes that violate human rights, yet
4 none of these countries has been the subject of a
5 resolution by the Human Rights Council except for
6 Sudan.

7 (11) During its first year, the Human Rights
8 Council held 4 special sessions to address the most
9 egregious and urgent human rights issues, with 3
10 sessions dedicated to Israel and 1 session dedicated
11 to Sudan.

12 (12) The Human Rights Council special session
13 on Sudan held in December 2006 resulted in the ap-
14 pointment of an assessment mission to Darfur led by
15 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams, and this
16 assessment mission submitted a report (referred to
17 in this resolution as the “Williams Report”) to the
18 Human Rights Council in March 2007 that con-
19 cluded that the Government of Sudan was respon-
20 sible for “large-scale international crimes in
21 Darfur”.

22 (13) The Human Rights Council has not con-
23 demned the Government of Sudan in spite of the
24 Williams Report and the numerous reports docu-
25 menting the human rights violations of the Govern-

1 ment of Sudan compiled by the United Nations High
2 Commissioner for Human Rights.

3 (14) On June 19, 2007, the Human Rights
4 Council adopted governing rules that further dis-
5 credit the Council's operations, including—

6 (A) the establishment of only 1 country-
7 specific permanent agenda item for the “Pro-
8 gram of Work” on “human rights violations
9 and implications of the Israeli occupation of
10 Palestine and other occupied Arab territories”;

11 (B) the elimination of the mandates of the
12 special investigators for human rights for Cuba
13 and Belarus, despite extensive reporting by
14 these investigators indicating that there are
15 widespread, systematic violations of human
16 rights taking place in both countries; and

17 (C) the adoption of measures that limit the
18 independence of operations of the Office of the
19 United Nations High Commissioner for Human
20 Rights and hinder the ability of independent
21 human rights investigators to report findings on
22 human rights abuses.

1 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR THE UNITED NA-**
2 **TIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.**

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds
4 appropriated or otherwise made available by any Act for
5 contributions for international organizations may be made
6 available to support the United Nations Human Rights
7 Council.