

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1698

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2007

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

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## 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.

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