

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.RES. 147
OFFERED BY MS. WILSON OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa, with the largest economy;

Whereas Nigeria is currently confronted with threats to internal security by terrorists, insurgents, and communal violence that have caused considerable population displacement, and at the same time must administer transparent and peaceful elections with a credible outcome;

Whereas the members of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, commonly known as Boko Haram, have terrorized the people of Nigeria with increasing violence since 2009, targeting military, government, and civilian sites in Nigeria, including schools, mosques, churches, markets, villages, and agricultural centers, and killing thousands and abducting hundreds of civilians in Nigeria and the surrounding countries;

Whereas the United States Department of State named several individuals linked to Boko Haram, including its leader, Abubakar Shekau, as Specially Designated Global Terrorists in 2012, and designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in November 2013;

Whereas in May 2014, the United Nations Security Council added Boko Haram to its al Qaeda sanctions list, and on

January 19, 2015, the United Nations Security Council issued a Presidential statement condemning the recent escalation of attacks in northeastern Nigeria and surrounding countries and expressing concern that the situation was undermining peace and security in West and Central Africa;

Whereas the more than 200 school girls abducted by Boko Haram on April 14, 2014, from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern state of Borno, whose kidnapping sparked domestic and international outrage spawning the Twitter campaign #BringBackOurGirls, are still missing;

Whereas the terrorist group is an increasing menace to the countries along Nigeria's northeastern border, prompting the African Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the European Union, and the United Nations Security Council to recognize that there must be a regional response;

Whereas the governments of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger have joined Nigeria in utilizing military resources to end the threat of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria and its neighbors;

Whereas the United States Government has stepped forward to offer assistance through intelligence sharing, bilateral and international sanctioning of Boko Haram leaders, counterterrorism assistance through the Global Security Contingency Fund program for countries in the region to counter the militant group, and humanitarian services to populations affected by and vulnerable to Boko Haram violence;

Whereas Boko Haram emerged partially as a response to underdevelopment in northeastern Nigeria, and inequality, elite impunity, and alleged human rights abuses by security forces may be fueling anti-government sentiment;

Whereas inter-religious conflict in Nigeria predating Boko Haram's creation is exacerbated by that group's heinous attacks on individuals and houses of worship;

Whereas it is imperative that the Government of Nigeria implement a comprehensive, civilian security focused plan that prioritizes protecting civilians and also addresses legitimate political and economic grievances of citizens in northern Nigeria; and

Whereas it is in the best interests of the United States to maintain close ties with Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) condemns Boko Haram for its violent at-
2 tacks, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of ci-
3 vilians, especially women and girls, and the use of
4 children as fighters and suicide bombers;

5 (2) stands with—

6 (A) the people of Nigeria in their right to
7 live free from fear or intimidation by state or
8 non-state actors, regardless of their ethnic, reli-
9 gious, or regional affiliation;

1 (B) the people of Cameroon, Chad, and
2 Niger who are increasingly at risk of becoming
3 victims of Boko Haram's violence; and

4 (C) the international community in its ef-
5 forts to defeat Boko Haram;

6 (3) condemns any and all abuses of civilians by
7 security forces of the Government of Nigeria;

8 (4) urges the Government of Nigeria to—

9 (A) prioritize the security and well-being of
10 Nigerians vulnerable to Boko Haram attacks;

11 (B) implement a comprehensive, civilian
12 security focused response to defeat Boko
13 Haram that addresses political, economic and
14 social grievances of citizens in the north, recog-
15 nizing that security forces are intended to pro-
16 tect the safety and security of all citizens equal-
17 ly;

18 (C) utilize all applicable government re-
19 sources to meet the humanitarian needs of Ni-
20 gerian people in areas impacted by Boko
21 Haram attacks, including compensating victims
22 of such attacks for loss of property and liveli-
23 hoods with recovered funds previously stolen
24 from Nigeria where feasible;

1 (D) improve the capacity and conduct of
2 Nigeria's security forces, including respect for
3 human rights, and take steps to hold account-
4 able through a transparent process those mem-
5 bers of the security forces responsible for
6 abuses; and

7 (E) cooperate with regional and inter-
8 national partners to defeat Boko Haram; and
9 (5) urges the United States Government to—

10 (A) provide Congress with a report on the
11 implementation of the Foreign Terrorist Orga-
12 nization designation applied to Boko Haram;

13 (B) resolve remaining issues that have led
14 to the suspension of United States counter-ter-
15 rorism training for Nigerian military and secu-
16 rity forces;

17 (C) consider the Nigerian request to des-
18 ignate Nigeria as a major non-NATO ally to
19 provide more rapid access by Nigerian forces to
20 United States military assistance;

21 (D) integrate qualified local human rights
22 agencies and organizations into the vetting
23 process under the Leahy Law to make such vet-
24 ting as effective and accurate as possible; and

1 (E) facilitate the expeditious return to the
2 Government of Nigeria of stolen Nigerian gov-
3 ernment funds under the control of the United
4 States Government.

