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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-3211

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Title:

Congressional Record Insert

Hon. & Member's Official State:

Hon. YVETTE D. CLARKE of NEW YORK

Full Name of Congressional State:

NEW YORK

Current Date:

Monday, October 26, 2009

Member's Name as it appears in Official Record:

Ms. CLARKE

****Type Extension to Remarks below, the space allotted will expand as your type****

Madame Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Movement of Guinean Women in the United States, the Commission for Guinean *Forces Vives* in the United States and Alliance Guinea for organizing today's demonstration in front of the State Department. These organizations were protesting the atrocities that continue to take place in Guinea West Africa.


I would also like to express my concerns regarding the use of violence against civilian protestors that erupted on September 28th resulting in the killing of at least 157 people and wounding more than 1,200. I strongly believe that all citizens of Guinea should be afforded the right to have their voices heard without the threat of violence. I condemn any actions that resulted in gross and egregious human rights abuses.

Even more appalling are the reports of physical and sexual violence against women. According to the Movement of Guinean Women in the United States, there has been an increase in violence against women since the military junta uprising took place. Women are being randomly raped and kidnapped, without recourse. Madame Speaker, these rapes are absolutely deplorable and those responsible must be brought to justice.

The eruption of violence has taken a mental and physical toll on the people of Guinea and there is a dire need for emergency care and humanitarian assistance. The United States as well as the International community must come together to provide much needed medical assistance.

I strongly support Secretary Clinton and the State Department's position on admonishing those who committed such injustices. I also concur with the Secretary's call to the current leadership of Guinea to control their military troops and allow an international investigation into the matter. The United States has insisted that the National Council for Democracy and Development respect the commitment it has made not to field candidates in Guinea's upcoming elections. This is integral to ensuring a peaceful transition back to a functional democracy.

Guinea West Africa has carried the torch of freedom since its independence from the French in 1958. The country has been an example to the rest of the region throughout its history, as it was the first nation of French West Africa to gain its independence. That said, I am deeply concerned about the rising tensions within the country and its potential to ignite regional instability within the West African region.


Yvette D. Clarke
MEMBER OF CONGRESS