

Senate Resolution 238

By: Senators James of the 35th and Davenport of the 44th

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing support and respect for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1962
2 which was adopted unanimously on December 20, 2010, recognizing Dr. Alassane Ouattara
3 as the democratically elected President of Côte d'Ivoire; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, global democracy is a universal goal of all democratically elected officials, be
5 they local, state, or federal; and

6 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is the home of over 4,000 Ivoirians who contribute to the
7 Georgia economy as professionals, employers, and supporters of a transparent democracy;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, in October and November, 2010, Côte d'Ivoire held two rounds of presidential
10 elections which were monitored by the Carter Center, which is based in Georgia, the
11 Economic Community of West African States, the United Nations, and the African Union,
12 among other internationally recognized bodies; and

13 WHEREAS, according to Phillip Carter III, the United States Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire,
14 Dr. Alassane Ouattara was clearly and undisputedly elected President of Côte d'Ivoire, with
15 an 8.2 percent lead of all votes cast from polling venues around the world, including several
16 in the United States and one in Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, defeated former President Laurent Gbagbo refuses to respect the will of the
18 people of Côte d'Ivoire and the will of the Economic Community of West African States
19 delegation from West African countries, the African Union, a number of nongovernmental
20 organizations, the United States, and other sovereign governments to step down as president;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, as a result of former president Gbagdo's refusal to relinquish the presidency,
23 there are credible reports of militia groups loyal to Gbagdo roaming neighborhoods largely

24 populated by Ouattara supporters and forcing people from their homes, resulting in some
25 being beaten, tortured, and executed, and some have even disappeared, and according to the
26 UN Human Rights Division, an investigation into the deaths of over 500 Ivorians killed by
27 Gbagdo loyalists has resulted in the identification of over four mass grave sites.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 express support and respect for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1962 which
30 was adopted unanimously on December 20, 2010, recognizing Dr. Alassane Ouattara, who
31 was designated an Honorary Citizen of Georgia in 2000, as the democratically elected
32 President of Côte d'Ivoire.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.