

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 403

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2004

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan.

Whereas, since early 2003, a conflict between forces of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan, including militia forces backed by the Government, and rebel forces in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan has resulted in attacks by ground and air forces of the Government of Sudan against innocent civilians and undefended villages in the region;

Whereas Sudanese Government forces and government supported militia forces have also engaged in the use of rape as a weapon of war, the abduction of children, the destruction of food and water sources, and the deliberate and systematic manipulation and denial of humanitarian assistance for the people of the Darfur region;

Whereas, on December 18, 2003, United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland declared that the Darfur region was probably “the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophe”, and in April 2004 reported to the United Nations Security Council that in Darfur, “a sequence of deliberate actions has been observed that seem aimed at achieving a specific objective: the forcible and long-term displacement of the targeted communities which may also be termed ‘ethnic cleansing’”;

Whereas, on February 17, 2004, Amnesty International reported that it “continues to receive details of horrifying attacks against civilians in villages by government warplanes, soldiers, and pro-government militia”;

Whereas, on February 18, 2004, United Nations Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan Tom Eric Vraalsen declared, following a trip to the Darfur region, that “aid workers are unable to reach the vast majority [of the displaced]”;

Whereas Doctors Without Borders, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning medical humanitarian relief organization and one of the few aid groups on the ground in the Darfur region, reported that the region is the scene of “catastrophic mortality rates”;

Whereas, on April 20, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights delayed the release of a report citing gross human rights abuses, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed in Darfur in a bid to gain access to Sudan for investigators;

Whereas the Government of Sudan continues to deny humanitarian assistance for the people of the Darfur region by denying them unrestricted access to humanitarian aid organizations;

Whereas attacks on civilians in Darfur continue despite an April 8, 2004, temporary cease-fire agreement;

Whereas nearly 3,000,000 people affected by the conflict in the Darfur region have remained beyond the reach of aid agencies trying to provide essential humanitarian assistance, and United Nations aid agencies estimate that they have been able to reach only 15 percent of people in need and that more than 700,000 people have been displaced within Sudan in the past year; and

Whereas the United States delegation to the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights sponsored a resolution condemning the Government of Sudan for grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law occurring in the Darfur region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) strongly condemns the Government of the
 4 Republic of the Sudan and militia groups supported
 5 by the Government of Sudan for attacks against in-
 6 nocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of
 7 western Sudan, in violation of Article 3 of the Gene-

1 va Conventions, done at Geneva August 12, 1949,
2 and entered into force October 21, 1950, which spe-
3 cifically prohibit attacks on civilians, and demands
4 that the Government of Sudan immediately take ac-
5 tions to cease these attacks;

6 (2) urges the Government of Sudan to imme-
7 diately disarm and disband government supported
8 militia groups;

9 (3) urges the Government of Sudan and all par-
10 ties to honor commitments made in the cease-fire
11 agreement of April 8, 2004;

12 (4) calls on the Government of Sudan to grant
13 full, unconditional, and immediate access to Darfur
14 to humanitarian aid organizations, the human rights
15 investigation and humanitarian teams of the United
16 Nations, including protection officers, and an inter-
17 national monitoring team in compliance with the
18 temporary cease-fire agreement that is based in
19 Darfur and has the support of the United States
20 and the European Union;

21 (5) encourages the Administrator of the United
22 States Agency for International Development to
23 work with donors to immediately deliver humani-
24 tarian assistance to Darfur, including the delivery of
25 food by air if necessary;

1 (6) calls on the Secretary of State to develop a
2 plan for further bilateral and multilateral action in
3 the event the Government of Sudan fails to imme-
4 diately undertake the actions called for in paragraph
5 (3), including a plan to seek a Security Council reso-
6 lution addressing the Darfur situation;

7 (7) deplores the inaction of some member states
8 of the United Nations and the failure of the United
9 Nations Human Rights Commission to take strong
10 action with respect to the crisis in Darfur;

11 (8) urges the President to direct the United
12 States Representative to the United Nations to—

13 (A) seek an official investigation by the
14 United Nations to determine if crimes against
15 humanity have been committed by the Govern-
16 ment of Sudan and government-supported mili-
17 tia groups in the Darfur region; and

18 (B) work with the international community
19 to ensure that the individuals responsible for
20 crimes against humanity in Darfur are held ac-
21 countable for their actions; and

22 (9) strongly urges the President to impose tar-
23 geted sanctions, including a ban on travel to the
24 United States and freezing of personal assets,
25 against officials and other individuals of the Govern-

1 ment of Sudan, as well as Janjaweed militia com-
2 manders, who are responsible for war crimes and
3 crimes against humanity in the Darfur region.

Passed the House of Representatives May 17, 2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.