

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 99

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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, the militia forces backed by the Government of Sudan 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 war-planes, 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; and

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: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
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-  
8        va Conventions, done at Geneva August 12, 1949,  
9        and entered into force October 21, 1950, which spe-  
10       cifically prohibit attacks on civilians, and demands  
11       that the Government of Sudan immediately take ac-  
12       tions to cease these attacks;

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

21           (3) encourages the Administrator of the United  
22        States Agency for International Development to  
23        work with donors to develop a plan to pre-position  
24        and deliver humanitarian assistance to Darfur, in-

1 including a plan for delivery of food by air if nec-  
2 essary;

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

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

13 (6) urges the President to direct the United  
14 States Representative to the United Nations to—

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

19 (B) work with the international community  
20 to ensure that the individuals responsible for

- 1 crimes against humanity in Darfur are account-
- 2 able for their actions.

Passed the Senate May 6, 2004.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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### **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

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