

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 172

Affirming the importance of a national weekend of prayer for the victims of genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan, and expressing the sense of the Senate that July 15 through 17, 2005, should be designated as a national weekend of prayer and reflection for Darfur.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2005

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. CORZINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Affirming the importance of a national weekend of prayer for the victims of genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan, and expressing the sense of the Senate that July 15 through 17, 2005, should be designated as a national weekend of prayer and reflection for Darfur.

Whereas, on July 22, 2004, Congress declared that genocide was taking place in Darfur, Sudan;

Whereas, on September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell testified to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that “genocide has been committed in Darfur”;

Whereas, on September 21, 2004, President George W. Bush stated to the United Nations General Assembly that “the

world is witnessing terrible suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes my government has concluded are genocide”;

Whereas Article 1 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, done at Paris December 9, 1948, and entered into force January 12, 1951, states that “[t]he Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish”;

Whereas fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, are protected in numerous international agreements and declarations;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, in Security Council Resolution 1591, condemned the “continued violations of the N’djamená Ceasefire Agreement of 8 April 2004 and the Abuja Protocols of 9 November 2004 by all sides in Darfur and the deterioration of the security situation and negative impact this has had on humanitarian assistance efforts”;

Whereas scholars estimate that as many as 400,000 have died from violence, hunger and disease since the outbreak of conflict in Darfur began in 2003, and that as many as 10,000 may be dying each month;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced from their homes and remain in camps in Darfur and Chad;

Whereas religious leaders, genocide survivors, and world leaders have expressed grave concern over the continuing atrocities taking place in Darfur; and

Whereas it is appropriate that the people of the United States, leaders and citizens alike, unite in prayer for the people of Darfur and reflect upon the situation in Darfur: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate—

2 (1) that the weekend of July 15 through 17,
3 2005, should be designated as a National Weekend
4 of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan;

5 (2) to encourage the people of the United
6 States to observe that weekend by praying for an
7 end to the genocide and crimes against humanity
8 and for lasting peace in Darfur, Sudan; and

9 (3) to urge all churches, synagogues, mosques,
10 and religious institutions in the United States to
11 consider the issue of Darfur in their activities and
12 to observe the National Weekend of Prayer and Re-
13 flection with appropriate activities and services.

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