

GENOCIDE IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record a letter sent to Secretary General Kofi Annan signed by 45 Members of Congress asking Mr. Annan to go to Darfur, Sudan, to end the genocide.

I would also like to submit for the record an article from the Washington Post, "In Sudan, Staring Genocide in the Face." The author is Jerry Fowler, staff director of the Committee on Conscience, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

We are staring genocide in the face. Will the world fail to act as it has so many times in the past? Over the next few weeks I will continue to submit stories from leading news sites on this issue. I want the world to know that when historians are looking back at the Darfur genocide and wondering why more was not done, there will be evidence in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that the world knew.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

June 4, 2004.

Hon. KOFI ANNAN,
Secretary General, United Nations
New York, NY.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY GENERAL: We are extremely concerned that the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, has not received the international attention or response that is needed to save the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. With the rainy season just weeks away, the window of opportunity is closing.

The situation on the ground is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Urgent, immediate action is needed to prevent the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. Your going to Darfur would call to the world's attention the ongoing slaughter. Precious time is slipping away.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this crisis but the situation calls for even bolder action from the United Nations. We urge you to go to Darfur and stand in solidarity with the people.

The international community must act swiftly. Failure to act will bring certain death to the thousands languishing in camps. The world will wake up 10 years from now and wonder why more was not done to protect humanity. The evidence is clear. We cannot say that we did not know.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf; Donald M. Payne; Tom Lantos; Edward R. Royce; Henry J. Hyde; Christopher H. Smith; Sheila Jackson-Lee; Peter A. Defazio; Michael R. McNulty; Peter Deutsch; Lois Capps; Chris Bell; Wm. Lacy Clay; Martin T. Meehan; Michael M. Honda; Elijah E. Cummings; James P. McGovern; Raul M. Grijalva; Todd W. Akin; Vic Snyder; Barbara Lee.

Ken Calvert; Maurice D. Hinchey; Julia Carson; James T. Walsh; Wayne T. Gilchrest; Carolyn B. Maloney; Edolphus Towns; Michael E. Capuano; Mark Steven Kirk; Chris Van Hollen; Jesse L. Jackson; Sue Wilkins Myrick; Betty McCollum; Brad Sherman; Lucille Roybal-Allard; James P. Moran; Henry A. Waxman; Thomas G. Tancredo; Jo Ann Davis; Luis V. Gutierrez; Gerald D. Kleczka; Timothy V. Johnson; Nita M. Lowey; Sam Farr.

[From the Washington Post, June 6, 2004]

IN SUDAN, STARING GENOCIDE IN THE FACE

(By Jerry Fowler)

In the cool desert dawn on May 16, at the Touloum refugee camp in eastern Chad, 2-

year-old Fatima put her hands on her stomach, groaned and died. Her mother, Toma Musa Suleiman, in describing the death to me the next day, said that Fatima had been sick for 10 days. By the time she died, her skin was pallid and felt like plastic—the effects of malnutrition.

I was seeing with my own eyes what I had been hearing about for several months: Children are dying almost every day in refugee camps in eastern Chad, despite a vigorous international effort to get food, water and other essentials to the more than 100,000 who have fled in fear from the Darfur region of neighboring Sudan.

They are among the 1 million Darfurians who have been displaced from their homes, most of whom are still in Sudan, according to aid groups.

Abukar Adam Abukar, a member of a community health team organized by Doctors Without Borders in the Iridimi refugee camp, one of half a dozen such sites, told me that seven children had died there between May 3 and May 14.

He took me to the dusty flat on the edge of the camp where some of them were buried, in a forlorn line of small mounds of earth.

Why did Toma and thousands like her leave their homes and walk for days through the desert, risking their own lives and those of their children? Their stories were remarkably consistent. Person after person in the camps told me that they had fled after attacks on their villages by Arab Janjaweed militias, who have burned hundreds of villages and killed thousands of civilians belonging to black African ethnic groups. To make matters worse, the Janjaweed are backed by the Sudanese government, which wants to put down rebels drawn from those tribes. Many of the refugees said that the Janjaweed had stolen their animals and other property and that relatives or neighbors, usually men and boys, had been killed before their eyes. The refugees fled with little more than the clothes on their backs and the few things they could load onto a donkey. Many also said they were attacked from the air by the Sudanese government's Antonov bombers, either in their villages or as they fled toward the border.

I went to Chad last month on behalf of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Committee on Conscience, which has issued a genocide warning for Sudan. Having now heard firsthand the refugees' accounts of the terror they faced in Sudan and of being driven into the desert, where their government is blocking assistance from the outside world, I have no doubt whatsoever that mass death will ensue in Darfur unless far more international assistance is immediately allowed to reach the displaced who are still there. In short, I fear the specter of genocide.

I interviewed refugees spread over hundreds of miles in eastern Chad. One woman, Hadiya Adam Ahmed, had crossed into Chad only two days before and was living under a tree near the remote border town of Bahai. Spread around her were her few remaining possessions: a blanket, some water jugs, a few bowls. She had left home without food and in two weeks of travel had depended on her fellow refugees for occasional handfuls of soaked sorghum for herself and her nine children. Hadiya had two bullet wounds in her right leg. She said she had been shot by a Sudanese soldier when she and a 17-year-old girl went to draw water from a well for themselves and others who were fleeing.

When asked why their villages were attacked and burned, most of the refugees said it was because of their black skin. They believe that the Khartoum-based government of President Omar Hassan Bashir wants to give their land to his Janjaweed allies who, like him, are Arab. Members of the Zaghawa,

Masalit, Fur and other black African tribes will simply have to go. Like the Janjaweed, the Darfurians are Muslims. But culturally and ethnically they retain an African identity, of which they are proud. They also tend to be more settled than the nomadic Janjaweed. Racism undoubtedly does play a part in Bashir's support of the Janjaweed, as the blacks are seen as inferior.

Ironically, the prospects for peace in southern Sudan also contribute to the conflict. Fearing that an end to the generation-long rebellion in southern Sudan will divide access to the country's resources between the ruling elite in Khartoum and the southerners and condemn Darfur to permanent second-class status, some Darfurians launched an armed rebellion in early 2003. Khartoum responded by unleashing the Janjaweed and its own military on the black African civilian population. The result was what a team of U.N. investigators last month called a "reign of terror."

Those who have crossed into Chad are relatively lucky. An underfunded international relief effort by organizations such as Catholic Relief Services and Doctors Without Borders is providing some food, water, shelter and health care. For the displaced Darfurians who are still in Sudan, however, the situation is more dire. Khartoum has severely limited international access to them. And in the unforgiving desert, the stealing of food and animals, burning of homes and blockage of access to wells—in short, the campaign of the Janjaweed and the government—is tantamount to a death sentence. The U.S. Agency for International Development estimates that 350,000 Darfurians will die in the coming months unless the government in Khartoum allows international aid groups dramatically better access to the region.

That raises the question of genocide. Under the U.N. Genocide Convention, adopted in 1948 in the shadow of the Holocaust, genocide is defined as certain actions undertaken "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such." The actions include "killing members of the group," "causing serious bodily and mental harm to members of the group" and—particularly relevant to Darfur—"deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction, in whole or in part." The convention obliges parties to the treaty, including the United States and 130 other nations—to "undertake to prevent and punish" the crime of genocide.

In cases like Darfur, there is always a great deal of hand wringing about what is and is not genocide. But such discussion misses the point: A key element of the Genocide Convention is prevention. It calls for action once it is apparent that genocide is threatened. There is no need for an absolute determination, which is inevitably elusive, that genocide is underway.

And in Darfur there can be no doubt that genocide is threatened. As former U.S. Ambassador David Scheffer once said of Kosovo, there are "indicators of genocide." Whatever the formulation, there is more than enough going on in Darfur to justify preventive action.

Time is of the essence. The rainy season will begin in the next few weeks, making access to Darfur—where major roads become impassable with flooding—difficult, if not impossible.

The government in Khartoum will do whatever it can to forestall any decisive international action. It is well practiced at giving the illusion of taking a step forward while really taking two steps backward. For example, it now is making a show of promising to streamline humanitarian access. But

the record suggests that the government simply cannot be trusted. Even as it was claiming that the situation in Darfur was stable, its Janjaweed allies killed several dozen people on May 22. Allowing better access to aid groups will mean little if the militias continue to run rampant in the countryside.

What is needed now is a U.N. Security Council resolution mandating unrestricted humanitarian access to Darfur and laying the groundwork for the displaced Darfurians to return home safely. The Security Council should invoke the collective obligation to prevent genocide as well as its authority to maintain international peace and security, which is threatened by Janjaweed incursions into Chad and conflicts between the Chadian and Sudanese militaries. A statement issued by the Security Council on May 25, expressing "grave concern" about Darfur, is a step in the right direction. But it is no substitute for a formal resolution.

The United States has been lobbying in the Security Council, but it cannot do it alone. Darfur presents an opportunity for Secretary General Kofi Annan to avoid a repetition of the United Nations' failures during the Rwanda genocide of a decade ago, when warnings of mass murder were ignored. Indeed, in marking the 10th anniversary of the start of the Rwanda genocide on April 7, Annan said that reports from Darfur filled him "with a sense of deep foreboding."

Since then, however, he has said little in public other than to welcome Khartoum's promise to ease restrictions on international relief. His reticence is all the more remarkable because other U.N. officials, such as Mukesh Kapila, until recently the top U.N. humanitarian official in Sudan, have been outspoken in sounding the alarm.

Annan must say, simply, "This must stop" and use all his skill, energy and influence to forge an international consensus to back up that statement. To do otherwise, to welcome empty gestures from perpetrators of the gravest abuses, merely encourages them to continue to murder and pillage.

During both the Holocaust and the Rwanda genocide, warnings were received and ignored. Today we say "never again." The question now is whether we will ignore the warnings while the Africans of Darfur perish and then—once again—say "never again." Or will we act while lives can still be saved?

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous honor to salute our soldiers of tomorrow—the service academy bound students of the Third District of Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people.

I'm truly confident that they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. It is a privilege to send such fine young people on to our nation's prestigious service academies.

We lift them and their families up in prayer for their future service and sacrifices.

God bless them and God bless America. I salute them.

The appointees and their hometowns follow.

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT—SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Ryan Brence, Plano, Texas, Plano Senior High School; Katherine Palesky, Plano,

Texas, Plano Senior High School; Steven Solaja, Dallas, Texas, Episcopal School of Dallas.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Travis Atkins, Allen, Texas, Allen High School; Michelle Ellenburg, Frisco, Texas Frisco High School.

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

David Jung, Garland, Texas, Garland High School; Kelly Lewis, Plano, Texas, Plano West Senior High School; Christopher Mahan, Rowlett, Texas, Garland High School; Price Paramore, Allen, Texas, Allen High School; Blake Shaid, Richardson, Texas, Berkner High School; Theodore Shiveley, Plano, Texas, Plano East Senior High School; Aubrey Sperier, Frisco, Texas, Frisco High School.

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Amy Harman, Garland, Texas, Naaman Forest High School; Robert Williams, Plano, Texas, Plano West Senior High School.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, the recently celebrated Memorial Day Holiday was a reminder for all Americans to unite behind our Commander-in-Chief and support our soldiers. The men and women who valiantly and selflessly fought to rid the world of the evil Iraqi regime and today continue in the fight against terrorism deserve our support and even more, our gratitude and admiration. Alabama has a strong representation in the war on terror through the activation of the Alabama Army and Air National Guard as well as our citizens who serve in the Armed Forces full time. Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom are noble pursuits that will protect the United States from the threat of terrorism and will bring democracy to a region of the world that so desperately needs assistance.

As the father of a Marine, I can sympathize with the concerns and fears faced by families of those who have loved ones fighting the global war on terrorism. In the unfortunate case where a member of our military sacrifices his or her life to preserve our values of liberty and freedom, it is our duty to offer sympathy and support for the family and friends of our fallen heroes. Nineteen Alabamians have made the ultimate sacrifice and will never be forgotten:

Aubrey Bell, Tuskegee.
John E. Brown, Troy.
Paul J. Bueche, Daphne.
Armed Cason, McCalla.
William Channell, Tuscaloosa.
Timothy M. Conneway, Enterprise.
Jeremy D. Foshee, Pisgah.
Charles G. Haight, Jacksonville.
Brian Hazelgrove, Fort Rucker.
Stephen D. Hiller, Opelika.
Howard Johnson, II, Mobile.
Phillip Johnson, Alabama.
Jason D. Jordan, Elba.
Cedric Lennon, West Blocton.
Mark O'Steen, Alabama.
Kelley Prewitt, Birmingham.
John T. Sims, Alexander City.
Christopher M. Taylor, Daphne.
Christopher R. Willoughby, Phoenix City.

As we remember the veterans of World War II who were known as the "Greatest Genera-

tion", those who have fallen in the war on terror remind us that our military and those who serve in it have not lost their greatness. I have the utmost respect for these servicemen and women and their families. God bless our troops.

RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM OROS

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the conclusion of an outstanding educator's career in the State of Connecticut. With the retirement of William Oros, Connecticut is losing a respected and dedicated educator who has committed more than three decades of his life to the enlightenment of Connecticut's youth.

Over 36 years of service to Connecticut education, Mr. Oros has left an everlasting impression on his students. From his direct contact with the youth of Connecticut's Northwest Corner as a science and math teacher in Cornwall, to his leadership as Supervising Principal at the Cornwall Consolidated Elementary School, Mr. Oros has deeply affected the lives of each of his pupils. His ability to influence the lives of young students has been unparalleled.

Moreover, Mr. Oros has achieved undying respect from his students and peers alike. Most recently, as Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the New Fairfield School District, Mr. Oros has worked with staff to develop in-service training programs and professional development for educators, as well as serving as a resource of support and assistance for individuals who serve in all areas of education. Mr. Oros' exemplary leadership throughout his extended career is an example for all to follow, not just in the field of education, but for anyone concerned with the future of our state and Nation.

The enthusiasm and dedication Mr. Oros displays towards the educating of the youth in Connecticut has been both commendable and contagious. It is imperative for individuals such as he to nurture the growth of tomorrow's leaders. I wish Mr. Oros the best towards a happy and healthy retirement.

IN MEMORY OF GERTRUDE HOLDER

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to celebrate the memory of Gertrude Holder, who recently passed away on the 30th of May at the age of 85. Gertrude was a dedicated citizen who served her Nation and community throughout her life. A daughter of Russian immigrants, for 35 years Ms. Holder helped federal agencies of the United States better serve the public while employed by the General Services Administration. As a retiree, she continued to benefit her surrounding citizens. She could be often found volunteering to help voters at the polling place of her local senior citizens' center in Revere, Massachusetts.