

Darfur Awareness

The Newsletter of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc.

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Darfur Awareness is published every two months by the board of directors of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project Inc. (DRP).

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Many institutions and individuals have worked and still are working diligently to stop the ongoing Genocide in Darfur. In the US Senate and the US House of representatives different versions of Darfur Accountability Acts were introduced during the Month of March 2005. The Senate version was introduced March 2, with Senators Jon Corzine (Democrat, New Jersey) and Sam Brownback (Republican, Kansas) taking the lead. The House version building on the Senate bill and containing a number of provisions not found in the Senate bill, was introduced March 17 by Congressman Donald Payne (Democrat, 10th District, New Jersey) and nine co-sponsors, both Democrats and Republicans. For full text of the Senate and the House bills see the Darfur Rehabilitation Project’s website, www.darfurrehab.org

Both versions of the Darfur Accountability Acts call for the imposition of “sanctions against perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan”, and call for other measures, including UN targeted sanctions against the Governemnt of Sudan, a military no-fly zone over Darfur and the expansion of the African Union forces in Darfur.

Read more about the “Darfur Accountability Act” on page 2.

We, members of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project in the United States appeal to the public as individuals, communities and organizations to contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to support speedy passage of the

Darfur Accountability Act. We believe the Darfur Accountability Act is by far the most sound and serious effort put forward to end the Genocide in Darfur. Please act now to help to stop horrifying actions being taken against innocent civilians in Darfur.

Abdelbagy Abushanab, President Darfur Rehabilitation Project.



“The Darfur Accountability Act of 2005” Serious effort to end Genocide in Darfur

Despite the insistence of the Government of Sudan in continuing its policy of Genocide in Darfur, the efforts to bring an end to the Darfur Genocide have never stopped. On March 2nd, 2005 two U.S. senators introduced a new bill called “the Darfur Accountability Act of 2005”, which would renew U.S. and the world commitment to end crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Senators Jon Corzine, democrat of New Jersey, and Sam Brownback, republican of Kansas, put forward the bill as the latest in series of efforts to end the ongoing Genocide in Darfur.

The Darfur Accountability Act focuses on the urgent need to stop the killings in Darfur; the necessity of establishing a military no-fly zone to stop the Sudanese government from bombing civilians; the expansion of the African Union



*Congressman Donald M. Payne (Democrat of New Jersey)
Original Sponsor of the “Darfur Genocide Accountability Act”,
Speaking at a Darfur event*

force; the freezing of the assets of those responsible for the crimes in Darfur. The Bill also calls for arms embargo to Sudan; and a new UN Security Council resolution with concrete sanctions.

On March 17, Congressman Donald Payne of New Jersey introduced a similar bill “the Darfur Genocide Accountability Act” also calls for an expansion of the size and strength of the African Union force in Darfur and the imposition of sanctions on the government of Sudan. The bill is co-sponsored by eleven Congressmen so far, and the number of supporters in the House is growing. This bill is by far the strongest legislation dealing with the Genocide in Darfur.

“Ten thousand people are dying in Darfur every month... It is time for serious accountability... Our humanity is being challenged. The essence of who we are is at stake. Genocide is evil and must be stopped.”

Jon S. Corzine

on the floor of the Senate March 2, 2005

Senator Jon Corzine and Senator Sam Brownback together introduced bipartisan bill “*the Darfur Accountability Act*” on March 2 2005, calling for multilateral sanctions against those responsible for crimes against humanity in Darfur.



Senator Sam Brownback (R - KS)

Senator Jon Corzine (D-N.J.)

Press conference March 2, 2005 to introduce the Darfur Accountability Act

The Darfur Accountability Act of 2005:

- Introduced in the Senate as the “Darfur Accountability Act of 2005”
Document name: [S.495](#)
You may access it at:
<http://corzine.senate.gov/priorities/darfuraccountabilityact.pdf>
 - Introduced in the House as the “Darfur Genocide Accountability Act of 2005”
Document name: [H.R.1424](#)
You may access it at:
<http://www.govtrack.us/data/us/bills.text/109/h1424.pdf>
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Take Action

There is no time to debate the Darfur Tragedy; we must support “The Darfur Accountability Act”. Call your senator and your representative to support the congressional leadership on this issue. Take action now, by emails, phone calls, or letters urge the members of the Congress to vote for the Darfur Accountability Act of 2005.

However you can, please get involved; you can contact the White House; you can contact the Member States of the United Nations and urge them to show leadership in stopping an ongoing Genocide before their eyes.

To reach Members of the Congress, call **202-224-3121**. To reach the White House, call **202-456-1414**. To reach UN Member States, call our office at **973-395-0171** and we will send to you a list of Permanent Missions to the United Nations by Country with their contact info.

The situation in Darfur is still catastrophic and it is only getting worse.

- Two million individuals have been forcibly displaced from their homes because of attacks by their government and its Janjaweed militias.
- Credible sources from experts and humanitarian organizations now estimate that during the past two years close to 400,000 people in Darfur have died from the direct violence against civilians, illness, malnutrition and hunger. United Nations Secretary Kofi Annan refers to what is going on in Darfur as “a hell on earth”.

Write letters to the editor of your local news papers to bring awareness to the situation in Darfur. Call television and radio news departments to ask for more coverage about Darfur.

Darfur Crimes are referred to the International Criminal Court

The United Nations Security Council on March 31, 2005 adopted resolution 1593 to refer the cases of those responsible of murder, destruction of villages, rape and pillage in Darfur to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The resolution, drafted by France, passed by a vote of 11 to 0, with the United States, Algeria, Brazil and China abstaining. There was broad agreement that those accused of atrocities in Darfur should be prosecuted. Even the United States who has objections to the ICC did not object to this simple reasoning. U.S. Ambassador Anne Patterson said, "By adopting this resolution, the international community has established an accountability mechanism for the perpetrators of crimes and atrocities in Darfur..."

Secretary-General Kofi Annan congratulated the council members for overcoming their differences to allow the council to act to ensure that those responsible for atrocities in Darfur are held to account, and "for using its authority under the Rome Statute to provide an appropriate mechanism to lift the veil of impunity that has allowed human rights crimes in Darfur to continue unchecked."

The Rome Statute, was adopted July 17, 1998, by 120 States. This treaty established the International Criminal Court (ICC), which entered into force on July 1, 2002. The ICC is established to promote the rule of law and to prosecute individual perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. .

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan handed the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court the names of 51 suspects including senior Sudanese government officials who are responsible for tens of thousands of killings in Darfur since July 2002.

The United Nations Security Council composed of 15 members. The 11 votes in favor of resolution 1593 came from Argentina, Benin, Britain, Denmark, France, Greece, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russia, and Tanzania. The 4 abstentions came from Algeria, Brazil, China, and the United States.

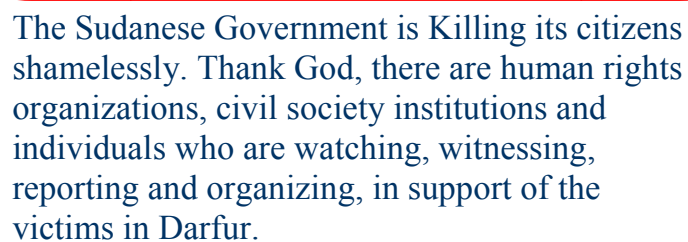
Sudanese Government rejected resolution 1593 (as always did with other UN Resolutions) and start mobilizing Sudanese public to demonstrate against American interference into Sudanese affairs. It's pitiful that Sudanese diplomats did not inform the public that in fact the United States did not even vote for this resolution. The Government in Sudan claimed that it's not a state party to the ICC, therefore would not comply with resolution 1593. Sudan has signed the Rome Statute but has not ratified it, however, the UN Security Council has the authority under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to refer the case of Darfur to the ICC for prosecution. Sudan joining the UN in November, 1956 agreed to respect and uphold the UN Charter which gives the Security Council such authority. The Government in Sudan has no alternative but to hand over its criminals to the ICC for prosecution.

We in the Darfur Rehabilitation Project believe that the international community has made a great move in bringing justice to the victims of the Darfur crimes by adopting resolution 1593; however bringing 51 individuals to account for their criminal activities dose not resolve the Darfur situation. The genocide will continue as long as weapons are in the hands of government criminals. What really need to be done now are more international forces composed of African Union and UN forces to protect civilians. For the Darfur Genocide to end it's absolutely essential that the

The most pressing issue at this time in Darfur is the protection of lives, prevention of rape and burning of villages. The most effective way to achieve this goal is to increase the size of African Union forces and give them a mandate to protect civilians; immediate disarming of the Janjaweed and enforcement of the no-fly zone over Darfur.

The Board of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project

Janjaweed criminals be disarmed and government warplanes be stopped from bombing villages. Despite all UN resolutions, Darfur is still burning. The U.N. must act decisively in Darfur. Let's get involved and let policy makers know that the recent history of Rwandan Genocide cannot repeat itself in Darfur.



The Sudanese Government is Killing its citizens shamelessly. Thank God, there are human rights organizations, civil society institutions and individuals who are watching, witnessing, reporting and organizing, in support of the victims in Darfur.

DRP Warmly Welcomes its New Board Member

Mohamed-EIMukhtar Abdallla Hassan

Board of Directors

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Osman A. Jami

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Mukhtar Abdallla

Co-Editors

Robert Manley

Barcai M. Abdel-karim

Assistant Editor

Ashley Gross

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Mohamed-EIMukhtar Abdallla Hassan, born in Um Kadadda, eastern Darfur, Sudan. Earned his BS in Electronic & Electrical Engineering from Menoufia University, Egypt in 1981. Worked as telecommunication engineer in Sudan's Telecommunication Corporation from 1981 to 1983. Served in the Sudanese Airforce as Avionic Engineer from 1983 to 1991. When the government of Omer Elbashir came in Power in 1989, many Sudanese civil servants were forced to quit their jobs, Mr. Mukhtar forced out from his position in 1991, he then went into the private sector working as an electronic engineer in the Darfur region. In 1998 Mukhtar came to the US and worked for Corvis Corporation in Maryland also as a business owner

from 2000 to 2002. Mukhtar is a darfur activist who established the Association of Darfurian People in Washington DC, Metropolitan area. Before joining the Board of Directors of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Mukhtar was an active supporter of DRP's work throughout the Darfur Tragedy.



The Board of Directors of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project is looking forward to working together with all coalitions, institutions and individuals who want to do something about the ongoing atrocities in Darfur

Please contact us to coordinate our effort towards this noble case. Use the contact info on page one of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Long Walk for Darfur - raising awareness through endurance in a trek from one end of Long Island to the other, at 7:30 am on Saturday, 28 May 2005, contact Tim Cavaretta at:

LongWalkForDarfur@gmail.com

100 Days of Action campaign, April 6, 2005 to July 16, 2005, for more info email: <info@genocideinterventionfund.org>

Read recent publications on Darfur:

Famine That Kills: Darfur, Sudan, by Alex De Waal and Alexander De Waal

Oxford Studies in African Affairs, Oxford University Press; Revised edition, December 24, 2004

Darfur Rehabilitation Project

raising awareness and educating the public

The DRP maintaining its mission of raising awareness about the Darfur Tragedy has conducted several activities throughout March and April. Board members, volunteers, and interns traveled to Washington DC, Pennsylvania,



New York, and New Jersey organized and participated in various rallies and speaking forums. DRP also heading a campaign of educating Islamic Communities across the United States about the situation in Darfur.

DRP members participated in a Darfur Rally in front of the Embassy of Sudan in Washington DC April 6, 2005.



Barcai M. Abdel-Karim Co- editor of the 'Darfur Awareness' newsletter, speaking to the Muslim Community in Long Island at the Islamic Center of Long Island about the crisis in Darfur, March 12, 2005.
