
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4024

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representative Moeller

Prefiled 12/21/2005. Read first time . Referred to .

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Since early 2003, a conflict between forces of the
9 Government of the Republic of Sudan, including militia forces backed by
10 the Government, and rebel forces in the impoverished Darfur region of
11 western Sudan has resulted in attacks by ground and air forces of the
12 Government of Sudan against innocent civilians and undefended villages
13 in the region; and

14 WHEREAS, The militia forces backed by the Government of Sudan have
15 also engaged in the use of rape as a weapon of war, the abduction of
16 children, the destruction of food and water sources, and the deliberate
17 and systematic manipulation and denial of humanitarian assistance for
18 the people of the Darfur region; and

19 WHEREAS, On December 18, 2003, United Nations Undersecretary
20 General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland declared that the Darfur

1 region was probably "the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe," and
2 in April 2004 reported to the United Nations Security Council that in
3 Darfur, "a sequence of deliberate actions has been observed that seem
4 aimed at achieving a specific objective: The forcible and long-term
5 displacement of the targeted communities which may also be termed
6 'ethnic cleansing'; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 17, 2004, Amnesty International reported that
8 it "continues to receive details of horrifying attacks against
9 civilians in villages by government warplanes, soldiers, and
10 progovernment militia"; and

11 WHEREAS, Doctors Without Borders, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning
12 medical humanitarian relief organization and one of the few aid groups
13 on the ground in the Darfur region, reported that the region is the
14 scene of "catastrophic mortality rates"; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The Government of Sudan continues to deny humanitarian
21 assistance for the people of the Darfur region by denying them
22 unrestricted access to humanitarian aid organizations, resulting in the
23 lowest rate of humanitarian access in twenty-one months; and

24 WHEREAS, Nearly three million people affected by the conflict in
25 the Darfur region have remained beyond the reach of aid agencies trying
26 to provide essential humanitarian assistance, and United Nations aid
27 agencies estimate that more than two million people have been displaced
28 within Sudan; and

29 WHEREAS, During the first week of December, the seventh Sudanese
30 peace talk has failed; and

31 WHEREAS, On December 8, Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced that
32 the situation in Darfur was worsening because all parties were not
33 respecting their cease-fire agreement; and

34 WHEREAS, There has been an increase in the number of harassments,
35 threats, and ambushes on humanitarian workers; and

36 WHEREAS, The United Nations Security Council has initiated an
37 investigation to determine if human rights abuses have been committed
38 in the Darfur region;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
2 President of the United States use all political and economic means
3 necessary to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis and stop the
4 deaths of thousands of innocent people every day, including:

5 (1) Calling on the Government of Sudan to grant full,
6 unconditional, and immediate access to Darfur to humanitarian aid
7 organizations, the human rights investigation and humanitarian teams of
8 the United Nations, and an international monitoring team in compliance
9 with the temporary cease-fire agreement that is based in Darfur and has
10 the support of the United States and the European Union;

11 (2) Encouraging the Administrator of the United States Agency for
12 International Development to work with donors to develop a plan to
13 preposition and deliver humanitarian assistance to Darfur, including a
14 plan for delivery of food by air if necessary;

15 (3) Directing the Secretary of State to develop a plan for further
16 bilateral and multilateral action in the event the Government of Sudan
17 fails to immediately undertake the actions called for in subsection (1)
18 of this Memorial, including a plan to seek a Security Council
19 resolution addressing the Darfur situation;

20 (4) Directing the United States Representative to the United
21 Nations to:

22 (a) Seek an official investigation by the United Nations to
23 determine if crimes against humanity have been committed by the
24 Government of Sudan in the Darfur region;

25 (b) Work with the international community to ensure that the
26 individuals responsible for crimes against humanity in Darfur are
27 accountable for their actions; and

28 (c) Provide an effective system to ensure that witnesses and
29 victims are protected during the process of fact-finding and evidence
30 gathering in the investigation of human rights abuses.

31 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
32 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
33 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
34 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
35 Washington.

--- END ---