

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

WHEREAS, during the past five years in Darfur, thousands of innocent victims have been murdered, tortured, and raped, with more than two million people driven from their homes; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2008, the Sudanese armed forces attacked a clearly marked United Nations - African Union Mission (UNAMID) peacekeeping convoy in Darfur; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2008, reports indicate that the Sudanese regime actively and substantively supported Chadian rebels in their nearly-successful attempt to overthrow the sovereign Chadian government in N'Djamena; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2008, the Sudanese regime renewed its military and proxy-militia attacks on Darfuri civilians, killing at least 15 and displacing more than 12,000 in several towns in west Darfur; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Sudan has marginalized the people of Darfur as well as Sudanese in other regions of that country, necessitating a comprehensive approach to the peace process; and

WHEREAS, some but not all of the parties to the conflict in Darfur have participated in the first round of a UN-African Union peace process launched in October 2007 in Sirte, Libya; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) reached between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Southern Sudan and brokered by the intensive diplomatic efforts of Senator John Danforth in January 2005 has not been fully or evenly implemented; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Sudan has continued to stand in the way of the deployment of a joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force to Darfur that would include non-African elements; and

WHEREAS, elements of armed rebel movements in Darfur, including the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), have made violent threats against the deploying peacekeeping force; and

WHEREAS, while these and other issues remain pending, it is the people of Darfur including those living in refugee camps who suffer the continuing consequences; and

WHEREAS, there are Sudanese who are U.S. citizens and presently reside in the state of Missouri who have been witness to the ongoing struggles that have taken place in their native country; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the St. Louis Save Darfur Coalition is to mobilize and educate a broad group of religious, human rights, campus and civic organizations in the St. Louis region on the genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan and to stimulate advocacy efforts on behalf of the people of Darfur;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby calls upon the President of the United States to work closely with the European Union, China, Russia, and the Arab League to urge the Government of Sudan to allow the immediate and unfettered deployment of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force, including any and all non-African peacekeepers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to urge all invited individuals and movements to attend the next round of peace negotiations and not set preconditions for such participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to urge the diverse rebel movements to set aside their differences and work together in order to better represent the people of Darfur and end their continued suffering; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to encourage the participation of traditional Arab and African leaders from Darfur, women's groups, local NGOs, and leaders from internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in future talks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to condemn any action by any party – government or rebel – that undermines or delays the peace process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to urge the government of Sudan and non-signatories alike to declare and respect an immediate

cessation of hostilities, cease distributing arms to internally displaced persons and across the border into Chad, and enable humanitarian organizations to have full unfettered access to populations in need; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to urge all parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between North and South Sudan to support and respect all terms of the agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls upon the Missouri congressional delegation to support all legislation that would assist in bringing peace to Sudan and humanitarian aid to those suffering because of the conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the President Pro Tem of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each member of the Missouri congressional delegation.

Resolution

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