

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 137

Calling for the suspension of Sudan's membership on the United Nations
Commission on Human Rights.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling for the suspension of Sudan's membership on the
United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Whereas, in Darfur, Sudan, more than 30,000 innocent civilians have been murdered, more than 400 villages have been destroyed, more than 130,000 men, women, and children have been forced from their villages into neighboring countries, and more than 1,000,000 people have been internally displaced;

Whereas the United States Government has been, and remains as of September 2004, the largest contributor of assistance to the people of Darfur, having provided over \$200,000,000 in assistance, which constitutes more than 70 percent of the total assistance provided to that region;

Whereas the United States has pledged \$299,000,000 in humanitarian aid to Darfur through fiscal year 2005, as well as \$11,800,000 in support of the African Union mission in that region, and is likely to provide support in excess of those pledges;

Whereas United States citizens and private organizations, as well as the United States Government, have admirably worked, at great risk and through great effort, to ease suffering in Darfur, Sudan, and in eastern Chad;

Whereas, based on credible reports, Congress determined in late July 2004 that acts of genocide were occurring in Darfur, Sudan, and that the Government of Sudan bears direct responsibility for many of those acts of genocide;

Whereas, expressing its grave concern at the ongoing humanitarian crisis and widespread human rights violations in Darfur, including continued attacks on civilians that place thousands of lives at risk, the United Nations Security Council on July 30, 2004, unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution 1556, which called upon the Government of Sudan to fulfill immediately its obligations to facilitate humanitarian relief efforts, to take steps to disarm immediately the Janjaweed militias responsible for attacks on civilians and bring the perpetrators of such attacks to justice, and to cooperate with independent United Nations-sponsored investigations of human rights violations;

Whereas the Government of Sudan has failed to take credible steps to comply with the demands of the international community as expressed through the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas, according to press reports, reports from nongovernmental organizations, first-hand accounts from refugees, and other sources, the Janjaweed attacks on the civilians of Darfur continue unabated as of September 2004;

Whereas there are credible reports from some of these same sources that the Government of Sudan is providing assistance to the Janjaweed militias and, in some cases, that Government of Sudan forces have participated directly in attacks on civilians;

Whereas the United States Government, after conducting more than 1,000 interviews with survivors and refugees, has determined that genocide has occurred in Darfur, that it may still be occurring, and that both the Janjaweed and the Government of Sudan bear responsibility for these acts;

Whereas the Secretary of State has determined that the attacks by the Government of Sudan and the Janjaweed on the non-Arab people of Darfur and their villages are based on race, not religion;

Whereas the United States has recently introduced a new resolution in the United Nations Security Council that calls for the Government of Sudan to cooperate fully with an expanded African Union force and for a cessation of Sudanese military flights over Darfur;

Whereas the introduced resolution also provides for international overflights of the Darfur region to monitor the situation on the ground and requires the United Nations Security Council to review the record of compliance of the Government of Sudan to determine whether the United Nations should impose sanctions on Sudan, including sanctions affecting the petroleum sector in that country;

Whereas the resolution also urges the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to conclude negotiations on a comprehensive peace accord and, most important, calls for a United Nations investigation into all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law that have occurred in Darfur in order to ensure accountability;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council, in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1556, emphasized that the Government of Sudan bears primary responsibility for respecting human rights and protecting the people of Sudan;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1556 calls upon the Government of Sudan to cooperate with the United Nations;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Commission, established in 1946 and given the responsibility of drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is responsible for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, or national or social origin, property, birth, or other status, that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, that no one shall be held in slavery or servitude, and that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;

Whereas the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, done at Paris on December 9, 1948 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the “Genocide Convention”), delineates the criteria that constitute genocide and requires parties to prevent and punish genocide;

Whereas Sudan is a state party to the Genocide Convention and remains a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

Whereas the Secretary of State determined that, according to United States law, the Government of Sudan is a state sponsor of terrorism and has been since 1993 and therefore remains ineligible for U.S. foreign assistance;

Whereas, due to the human rights situation in Darfur, it would be consistent with United States obligations under the Genocide Convention for the Secretary of State and the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to seek the immediate suspension of Sudan from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and, in the event a formal investigation results in a determination by the United Nations that genocide has occurred in Darfur, the ultimate removal of Sudan from such Commission; and

Whereas it is a mockery of human rights as a universal principle, a challenge to the United Nations as an institution, and an affront to all responsible countries that embrace and promote human rights that a government under investigation by the United Nations for committing genocide against, and violating the human rights of, its own citizens sits in judgment of others as a member in good standing of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes and approves of the findings of
4 the Secretary of State that genocide has occurred
5 and may still be occurring in Darfur, Sudan, and
6 that the Government of Sudan bears responsibility
7 for such acts;

8 (2) supports the Secretary of State's call for a
9 full and unfettered investigation by the United Na-
10 tions into all violations of international humani-
11 tarian law and human rights law that have occurred
12 in Darfur, with a view to ensuring accountability;

13 (3) supports the resolution introduced by the
14 United States Government in the United Nations
15 Security Council on September 9, 2004, with regard
16 to the situation in Darfur;

17 (4) calls upon the Secretary of State and the
18 United States Permanent Representative to the
19 United Nations to take immediate steps to pursue
20 the establishment of a formal United Nations inves-
21 tigation, under Article VIII of the Genocide Conven-
22 tion, to determine whether the actions of the Gov-
23 ernment of Sudan in Darfur constitute acts of geno-
24 cide;

1 (5) calls upon the Secretary of State and the
2 United States Permanent Representative to the
3 United Nations to take immediate steps to pursue
4 the immediate suspension of Sudan from the United
5 Nations Commission on Human Rights;

6 (6) calls upon the Secretary of State and the
7 United States Permanent Representative to the
8 United Nations to take further steps to ensure that
9 the suspension of Sudan from the United Nations
10 Commission on Human Rights remains in effect un-
11 less and until the Government of Sudan meets all of
12 its obligations, as determined by the United Nations
13 Security Council, under United Nations Security
14 Council Resolution 1556 of July 30, 2004, and any
15 subsequent United Nations Security Council resolu-
16 tions regarding this matter;

17 (7) calls upon the Secretary of State and the
18 United States Permanent Representative to the
19 United Nations to take steps to ensure that, in the
20 event that the formal investigation of acts of geno-
21 cide in Sudan results in a determination by the
22 United Nations that genocide has occurred or is oc-
23 curring in Darfur, the United States Government
24 takes appropriate actions to ensure that Sudan is re-

1 moved from the United Nations Commission on
2 Human Rights;

3 (8) calls upon the member states of the United
4 Nations Commission on Human Rights to convene
5 an immediate special session to consider the urgent
6 and acute human rights situation in Sudan for the
7 purpose of considering whether Sudan should be sus-
8 pended from membership in such Commission; and

9 (9) expects the Secretary of State to report to
10 Congress on progress made toward taking the ac-
11 tions and accomplishing the objectives outlined in
12 this resolution not later than 60 days after the date
13 on which Congress agrees to the resolution.

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