



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
1156 15TH STREET, NW SUITE 915 · WASHINGTON, DC 20005 · P (202) 463-2940 · F (202) 463-2953
E-MAIL: WASHINGTONBUREAU@NAACPNET.ORG · WEB ADDRESS WWW.NAACP.ORG

ACTION ALERT

DATE: June 29, 2007
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

NAACP Supports Divestment From Sudan to Advance an End to Genocide in Darfur

*Bills Would Support Divestment By States And Companies
From Corporations That Help Fund Genocide In Darfur*

THE ISSUE:

According to recent estimates, at least 400,000 people have died in Darfur since the genocide began in February of 2003. It is impossible to know what the final number will be, however, as the genocide is still taking place today. What is known is that there are approximately 3.5 million men, women and children in the western Darfur region of Sudan trying to survive the Sudanese government-sponsored campaign of violence and forced starvation. These innocent victims are essentially on life support, their continued existence dependent on U.S. and international humanitarian aid and the presence of African Union peacekeepers. Despite the best efforts of the under-funded and under-manned African Union peacekeeping force, attacks have increased in recent months, leading to tens of thousands of new arrivals at refugee camps in Darfur and across the border in Chad.

To begin to address this problem, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA), working with Congressman Barney Frank (MA) and others have introduced H.R. 180 the ***Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007***. Under this legislation companies, states or persons with direct investments in Sudan would be required to disclose these investment activities to the federal government. This list of companies would then be regularly updated and published in a forum available to the general public. These investments provide financial support to the Government of Sudan, which uses the monies earned to fund military operation. Through identifying the connections between investments in Sudan and the crisis in Darfur, companies and persons will be encouraged to divest from Sudan. Senator Richard Durbin (IL) has introduced similar divestment legislation in the Senate (S. 831).

Divestment is a proven tool in struggles against inhumane governments: Americans' divestment was a major contributor to bringing down the racist apartheid regime in South Africa in the 1980's, when people, municipalities (including the federal government) and corporations pulled billions of dollars out of that country rather than make money off of a government that supported slavery.

[More...](#)

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact both your Senators and your Representative **and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT SUDAN DIVESTMENT LEGISLATION, H.R. 180 AND S. 831.** To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to their offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' and Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on "*Write Your Representative*" (on the left hand side, just under "find your Representative"). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

Unfortunately, not all Members of Congress have e-mail addresses.

THE MESSAGE

- ❖ The United States must use all available means, diplomatic and financial, to ensure that the crisis in Darfur comes to an end.
- ❖ The United States must recognize the role that financial investments play in the crisis in Darfur and must encourage divestment.
- ❖ The scale of the atrocity in Darfur can be compared to any genocide in global history. Every conscionable citizen of any country has an obligation to ensure that it comes to an immediate end.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives / Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515 / 20510

RE: SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT DIVESTMENT FROM SUDAN, H.R. 180 AND S. 831

Dear Representative / Senator _____;

As a member of the NAACP, constituent of your district, and leader in my community, I am very concerned about the genocide in Darfur. Time is running out for the people of Darfur. Four years of genocidal violence has left over 400,000 dead and 2.5 million innocent civilians displaced, and 4 million men, women, and children struggling to survive.

Now there is a way that the U.S. can do more to create pressure to end the genocide. H.R. 180 *the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007* and S. 831, the *Sudan Divestment Authorization Act of 2007* are urgent pieces of legislation that would protect states and investment firms rights to divest from companies that fund the genocide in Darfur; and create an official list of offending companies that are helping to fund the genocide and prohibit contracts with those companies (an important provision that makes sure our tax dollars are not used to benefit companies that are funding the genocide).

I urge you to support this legislation in every way you can. If you have already co-sponsored, please ask your colleagues from your state delegations and related caucuses to join you as co-sponsor, and do what you can to move the committee forward as quickly as possible. If you have not co-sponsored the bill yet, please do so.

And of course I hope you will oppose any efforts to weaken these bills. The people of Darfur cannot afford to wait any longer.

Thank you so much for your attention to this urgent issue. Please contact me in the near future to let me know what you have done on this matter and what you believe I can do to help end the atrocity.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your
Representative and BOTH
your Senators!