



Washington's Response

Congress has taken several actions to oppose the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan. In July 2004 the House of Representatives and the US Senate agreed unanimously in concurrent Resolutions that the atrocities in the region were, indeed, genocide, and called for targeted sanctions against members of the Sudanese Government who are complicit in the genocide.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

- Rep. Israel has cosponsored H.R. 1424, “The Darfur Genocide Accountability Act of 2005”, which is currently pending in the House International Relations Committee. It authorizes the President to: use force to stop the Darfur genocide, including establishment of a no-fly zone and use of unmanned armed planes. It also prohibits any organization engaged in any commercial activity in Sudan from raising capital in the United States, or from trading its securities in any capital market in the United States. Further, it directs the US Secretary of State to prohibit visas for civil and military officials of the Government of Sudan; and militia members and others implicated in the Darfur atrocities; reduce the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C.; and restrict or control the remaining staff’s movement within the United States; and instructs the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) to oppose any UN or other international conference from being held in Sudan. It directs President Bush to block the property and assets of civil and military officials of the Government of Sudan and their family members implicated in the Darfur atrocities, and property and assets controlled by the National Congress Party.
- Rep. Israel has also cosponsored H.Res. 723, also pending in the House International Relations Committee. It calls upon the United Nations Security Council to approve as soon as possible a peacekeeping force for Darfur that is well trained, equipped, and has adequate troop strength. It urges the President to take steps immediately to help improve the security situation in Darfur, by proposing that NATO should implement an interim civilian protection force using ground and air assets under centralized planning, direction, and control, to protect civilians until a United Nations peacekeeping force is fully deployed in Darfur.
- Rep. Israel recently voted for an amendment to the Supplemental Appropriation for the War on Terrorism, to authorize \$50 million for Darfur Peacekeeping. The extra \$50 million will double the size of that Mission.
- Finally, Rep. Israel has cosponsored H.R. 3127, “The Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005.” It authorizes the President to provide assistance to reinforce the deployment and operations of an expanded African Union Mission in Sudan. It also directs the President to block the assets and deny visas and entry to any individual (and family member) responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Sudan. It passed on April 6, 2006.

**Congressman Steve Israel
Town Meeting on Darfur**