

THE NEW JERSEY COALITION RESPONDS TO THE CRISIS IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Mission: To alleviate the persecution and end the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan through education, advocacy and assistance

June 12, 2009

Coalition Members:

American Jewish Committee, NJ Area
Anti-Defamation League, NJ Region
Center for Cultures and Communication,
Bloomfield College
Darfur Rehabilitation Project, Inc.
Drew University Center for Holocaust/
Genocide Study
Essex County Coalition for Darfur
Essex County Latino CBOs Collaboration
FOCUS Hispanic Center for Community
Development, Inc.
Help Darfur Now, Inc.
Human Rights Institute at Kean University
Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the
Modern Experience, Rutgers University,
Newark Campus
International Public Policy Institute
Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey
Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest
NAACP, Newark Branch
New Jersey Amistad Commission
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust
Education
New Jersey Council of Churches
Newark—North Jersey Committee
for Black Clergy
North Jersey Coalition for Darfur
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark,
Commission for Interreligious Affairs
Summit Darfur Genocide Rescue
Committee
United Jewish Communities of MetroWest,
Community Relations Committee

Dear NJ Darfur Advocate,

We urge you to write Senator Menendez, Congressman Payne, Congressman Sires, and Congressman Smith and ask them to ensure that the Foreign Relations/Affairs Committees hold hearings on President Obama's U.S. plan for Sudan.

Over the past six years, New Jersey has played a lead in moving Darfur advocacy forward. We have advocated successfully for peace keepers, humanitarian aid, divestment, and more. We must now call on the Obama administration to unveil its plan for peace in Sudan?

Aid has yet to be fully restored to Darfur, incidents of violence and rape continue, and peace remains elusive. President Obama's Sudan team has spent months working on a plan for peace—but they have yet to roll it out publicly.

Please call on NJ Senators and Congressman and ask them to urge President Obama about his plan for Darfur publicly and to hold hearings on it. The Obama administration must tell the world how it plans to help ensure that civilians are protected, that the perpetrators of crimes against humanity are held accountable for their actions, and that a fair and inclusive peace can take root.

By pushing President Obama to personally announce his administration's plan for Sudan by the end of June, we can help make Sudan a top foreign policy priority for this administration and make sure that the plan is fully explained and understood in the U.S. and abroad.

The Obama administration has appointed a Sudan envoy and taken many steps in the right direction, but bloodshed and intimidation remain the norm in Darfur. Millions languish in refugee camps, and, as the situation grows more combustible.

Attached is a sample letter for you to cut and past to the following emails:

- Senator Robert Menendez— Robert_Menendez@Menendez.Senate.Gov
- Congressman Donald Payne—Donald.Payne@mail.house.gov
- Congressman Albio Sires—www.house.gov/Sires
- Congressman Chris Smith—Chris.Smith@mail.house.gov

Thank you for taking action.

Joyce Reilly
Co-conveners

Janet Nelson



Photo courtesy of DRP

The Honorable
United States Senate/House of Representatives
Washington DC, 20510/20515

Dear Senator/Congressman _____:

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee/House Foreign Affairs Committee, please urge President Obama to personally unveil the U.S. Plan for Sudan. Then please help to ensure that a committee hearing is held in June on Sudan on the details of the plan.

Thanks to your leadership, New Jersey citizens are organized and concerned about ending genocide in Darfur and ensuring peace and reconciliation for its people. Over the past years we have advocated for divestment from Sudan, money and access for UNAMID, an arrest warrant for President Bashir, and a full-time U.S. Envoy to Sudan. For the most part we have received each of these requests but to no avail, as none of them have been fully implemented or led to peace.

During President Obama's election he pledged an unstinting resolve to end the genocide in Darfur. We need to ensure that the U.S. lives up to this promise.

Sudan's President Bashir doesn't think there are consequences for not committing to peace - and so he's growing bolder by the day. The Obama administration must announce its plan to make it clear that Sudan will be held accountable for the genocide in Darfur.

Urge President Obama to personally unveil his Sudan policy and then hold a committee hearing in June and make US Sudan Envoy Gen. Scott Gration face hard questions about the Obama administration's plans to get tough with Khartoum.

Sincerely,