

By Senator Joyner

18-1423-07

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Senate Resolution

A resolution condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its participation and complicity in the attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan.

WHEREAS, since early 2003, a conflict between forces of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan, including militia forces backed by the Government, and rebel forces in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan has resulted in attacks by ground and air forces of the Government of Sudan against innocent civilians and undefended villages in the region, and

WHEREAS, the militia forces backed by the Government of Sudan have also engaged in the use of rape as a weapon of war, the abduction of children, the destruction of food and water sources, and the deliberate and systematic manipulation and denial of humanitarian assistance for the people of the Darfur region, and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2003, United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland declared that the Darfur region was probably "the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe," and in April 2004 reported to the United Nations Security Council that in Darfur, "a sequence of deliberate actions has been observed that seem aimed at achieving a specific objective: the forcible and long-term displacement of the targeted communities which may also be termed 'ethnic cleansing'," and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2004, Amnesty International reported that it "continues to receive details of horrifying

1 attacks against civilians in villages by government warplanes,  
2 soldiers, and pro-government militia," and

3 WHEREAS, on April 20, 2004, the United Nations Office  
4 of the High Commissioner for Human Rights delayed the release  
5 of a report citing gross human rights abuses, crimes against  
6 humanity, and war crimes committed in Darfur in a bid to gain  
7 access to Sudan for investigators, and

8 WHEREAS, the Government of Sudan continues to deny  
9 humanitarian assistance for the people of the Darfur region by  
10 denying them unrestricted access to humanitarian aid  
11 organizations, and

12 WHEREAS, attacks on civilians in Darfur continue  
13 despite an April 8, 2004, temporary cease-fire agreement, and

14 WHEREAS, nearly 3 million people affected by the  
15 conflict in the Darfur region have remained beyond the reach  
16 of aid agencies attempting to provide essential humanitarian  
17 assistance, and United Nations aid agencies estimate that they  
18 have been able to reach only 15 percent of people in need and  
19 that more than 700,000 people have been displaced within  
20 Sudan, and

21 WHEREAS, on September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin  
22 Powell said that genocide has taken place in Sudan, and that  
23 the Government and Government-sponsored militia groups bear  
24 the responsibility for rapes, killings, and other abuses that  
25 have left 1.2 million Black Africans homeless, NOW, THEREFORE,

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27 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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29 That this body strongly condemns the Government of the  
30 Republic of the Sudan and militia groups supported by the  
31 Government of Sudan for attacks against innocent civilians in

1 | the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan, in violation  
2 | of Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, done at Geneva August  
3 | 12, 1949, and entered into force October 21, 1950, which  
4 | specifically prohibit attacks on civilians, and demands that  
5 | the Government of Sudan immediately take actions to cease  
6 | these attacks.

7 |           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution,  
8 | with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be transmitted to the  
9 | Embassy of the Republic of Sudan and each member of the  
10 | Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

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