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1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress, with the support of the President, to engage the
4 international community to take action in the effort to
5 bring a just and lasting peace to the people of Darfur.

6
7 WHEREAS, United Nations officials have described the
8 ongoing crisis in Darfur as "the world's worst humanitarian
9 crisis," and

10 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of people have died and more
11 than 2.5 million have been displaced in Darfur since 2003, and

12 WHEREAS, the Government of Sudan has failed in its
13 responsibility to protect the many peoples of Darfur, and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Congress declared on July 22,
15 2004, that the atrocities in Darfur constituted genocide, and

16 WHEREAS, on September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin
17 Powell and President George W. Bush described the crisis in
18 Darfur as genocide, and

19 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2005, President Bush confirmed that
20 "the violence in the Darfur region is clearly genocide and the
21 human cost is beyond calculation," and

22 WHEREAS, on May 8, 2006, President Bush stated, "we will
23 call genocide by its rightful name, and we will stand up for the
24 innocent until the peace of Darfur is secured," and

25 WHEREAS, on May 5, 2006, the Government of Sudan and the
26 largest rebel faction in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement,
27 led by Minni Minnawi, signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA),
28 and

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29 WHEREAS, violence in Darfur escalated in the months
30 following the signing of the DPA, with increased attacks against
31 civilians and humanitarian workers, and

32 WHEREAS, violence has spread to the neighboring states of
33 Chad and the Central African Republic, threatening regional
34 peace and security, and

35 WHEREAS, in July 2006, more humanitarian aid workers were
36 killed than in the previous 3 years combined, and

37 WHEREAS, violence has forced some humanitarian
38 organizations to suspend operations, leaving 40 percent of the
39 population of Darfur inaccessible to aid workers, and

40 WHEREAS, on August 30, 2006, the United Nations Security
41 Council passed Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006),
42 asserting that the existing United Nations Mission in Sudan
43 (UNMIS) "shall take over from the African Union Mission in Sudan
44 (AMIS) responsibility for supporting the implementation of the
45 Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) upon the expiration of AMIS's
46 mandate but in any event no later than 31 December 2006," and
47 that UNMIS "shall be strengthened by up to 17,300 military
48 personnel...up to 3,300 civilian police personnel and up to 16
49 Formed Police Units," which "shall begin to be deployed no later
50 than 1 October 2006," and

51 WHEREAS, on September 19, 2006, President Bush announced
52 the appointment of Andrew Nastios as Presidential Special Envoy
53 to lead United States efforts to bring peace to the Darfur
54 region in Sudan, and

55 WHEREAS, on November 16, 2006, high-level consultations led
56 by Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, and

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57 Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,
58 and including representatives of the Arab League, the European
59 Union, the Government of Sudan, and other national governments,
60 produced the "Addis Ababa Agreement," and

61 WHEREAS, the Agreement stated that the DPA must be made
62 more inclusive, and "called upon all parties - Government and
63 DPA nonsignatories - to immediately commit to a cessation of
64 hostilities in Darfur in order to give the peace process the
65 best chances for success," and

66 WHEREAS, the Agreement included a plan to establish a
67 United Nations-African Union peacekeeping operation that would
68 consist of no fewer than 17,000 military troops and 3,000
69 civilian police, and would have a primarily African character,
70 and

71 WHEREAS, the Agreement stated that the peacekeeping
72 operation must be logistically and financially sustainable, with
73 support coming from the United Nations, and

74 WHEREAS, it is imperative that a peacekeeping force in
75 Darfur have sufficient strength and the mandate to provide
76 adequate security to the people of Darfur, and

77 WHEREAS, on January 10, 2007, New Mexico Governor Bill
78 Richardson met with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir;
79 their meeting resulted in the issuance of a Joint Statement
80 calling for "a 60-day cessation of hostilities by all parties
81 within the framework of the Darfur Peace Agreement," and

82 WHEREAS, the Joint Statement called for the initiation of
83 African Union/United Nations diplomatic efforts within the
84 framework of the DPA, and for two projected meetings - a

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85 Government of Sudan-sponsored field commanders' conference to be
86 attended by representatives of the African Union and the United
87 Nations, and a subsequent African Union/United Nations-sponsored
88 peace summit, again within the framework of the DPA, to be held
89 no later than March 15, 2007, and

90 WHEREAS, the Joint Statement stated the need to disarm all
91 armed groups, including the Janjaweed, pursuant to the provision
92 of the DPA, NOW, THEREFORE,

93

94 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

95

96 That the Florida Legislature:

97 (1) Supports, given the rapidly deteriorating situation on
98 the ground in Darfur, the principles of the Addis Ababa
99 Agreement of November 17, 2006, in order to increase security
100 and stability for the people of Darfur.

101 (2) Declares that the deployment of an African Union-
102 United Nations peacekeeping force under the command and control
103 of the United Nations, as laid out in the Addis Ababa Agreement,
104 is the minimum acceptable effort on the part of the
105 international community to protect the people of Darfur.

106 (3) Supports the strengthening of the African Union
107 peacekeeping mission in Sudan so that it may improve its
108 performance with regard to civilian protection as the African
109 Union peacekeeping mission begins to transfer responsibility for
110 protecting the people of Darfur to the United Nations-African
111 Union peacekeeping force under the command and control of the
112 United Nations, as laid out in the Addis Ababa Agreement.

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- 113 (4) Calls upon the Government of Sudan to immediately:
 114 (a) Allow the implementation of the United Nations light
 115 and heavy support packages as provided for in the Addis Ababa
 116 Agreement; and
 117 (b) Work with the United Nations and the international
 118 community to deploy United Nations peacekeepers to Darfur in
 119 keeping with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1706
 120 passed on August 31, 2006.
- 121 (5) Calls upon all parties to the conflict to immediately:
 122 (a) Adhere to the Joint Statement issued by Governor Bill
 123 Richardson and President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir on January 10,
 124 2007;
 125 (b) Observe the cease-fire contained therein; and
 126 (c) Respect the impartiality and neutrality of
 127 humanitarian agencies so that relief workers can have unfettered
 128 access to their beneficiary populations and deliver desperately
 129 needed assistance.
- 130 (6) Urges the President to:
 131 (a) Continue work with other members of the international
 132 community, including the permanent members of the United Nations
 133 Security Council, the African Union, the European Union, the
 134 Arab League, Sudan's trading partners, and the Government of
 135 Sudan to facilitate the implementation of the Addis Ababa
 136 Agreement and the subsequent Richardson-Bashir Joint Statement;
 137 (b) Ensure the ability of any peacekeeping force deployed
 138 to Darfur to carry out its mandate by providing adequate funding
 139 and by working with our international partners to provide

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140 technical assistance, logistical support and intelligence-
141 gathering capabilities, and military assets;

142 (c) Vigorously pursue, in cooperation with other members
143 of the international community, strong punitive action against
144 those persons responsible for crimes against humanity as
145 previously authorized in the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act
146 of 2006 (Public Law 109-344), United Nations Security Council
147 Resolution 1591 (2005), and the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act
148 of 2004 (Public Law 108-497, 118 Stat. 4012); and

149 (d) Make all necessary efforts to address the widespread
150 incidents of gender-based violence in Darfur, including working
151 with the Government of Sudan to help institute a zero-tolerance
152 policy for gender-based violence as agreed to in the Richardson-
153 Bashir Joint Statement.

154 (7) Calls upon the Speaker of the United States House of
155 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States
156 Senate, and the Florida delegation to the United States Congress
157 to:

158 (a) Provide all necessary funding and support for United
159 Nations and African Union peacekeeping operations in Darfur;

160 (b) Provide all necessary funding and support for
161 humanitarian aid in Darfur and affected areas of Chad and the
162 Central African Republic;

163 (c) Conduct sufficient oversight of actions by the United
164 States administration to ensure that no opportunities for
165 furthering the peace are missed; and

166 (d) Continue to monitor the conflict and political
167 processes and, if necessary, examine imposing additional

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168 | punitive sanctions against the Government of Sudan, officials
169 | within the Government of Sudan, rebel leaders, and any other
170 | individual or group obstructing the ongoing peace process or in
171 | violation of agreed-upon cease-fires and the Darfur Peace
172 | Agreement.

173 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Legislature urges
174 | Congress to do all in its power to further the goals expressed
175 | in this memorial in order to bring lasting peace to the people
176 | of Darfur.

177 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
178 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
179 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
180 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
181 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.