

By: Shapleigh, et al.

S.R. No. 181

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In February, 2003, after decades of tension over scarce natural resources in the Darfur province of western Sudan, African Muslims rose up against the Arab Muslim government in the capital city of Khartoum; in response to the uprising, the government armed local militias, known as "Janjaweed," to campaign primarily against three ethnic groups: the Fur, Massalit, and Zaghawa; and

WHEREAS, For nearly three years, the government-funded Janjaweed militias have systematically terrorized the African residents of Darfur--destroying villages, ransacking food supplies, blocking international assistance, and killing, maiming, and raping villagers; the scope of the crisis is staggering, with an estimated 400,000 innocent civilians brutally murdered, more than 200,000 forced from their homes and fleeing to neighboring Chad, and more than 1,600,000 displaced within Sudan itself; and

WHEREAS, Human rights organizations and governmental representatives from around the world have pronounced the situation in Darfur as nothing less than genocide; in fact, in July, 2004, the United States Congress passed resolutions declaring genocide in Sudan, and in January, 2005, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry decried the indiscriminate attacks, including killing of civilians, torture, enforced

disappearances, destruction of villages, rape and other forms of sexual violence, pillaging, and forced displacement perpetrated by government forces and militias against the Fur, Zaghawa, Massalit, Jebel, Aranga, and other African tribes; moreover, in June, 2004, the Group of Eight issued a statement lamenting the obstruction of humanitarian access and reported gross violations of human rights, many with an ethnic dimension; and

WHEREAS, The United States has long been a beacon of hope for vulnerable and disenfranchised people around the world; as citizens of conscience of this great land, we bear both the responsibility and honor to raise our voices against injustice in behalf of those unable to speak for themselves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby express its support for the immediate intervention by the United States and the United Nations, as leaders of the international community, to stop the genocide in Darfur and to ensure that humanitarian relief reaches all those in need.

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 15, 2006.

---

Secretary of the Senate