



A Time to Act

Moving Beyond Words to Protect Darfur Now!

Daily reports reveal that the security situation in Darfur is rapidly deteriorating as the Sudanese government escalates their bombing campaign and begins to unleash over 20,000 soldiers and militias in a new offensive. **The whole world is watching** as the United Nations (UN) predicts a man-made catastrophe. **The world must act now** to stop this genocide before it is too late for the people of Darfur.

Africa Action presents the following plan for 90 days of action in our Campaign to Stop Genocide in Darfur. Africa Action has long articulated the need for the deployment of a UN Peacekeeping Operation (UNPKO) in Darfur to stop the violence and protect the people. This protection force was authorized by the UN Security Council in Resolution 1706, which passed at the end of August. Despite a broad global consensus around the need for a UNPKO in Darfur, the Sudanese government refuses to consent. The United States has the most leverage to overcome Sudan's objections to a UN force, and to engage Sudanese allies to internationalize pressure for peacekeepers. Recently, the Bush Administration appointed Andrew Natsios as a special envoy and engaged in initial conversations with key countries. But the U.S., in partnership with the international community, is failing to implement the resolution and deploy UN peacekeepers to Darfur. Acknowledging that **where there is a will, there is a way**, Africa Action plans to combine new policy analysis and media engagement with strategic mobilizing efforts to **build the political will to push the U.S. to finish what it has started** and achieve a protection force for Darfur.



In recent weeks, the UN has been accused of allowing Sudan to veto the international responsibility to protect, but Africa Action will focus in the next 90 days on reminding the world that any failure on the part of the UN is foremost a failure on the part of the U.S. and the other member states. In light of this reality, Africa Action will redouble its efforts to pressure the key decision-makers in the Bush Administration to **demonstrate responsible international partnership** to stop the first genocide of the 21st century.

90 Days of Action and Analysis

There are 90 days between October 2nd and the expiration of the African Union mandate in Darfur on December 31st. A peacekeeping force must begin to deploy now to ensure that there is not a security gap in Darfur. Once the peacekeepers have deployed, Africa Action will continue to monitor their success at stopping the violence, protecting the people, securing safe passage of humanitarian aid, and creating a climate of security that is conducive to lasting peace.

Join us as we plan to:

- **Release an Africa Action Statement** in support of African voices that have spoken out to protect Darfur, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.
- **Escalate Africa Action's "Bird-Dog the Big Dogs" campaign**, targeting Bush, Rice, Bolton, Frazer, Natsios, and the House and Senate leadership, with a special focus on Members of Congress in the campaign season leading up to the November 7th elections. For updates, join our *aa_birddog* group at www.yahogroups.com
- **Release Africa Action's "Questions for Candidates"** that focuses on Darfur and other priority Africa issues. These questions will assist the bird-doggers in their campaigning. In the past, they have been used by the media and in national debates to raise the profile of key African and international issues during the election season.
- **Evaluate Special Envoy Andrew Natsios' Progress** on achieving an international peacekeeping force for Darfur once he has completed 30, 60 and 90 days in office.

- **Circulate a religious leader Sign-on Letter** to President Bush, Special Envoy Natsios and Ambassador Bolton addressing the next steps to break the deadlock on Darfur. The closing date for the letter is November 10th. Religious leaders will be able to sign by writing to mobilize@africaaction.org.
- **Release a new report identifying how the U.S. can internationalize pressure to break the deadlock on Darfur.** This report will analyze how the U.S. can leverage its bilateral relationships with China and other key members of the UN Security Council to galvanize pressure on Khartoum and pave the way for a peacekeeping force to protect the people of Darfur.
- **Launch a National Call-In Day on Darfur on United Nations Day, October 24th.** Africa Action will invite other organizations to join in a nation-wide call-in day to President Bush. There are approximately 1,000 switchboard lines in the White House Calling Center. We aim to keep all lines busy with Darfur calls for one hour.
- **Reveal the face of the United Nations.** Africa Action will create a downloadable poster that depicts the face of the UN, visually exposing the real decision-makers that are inhibiting UN action. Accompanying the poster, Africa Action will create a short fact sheet that dispels the common myths about the make up of UN peacekeeping forces.
- **Craft “Witnessing Darfur”, a delivery of the red handprints.** During the September 9th rally at the White House, participants put their hands in red paint and placed them on a large canvas. Africa Action carried that canvas in the subsequent rally in Central Park during the global Day for Darfur. Africa Action invites individuals and communities across the country to send in papers and cloths with red handprints to the Africa Action office. Communities are encouraged to paint their community name and state on a canvas and have people add their handprints in a common sign of witness. We will deliver these canvases in mid-November to Special Envoy Natsios. Africa Action will also produce downloadable postcards and bumper stickers with the red handprints and encourage activists to propagate these symbols wherever possible.
- **Release a new study on options for international intervention in Darfur.** This study will analyze precedents of various forms of international peacekeeping missions, and will help to identify options for an international intervention to protect civilians in Darfur.
- **Organize “Boots on the Ground” marathons and sprints.** Africa Action will invite communities to engage in a public marathon and/or sprint that symbolizes the long struggle to stop the genocide and the fact that the final quarter of this year is a sprint towards protection. We invite you to help us “Get boots on the ground” by putting on your own boots (or running shoes) and running or walking the marathon or the sprint as a public way to raise awareness and advocate for the deployment of peacekeepers.
- **Promote Interfaith and other religious services.** In December, if we have yet to see the deployment of peacekeepers, Africa Action invites religious communities to dedicate a service in December to Darfur. In the Darfur service, congregations will be invited to describe the ongoing genocide in Darfur and emphasize the importance of peace, a concept that permeates throughout the holiday season. Congregants can be invited to take action for peace in Darfur either as a community or as individuals through Africa Action. Packets with support material for services will be available.
- **Engage activists in electronic advocacy campaigns.** Africa Action will continue to engage activists with timely and effective electronic advocacy alerts. If you are not a member of the list serve, sign up today at www.africaaction.org.
- **Continue our engagement with the media.** Africa Action will continue to engage the media at key moments with press releases and advisories, and will craft new op-eds and commentaries on Darfur in the coming weeks.
- **Direct advocacy.** In addition to our grassroots advocacy, Africa Action will continue to keep intimately informed on the latest political developments and engage decision-makers directly to help influence U.S. policy on Darfur.