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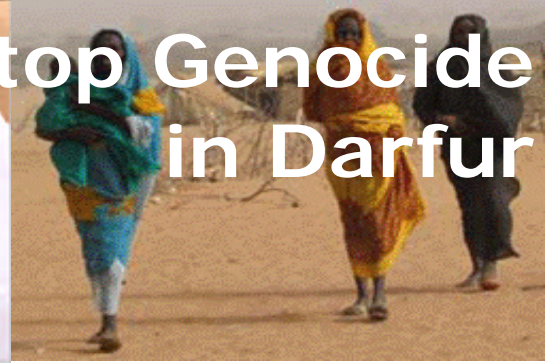


Photo By Refugees International

# How to Stop Genocide in Darfur



Photo by AJWS

## *You Have the Power to Protect*

It is natural to feel helpless when faced with a crisis in the world – especially something as overwhelming as the violence in Darfur, Sudan where more than 400,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million have been forced out of their homes since the government-sponsored genocide began in 2003. Indeed, you may ask, “What would it take to stop genocide, and is there anything that I can do to make a difference?” In the case of Darfur, there are specific steps that can be taken by the international community to stop the genocide. The country best equipped to initiate this action is the United States. As a result, individual Americans have a unique power to protect. As the situation deteriorates in Darfur, we must escalate our pressure on the U.S. government to take the action necessary to stop the genocide.

## *How To Stop Genocide in February*

The need for international intervention in Darfur is clear. In recent months, there has been a spike in violence, and humanitarian organizations face increasing risks to their operations. There is a growing consensus around the need for a robust international protection force in Darfur to stop the violence, provide security to humanitarian efforts, facilitate

peace talks and support the voluntary return of displaced people to their land.

In February, the U.S. will take over the presidency of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, and with this comes a chance to introduce a resolution that can save hundreds of thousands of lives and restore security to western Sudan. As

the situation in Darfur deteriorates, President Bush must not hesitate to use the opportunity of the U.S. presidency of the UN Security Council in February to introduce a resolution authorizing an international intervention with a strong protection mandate in support of the African Union observer mission in Darfur.

## *What We Mean By “Intervention”*

Often people hear “intervention” and think “invasion”. We are not advocating for the U.S. to unilaterally invade Sudan. Rather, the U.S. has the unique opportunity to take leadership in the process of achieving a resolution for the international community to intervene to stop genocide. Genocide is a unique crime against humanity that requires international intervention to stop the vio-

lence. The United Nations is the appropriate international body to take action, as it is an institution with the central purpose of protecting nations and defending humanity itself.

The UN peacekeeping force in Darfur would be made up of troops from around the world and their role would be to protect civilians and humanitarian operations and enforce, not just observe, the ceasefire. The

UN force would not be declaring war on Sudan, nor would this force attempt to seize assets or political power; on the contrary, the purpose of the intervention would be to protect civilians from this crime against humanity. The UN peacekeeping force would remain in place long enough to provide security and support the return of displaced people to their homes, but would not remain in Darfur indefinitely.



Photo by AJWS

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## The African Union Cannot Go It Alone

The African Union (AU) troops on the ground in Darfur are doing a commendable job, but they number only 7000 in a place the size of Texas. Their mandate allows them to observe the systematic rape and pillaging of villages and attacks on camps for internally displaced people, but they do not have a mandate to protect civilians. It is critical that the UN act now in Darfur, as it has worked with African regional bodies in the past to reinforce their efforts in peacekeeping operations where many lives are at stake. Genocide is not an African problem, it is an international problem, and as such, it requires an international response.

## The UN Resolution We Seek

Under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the Security Council may take such action as necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. The members of the UN have previously shown their willingness and capability to invoke Chapter 7 peace enforcement and peace-building instruments in response to conflict in Africa. Precedents in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Burundi show that the UN is a viable source for effective and appropriate international intervention to stop genocide and other crimes against humanity.

There are two steps to achieving an immediate international intervention in Darfur and the U.S. will be uniquely

positioned to seek UN action on these steps in February:

The first step is to build on the force that is already there. The African Union (AU) mission in Darfur must be "re-hatted" with blue helmets as a UN operation, with a strong mandate from the international community to protect civilians. Since the AU troops are already in Darfur, this authorization from the UN would take effect immediately, retaining the AU troops' valuable experience on the ground and saving time pending the deployment of a larger international force. In addition, putting UN blue helmets on the AU would provide them with international authority and backing, which could offer

an important boost to the troops themselves and help increase the confidence of civilians in Darfur in the AU operation.

The second step is to reinforce the African Union mission with a larger UN force. An international intervention force must be deployed to Darfur immediately to build upon the AU and provide protection to the people of Darfur. The deployment of a UN intervention force must follow swiftly upon the "re-hatting" of the African Union. The total force needed in Darfur is at least 20,000 troops, based either on the ratio of peacekeeping troops to population or on

the ratio of peacekeeping troops to hostile forces. These two steps are clear-cut, and they can work. Previous examples of successful cooperation between African regional bodies as "first responders" and the UN as reinforcement show that, with proper planning and coordination, a UN intervention in support of an African mission can act as a deterrent to violence and as a catalyst for peace.



TOM BROWN - STAFF

### TAKE ACTION NOW!

Sign a postcard to the President, write a letter to the editor, participate in a national call-in day or a rally.

You can take these actions and learn more on the Africa Action website at [www.africaaction.org/darfur](http://www.africaaction.org/darfur).

Will you join us?

**Will You Use Your Power to Protect?**

## The U.S. Must Lead UN Action

The U.S. must provide leadership within the United Nations (UN) to ensure these steps are taken now. The U.S. is the only government to have publicly acknowledged that genocide is taking place in Darfur, and this provides it with a unique obligation to obtain international action on this crisis. The fact that the U.S. will be

the President of the UN Security Council in February creates a unique and powerful moment for the U.S. to introduce a new resolution on Darfur.

Reports from the White House and State Department indicate that key decision-makers favor the concept of an international intervention in Darfur. While this news is

encouraging, we know that the U.S. will not introduce a resolution at the UN without hearing strong voices from people across the country empowering it to do so. Your action can help to build pressure on the Bush Administration to take the action necessary in February to stop the genocide in Darfur.