

---

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4024

---

State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representative Moeller

Prefiled 12/21/2005. Read first time . Referred to .

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2            AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3            REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4            UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6            the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7            represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, Since early 2003, a conflict between forces of the  
9            Government of the Republic of Sudan, including militia forces backed by  
10           the Government, and rebel forces in the impoverished Darfur region of  
11           western Sudan has resulted in attacks by ground and air forces of the  
12           Government of Sudan against innocent civilians and undefended villages  
13           in the region; and

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

19           WHEREAS, On December 18, 2003, United Nations Undersecretary  
20           General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland declared that the Darfur

1 region was probably "the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe," and  
2 in April 2004 reported to the United Nations Security Council that in  
3 Darfur, "a sequence of deliberate actions has been observed that seem  
4 aimed at achieving a specific objective: The forcible and long-term  
5 displacement of the targeted communities which may also be termed  
6 'ethnic cleansing'; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 17, 2004, Amnesty International reported that  
8 it "continues to receive details of horrifying attacks against  
9 civilians in villages by government warplanes, soldiers, and  
10 progovernment militia"; and

11 WHEREAS, Doctors Without Borders, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning  
12 medical humanitarian relief organization and one of the few aid groups  
13 on the ground in the Darfur region, reported that the region is the  
14 scene of "catastrophic mortality rates"; and

15 WHEREAS, On April 20, the United Nations Office of the High  
16 Commissioner for Human Rights delayed the release of a report citing  
17 gross human rights abuses, crimes against humanity, and war crimes  
18 committed in Darfur in a bid to gain access to Sudan for investigators;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Government of Sudan continues to deny humanitarian  
21 assistance for the people of the Darfur region by denying them  
22 unrestricted access to humanitarian aid organizations, resulting in the  
23 lowest rate of humanitarian access in twenty-one months; and

24 WHEREAS, Nearly three million people affected by the conflict in  
25 the Darfur region have remained beyond the reach of aid agencies trying  
26 to provide essential humanitarian assistance, and United Nations aid  
27 agencies estimate that more than two million people have been displaced  
28 within Sudan; and

29 WHEREAS, During the first week of December, the seventh Sudanese  
30 peace talk has failed; and

31 WHEREAS, On December 8, Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced that  
32 the situation in Darfur was worsening because all parties were not  
33 respecting their cease-fire agreement; and

34 WHEREAS, There has been an increase in the number of harassments,  
35 threats, and ambushes on humanitarian workers; and

36 WHEREAS, The United Nations Security Council has initiated an  
37 investigation to determine if human rights abuses have been committed  
38 in the Darfur region;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
2 President of the United States use all political and economic means  
3 necessary to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis and stop the  
4 deaths of thousands of innocent people every day, including:

5 (1) Calling on the Government of Sudan to grant full,  
6 unconditional, and immediate access to Darfur to humanitarian aid  
7 organizations, the human rights investigation and humanitarian teams of  
8 the United Nations, and an international monitoring team in compliance  
9 with the temporary cease-fire agreement that is based in Darfur and has  
10 the support of the United States and the European Union;

11 (2) Encouraging the Administrator of the United States Agency for  
12 International Development to work with donors to develop a plan to  
13 preposition and deliver humanitarian assistance to Darfur, including a  
14 plan for delivery of food by air if necessary;

15 (3) Directing the Secretary of State to develop a plan for further  
16 bilateral and multilateral action in the event the Government of Sudan  
17 fails to immediately undertake the actions called for in subsection (1)  
18 of this Memorial, including a plan to seek a Security Council  
19 resolution addressing the Darfur situation;

20 (4) Directing the United States Representative to the United  
21 Nations to:

22 (a) Seek an official investigation by the United Nations to  
23 determine if crimes against humanity have been committed by the  
24 Government of Sudan in the Darfur region;

25 (b) Work with the international community to ensure that the  
26 individuals responsible for crimes against humanity in Darfur are  
27 accountable for their actions; and

28 (c) Provide an effective system to ensure that witnesses and  
29 victims are protected during the process of fact-finding and evidence  
30 gathering in the investigation of human rights abuses.

31 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
32 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
33 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
34 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
35 Washington.

--- END ---