



Press Releases

AJC Welcomes UN Security Council Statement on Darfur

June 17, 2008 – New York – AJC welcomes the presidential statement adopted yesterday by the UN Security Council, calling on the Government of Sudan to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court and its special prosecutor regarding the crimes committed in Darfur.

The statement is an important measure in addressing the situation in Darfur. Sudan continues to disregard UN Security Council resolutions calling on it to end the attacks, disarm militias (Janjaweed), obtain UN clearance to move military equipment into Darfur, and cooperate with the International Criminal Court. Sudan has failed to arrest former interior minister Ahmed Muhammad Harun and militia leader Ali Kushayb, both indicted by the ICC.

AJC urges the Security Council to adopt further measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, including sanctioning the Sudanese government and individuals responsible for violating human rights, undermining the peace process, and impeding the deployment of UN peacekeepers.

AJC hopes that, following their recent visit to the region, Council members will undertake a unified response to ensure that the international community addresses the genocide in Darfur. Coordinated action will require seriousness and tenacity to end the abuses and protect the victims. Earlier this week, AJC and 33 other organizations wrote a letter to the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, currently serving as president of the Security Council, urging renewed efforts to hold the government of Sudan accountable for atrocities and obstruction of UN efforts.

The Janjaweed have already brutally murdered hundreds of thousands of civilians in Darfur with the encouragement and support of the Sudanese government. More than 2 million of Darfur's 6 million people have been forced from their homes into internal camps and other places of refuge. Since the beginning of 2008 alone, violence has displaced more than 100,000 civilians.

Our collective memory, as Jews, of the nightmare of the Holocaust evokes deep empathy for the Sudanese people. It also inspires keen recognition that we--Americans and other members of the family of nations--have the power to aid them. Never again should massive human rights violations be met with indifference.

Source: <http://www.ajc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=ijlTI2PHKoG&b=849241&ct=5487905>