

RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAGEDY IN SUDAN RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a conflict between rebel forces in the Darfur region of Sudan and forces of the Sudanese government (along with allied Janjaweed militias) has resulted in attacks by air and ground forces on tens of thousands of innocent people and undefended villages throughout the Darfur region; and

WHEREAS, more than 200,000 deaths in the region can be attributed to violence, disease, and malnutrition because of the conflict. Over two million people have been forced from their homes by the Sudanese government troops and Janjaweed militias, approximately 220,000 of them having sought refuge protection in neighboring Chad; and

WHEREAS, Janjaweed militias, with air support from the Sudanese government, have recently launched successful attacks on refugees and Chadian civilians within Chad; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State estimates that at least 500 Sudanese villages have been systematically attacked and destroyed, and another 700 Sudanese villages have been damaged; and

WHEREAS, rape has been, and is being utilized as an instrument of war for the sake of humiliation, punishment, and breaking the will of the people who have remained on their lands; and

WHEREAS, a more precise assessment of the scope of the killing, ethnic cleansing, and other human rights atrocities (including rapes and torture) has been made impossible because of obstructions to access imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, the Sudanese government has been unwilling to effectively address the human rights crisis in Darfur and has been supplying arms to the allied Janjaweed militias perpetrating violence against African Muslims in Darfur; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch noted in April 2006 that "fighting between the Sudanese government and Darfur rebel movements has escalated in the past six months, displacing tens of thousands of people, many whom had already fled attacks in 2003-2005," and that "civilians continue to be targeted for killings, rape, displacement and looting, mainly by government-backed Janjaweed militias in Darfur," and

WHEREAS, much of the violence being perpetrated against people in the Darfur region of Sudan is occurring through aerial attacks; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch estimates that almost 3.5 million people are affected by the conflict in the Darfur region, but humanitarian aid agencies and the United Nations estimate that only 15% of these people have received aid, due to impediments to the delivery of aid imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, because of the impediments to access by humanitarian organizations, hundreds of thousands of displaced Sudanese are in jeopardy of starvation and illness;

WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, in March 2005 - over a year ago - said of the situation, "The international community has to act on Darfur. It has to act with great speed. It is a humanitarian crisis. It is a moral crisis, and it is a crisis that is extraordinary in its scope and in its potential for even greater damage to those populations."; and

WHEREAS, the United States and much of the international community turned a blind eye to the murders, rapes and torture of millions of people, as well as ethnic cleansing and other massive human rights abuses during the Holocaust, and in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Srebrenica; and

WHEREAS, there has been general agreement that "Never Again" will we allow such genocides to occur; and

WHEREAS, effective measures can be taken by the United States, by the United Nations, and the international community to end many of the tragic human rights abuses occurring in Sudan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alexandria City Council strongly urges the United States Congress and the Bush Administration (a) in collaboration with the United Nations to put an end to aerial attacks; and (b) the free movement of human rights investigators and humanitarian workers in the Darfur region; (c) cease supplying the allied Janjaweed militias with arms; and (d) agree to a United Nations mission of at least 10,000 international peacekeepers to stop the violence and attend to the needs of those who have been impacted by the violence in the Darfur region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council requests the Mayor to forward this resolution to the City's Congressional delegation and to the White House.

ADOPTED: June 13, 2006

William D. Euille, Mayor

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

Please Note: This resolution was adopted by the membership of the U.S. Conference of Mayors at their recent meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2190

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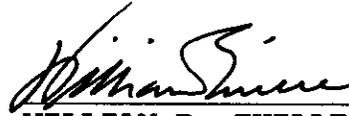
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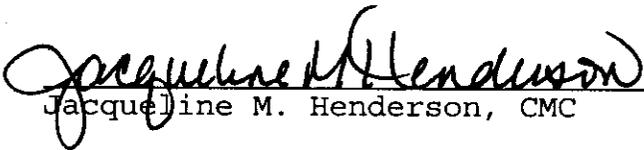
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ADOPTED: June 13, 2006



WILLIAM D. EULLE

MAYOR



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

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