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Series: Subject Files - HU030 (Genocide)
Folder Title: 449529 - 723713

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Stopping The Genocide In Darfur
President Bush Announces New Steps Encouraging All Parties To Live Up To Their Agreements

Today, The President Visited The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum To Discuss The Genocide That Is Happening In The Darfur Region Of Sudan And How We Are Fulfilling Our Moral Obligation To Stop It. The scourge of genocide has reached the Darfur region of Sudan – one of the most diverse nations in Africa and one of the most troubled countries in the world. Ending the violence requires better security for the people of Darfur, and progress toward political reconciliation.

➢ The President Announced Several New Steps Designed To Encourage All Parties To Live Up To Their Agreements To Stop The Genocide In Darfur:
1. On the President's order, the Department of Treasury has tightened U.S. economic sanctions on Sudan. As we tighten sanctions on the government and its businesses, we are also targeting sanctions against individuals responsible for the violence.
2. The President has directed Secretary of the Treasury Paulson to prepare an executive order that will extend sanctions to include relatives of senior Sudanese officials.
3. The President has directed Secretary of State Rice to put forward a new United Nations Security Council resolution.
4. We are increasing our engagement within Sudan.
5. We will work with the UN Security Council and other members of the international community so we can get the troop contributions for an African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force.

➢ For 22 Years, Sudan Was Plagued By A Civil War Between The North And South That Claimed More Than 2 Million Lives. That war came to an end in January 2005, when Sudan's government and rebels in the south signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement that the United States help broker. Under this historic accord, Sudan has established a Government of National Unity government that includes a First Vice President and other cabinet members from the country's south. It also established a Government for Southern Sudan that the United States is providing with aid and other assistance.

➢ Unfortunately, Just As Peace Was Coming To The South, Another Conflict Broke Out In The West – Where Rebel Groups In Darfur Attacked Government Outposts. To fight this rebellion, the government in Khartoum unleashed a horse-mounted militia called the Janjaweed – which carried out systematic assaults against innocent civilians.

➢ The Genocide's Human Toll Has Been Staggering. More than 200,000 people have died from the conflict – or from the malnutrition and disease that have spread in its wake. More than 2 million people have been forced from their homes and villages into camps both inside and outside their country.

➢ The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Is Making It Impossible For The World To Turn A Blind Eye To The Genocide In Darfur. Today, the President saw an exhibit that puts faces on the millions of men, women, and children who have been killed or driven into the desert. The President also saw the Museum's new venture with Google Earth. As a result of this partnership, millions of Internet users around the world will be able to zoom in and see three dimensional satellite images of the burnt-out villages, mosques, and schools.

The United States Is Helping Lead The Effort To Stop The Genocide In Darfur

Recent Agreements Represent A Clear Plan To End The Conflict – And When Implemented, They Will Allow The People Of Darfur To Return Home To Their Villages Safely And Begin To Rebuild Their Lives In Peace.

➢ Last May, The President Announced An Agreement For Darfur That We Helped Broker Between The Sudanese Government And The Largest Rebel Group. Under this agreement, Sudan's government promised to disarm the
Janjaweed and punish all those who violate the cease-fire and the main rebel group agreed to withdraw into specified areas.

➢ In August, The United Nations Followed Up This Agreement With A New Security Council Resolution. This resolution authorized the UN Mission in Sudan to extend its forces to Darfur – and to transform the existing African Union forces into a larger and better equipped UN peacekeeping mission.

➢ In November, The United Nations, The African Union, The Government Of Sudan, And 13 Other Nations Reached Another Important Agreement At A Meeting In Addis Ababa. This agreement strengthened the terms of the ceasefire, re-energized the political process, and called for a joint African Union-UN peacekeeping force that would be nearly three times the size of the existing African Union force.

➢ Just This Week, We Learned That Sudan Has Signed Another Agreement With The African Union And United Nations. Under this agreement, Sudan has agreed to start allowing the deployment of United Nations troops and equipment for the peacekeeping force.

Unfortunately, Sudan’s Government Has A History Of Violating Its Agreements In Darfur, And A Record Of Ongoing Aggression. Many rebel groups have also pursued violence. While there has been a temporary lull in the fighting between government, militias, and rebel groups, millions of displaced people remain highly vulnerable to attack. The increased lawlessness and instability has made it difficult for aid workers to deliver relief to those who need it and some organizations have been forced to evacuate their staff for safety reasons. And while the government of President Bashir has agreed to the new peacekeeping force in theory many times, he has done all he can to prevent it from deploying in practice.

The United States Is Taking New Steps To Stop The Genocide In Darfur

The President Announced Several New Steps Designed To Bring More Pressure For Peace – And Demand That All Parties Live Up To Their Agreements In The Addis Ababa Framework:

1. On The President’s Order, The Department Of Treasury Has Tightened U.S. Economic Sanctions On Sudan. This new effort will allow the United States to more aggressively enforce strict sanctions against Sudan's government, by blocking any of its dollar transactions within the U.S. financial system. As part of this effort, the Treasury Department is adding 29 companies owned or controlled by the government of Sudan to its list of Specially Designated Nationals. This designation bars these companies from the U.S. financial system and makes it a crime for American companies and individuals to willfully do business with them.

➢ As We Tighten Sanctions On The Government And Its Businesses, We Are Also Targeting Sanctions Against Individuals Responsible For The Violence. This morning, we have added such sanctions against three high-ranking individuals – two senior government officials and a rebel leader. The sanctions mean that if these individuals try to travel outside their country, they can be detained or face a seizure of their assets. In the coming weeks, we will designate more individuals who will face similar sanctions.

2. The President Has Directed Secretary Of The Treasury Paulson To Prepare An Executive Order That Will Extend Sanctions To Include Relatives Of Senior Sudanese Officials. With such an order, we could target family members who may be holding regime assets in an effort to escape sanctions.

3. The President Has Directed Secretary Of State Rice To Put Forward A New United Nations Security Council Resolution. This resolution will apply new sanctions against the government of Sudan – and against individuals found to be violating human rights or obstructing the peace process. It will impose an expanded embargo on arms sales to the government of Sudan and it will give us the ability to monitor and report offensive military flights that violate a Security Council resolution calling on Sudan to cease such flights.
4. **We Are Increasing Our Engagement Within Sudan.** We are increasing support for the Transitional Darfur Regional Authority – an interim authority designed to help the people of Darfur improve local government and build the foundations of a healthy economy. We are increasing support for Sudan’s First Vice President and the United Nations and African Union special envoys – who are working to get more rebel commanders to sign onto the peace process. And we are continuing our humanitarian assistance to the people of Darfur.

➢ **Since 2005, The United States Has Devoted More Than $2 Billion In Humanitarian Relief And Development.** We will continue to bring relief to the people of Darfur – and we will continue to insist that rebel groups and the Sudanese government allow international workers to deliver this relief to the people who depend on it.

5. **We Will Work With The UN Security Council And Other Members Of The International Community So We Can Get The Troop Contributions For An African Union-United Nations Peacekeeping Force.** The people of Darfur need peacekeeping troops who can bring them security – and they need it now.

**Without Progress, Further Steps May Be Necessary**

**Last Week, The President Sent Deputy Secretary Of State Negroponte To The Region, Where He Informed Sudan’s Government And Rebel Groups That There Will Be Further Consequences For Future Violations.** Prime Minister Tony Blair has said that these steps should include strong enforcement of a no-fly zone over Darfur. Further steps could also include the bombing of Sudanese military aircraft and airfields that are used to launch raids on the province.

➢ **The Situation Does Not Have To Come To This.**

- The President urges the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, and all members of the international community to stand behind the Addis Ababa Framework and reject efforts to obstruct its implementation.
- The President calls on President Bashir to provide his unconditional support for this agreement, and to take the concrete steps required to carry it out – so that the African Union-UN force can deploy and do its work.
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White House Office Of Communications
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This should be consistent with the President’s speech.