

## Save Darfur

[Feb. 1, 2006] More than 400,000 people have lost their lives and 2.5 million have been displaced since the government-sponsored genocide in Darfur began in 2003. Recent reports confirm that the violence continues unabated and the security situation is deteriorating.

President Bush himself has characterized the violence as "genocide" and John Bolton (the current U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations) has called for bold action in Darfur, but so far neither has provided real leadership in stopping the violence.

On Wednesday, February 1, the United States will assume the presidency of the United Nations Security Council. Although the U.S. will hold this position for only one month, during that time it has the opportunity to introduce a resolution authorizing an international intervention to protect civilians and enforce a ceasefire.

You have the power to help protect the people of Darfur. Send the letter below to U.S. President Bush and Ambassador John Bolton urging them to take immediate action to stop the genocide in Darfur.

--Catherine Gordon

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### Sample Letter

On Wednesday, February 1, the United States will assume the presidency of the United Nations Security Council. Although the U.S. will hold this position for only one month, it provides the opportunity to introduce a resolution to address the violence and genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

This resolution should authorize two steps necessary for an immediate, effective international intervention in Darfur.

1. 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 could take effect immediately.
2. 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 reinforce the AU mission and provide protection to the people of Darfur.

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 include operations in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Burundi. These precedents show that, with proper planning and coordination, a UN intervention in support of an African mission can act as a deterrent to violence and a catalyst for successful peace talks.

This is a critical moment when leadership from the United States could move the international community to protect the people of Darfur. As the only government which has publicly acknowledged that genocide is occurring in Darfur, the U.S. has a moral obligation to initiate international action on this crisis. I urge you to assume this responsibility and take immediate action.