


 [CLICK HERE TO PRINT](#)

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
December 31, 2007

Statement by the President

Today, I have signed into law S. 2271, the "Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007." I share the deep concern of the Congress over the continued violence in Darfur perpetrated by the Government of Sudan and rebel groups. My Administration will continue its efforts to bring about significant improvements in the conditions in Sudan through sanctions against the Government of Sudan and high level diplomatic engagement and by supporting the deployment of peacekeepers in Darfur.  [White House News](#)

This Act purports to authorize State and local governments to divest from companies doing business in named sectors in Sudan and thus risks being interpreted as insulating from Federal oversight State and local divestment actions that could interfere with implementation of national foreign policy. However, as the Constitution vests the exclusive authority to conduct foreign relations with the Federal Government, the executive branch shall construe and enforce this legislation in a manner that does not conflict with that authority.

GEORGE W. BUSH


THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 31, 2007.

###

Return to this article at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/12/20071231.html>

 [CLICK HERE TO PRINT](#)

Representative Bob Lynn
16 W. 4th Ave Ste 650
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

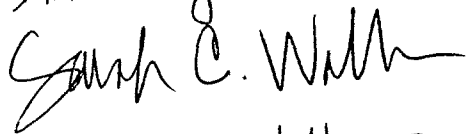
Dear Representative Lynn:

12/7/07

Thank you very much for your leadership on the issue of divesting Alaska's Permanent Fund and state pension funds from foreign businesses that are helping to fund the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. I am deeply disturbed that a small portion of Alaska's assets are in foreign companies that are complicit in the first genocide of the 21st century. I join you in saying "not on our watch" and "not on our dime." I am proud that you have taken the lead on this urgent issue, and I ask you to continue working hard to pass divestment legislation in the upcoming session.

Thank you once again for taking initiative!

Sincerely,



Sarah C. Wallner
18527 Neumann Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

FOREIGN RELATIONS
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Kelley Nixon
2439 Ronny Place, #1
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203
(202) 224-6665
(202) 224-5301 FAX

August 28, 2007

510 L STREET, SUITE 550
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 216
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278
(907) 456-0233

P.O. BOX 21247
JUNEAU, AK 99802
(907) 586-7400

110 TRADING BAY ROAD, SUITE 105
KENAI, AK 99611-7716
(907) 283-5808

540 WATER STREET, SUITE 101
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6378
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

P.O. BOX 1030
311 WILLOW STREET, BUILDING 3
BETHEL, AK 99559-1030
(907) 543-1639

Dear Kelley:

Thank you for contacting me about the situation in Darfur, Sudan. I appreciated receiving your views and the petition you submitted to my office.

You will be pleased to know that I joined with 95 of my Senate colleagues in sending a letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao urging him to put pressure on the government of Sudan to end military operations in Darfur. As one of Sudan's main investors and a member of the U.N. Security Council, China's cooperation is critical to ending the crisis.

You also should be aware that, on October 10, 2006, all 100 United States Senators signed a letter to Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa asking that the Arab League press Sudanese President Omar Hassan El-Bashir to halt Sudan's military offensive in Darfur, withdraw Sudanese troops from the area, and facilitate the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers to the region. In addition, on September 19, 2006, the President named former USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios as his Special Envoy to Darfur to lead the United States' efforts in bringing peace to the region.

On December 9, 2006, the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 631, urging the Government of Sudan to implement the agreement for a United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur. Congress also has passed into law the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006, directing the President to block the assets and deny visas and entry into the United States of any individual (and family member) and associates responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Sudan. The legislation also prohibits U.S. port entry to cargo ships or oil tankers engaged in trade activities in Sudan's oil sector or involved in the shipment of goods for the Armed Forces of Sudan. It also prohibits U.S. assistance to countries that violate the United Nations Security Council embargo on military assistance to Sudan. I am hopeful that the European Union will follow suit and enact sanctions as well.

As you know, the Government of Sudan recently stated that it would accept a United Nations international peacekeeping force to be deployed to the Darfur region. With about 20,000 soldiers and 6,000 civilian police officers, it will be the world's largest peacekeeping operation, costing \$2 billion in the first year. The force is expected to deploy later this year. I will continue to press Khartoum to stick to this agreement.

With regard to divestment of state funds from companies that do business with the government of Sudan, as you may know, Florida recently became the first state to enact a law divesting state pension funds from Iran and Sudan. The governor signed the bill into law on June 8, 2007. Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey and Oregon have also begun to divest public pension funds from Sudan. S. 831, the Sudan Divestment Authorization Act of 2007, would safeguard a state's right to divest such funds. S. 831 was introduced on March 8th and referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, of which I am not a member. Should the full Senate consider related legislation or additional appropriations for the crisis in Darfur, I will keep your support for it in mind.

Again, thank you for contacting me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski".

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 2007

Ms. Kelley Nixon
Unit 1
2439 Ronny Place
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3823

Dear Ms. Nixon:

Thank you for sharing your views on the crisis in Sudan. President Bush appreciates your taking the time to write about this important issue.

The brutal treatment of innocent civilians in the Darfur region of Sudan is unacceptable to the President. He abhors the loss of life in Sudan and has called this massive violence a genocide. He believes that the people of Darfur have suffered too long and that the world has a moral obligation to help stop the violence. Sudan remains one of the highest foreign policy priorities for President Bush and his Administration, and he is committed to working with the international community to resolve this humanitarian crisis.

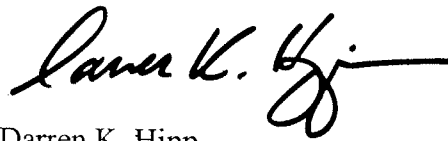
President Bush has demanded that the Sudanese government work with peacekeepers and end the campaign of violence that targets defenseless men, women, and children. However, President Bashir of Sudan has repeatedly obstructed international efforts to bring peace to his country. As a result, President Bush expanded sanctions against the Sudanese government and targeted economic restrictions against companies and individuals responsible for the violence. The United States is also prepared to impose additional punitive measures and sanctions against those violating human rights or impeding the peace process.

The President is working with our allies throughout the world to provide security for the people of Darfur and promote political reconciliation. The United States strongly supports the important work of the United Nations-African Union hybrid peacekeeping operation. This force of nearly 26,000 military personnel and police can play a critical role in stopping armed attacks, protecting civilians, and preventing further disruptions to the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. America will remain focused on pursuing the full implementation of the peace agreement and a lasting political settlement so that the atrocities come to an end.

As America works individually and with other nations to increase pressure on Sudan's government, we will continue to help the refugees and support the people of Darfur. Over the past several years, the United States has led the world in protecting the lives of civilians in Darfur. America is the largest single donor to the people of Darfur and has provided more than \$1.7 billion in humanitarian and peacekeeping assistance since this crisis began.

The President will continue to stand for the innocent until peace in Darfur is secured. For more information, you may wish to visit the White House website at whitehouse.gov/infocus/africa. Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren K. Hipp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Darren K. Hipp
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Presidential Correspondence

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2006

Governor Elect Sarah Palin
245 W. 5th Avenue
Anchorage AK 99501-2358

Dear Governor Elect Palin:

As you prepare to become the new governor, we write today to call on you to direct your state to take action to divest itself from companies identified as assisting the current regime in Sudan. This matter is of the highest priority relating to the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. As you may know, most recently the states of California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey and Oregon have moved to divest from companies doing business with Sudan.

For over 20 years the government of Sudan was engaged in a brutal civil war with the people of southern Sudan. This conflict took the lives of over 2 million people. During this time slavery flourished and terrorism took root in Sudan. In the 1990's Osama bin Laden took refuge in Sudan and operated terrorist training camps. In 2003, as the war was ending, a conflict in Sudan's Darfur region broke out. The government reacted by arming a militia and beginning a campaign of genocide. That was three years ago. Over 400,000 people have died since and over 2 million continue to be at risk.

We have followed Sudan for many years. Many of us have traveled to Sudan. We have witnessed the horrors and the impact of decades of war. There is no question that the government of Sudan orchestrated and continues to direct the genocide in Darfur. Bold action is now warranted. The United Nations is working to try to get desperately needed U.N. troops on the ground but the government of Sudan continues to reject this deployment. Targeted divestment from companies doing business in Sudan is an action that should be taken. The genocide in Sudan can be stopped and it is up to every American to do his or her part. The United States Congress and the president have called it genocide. Therefore, anything that can be done, should be done.

Enclosed is a list of companies that may warrant scrutiny, provided to us by the Sudan Divestment Task Force. We encourage you to review your state's pension funds and identify companies which are doing the type of business in Sudan that is aiding the government and fulfilling this genocide, not helping the people. Then we ask that you work with your state legislators to enact legislation to divest from those companies. We urge you to join the six states that have already passed divestment legislation. California just passed a law last month and its model of targeted divestment limits the scope of companies and investments, providing a good plan for action. We need to send a signal to the government in Khartoum that America and the

Governor Elect Sarah Palin
November 15, 2006
Page 2

West will not stand silent in the face of genocide – that the women and children in those camps matter as much to us as our own families.

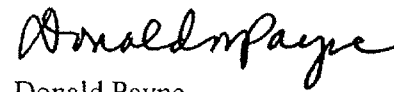
History will judge our willingness to act. We all must play a part.

Best wishes.

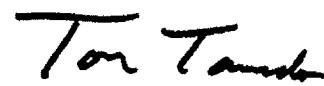
Sincerely,




Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress



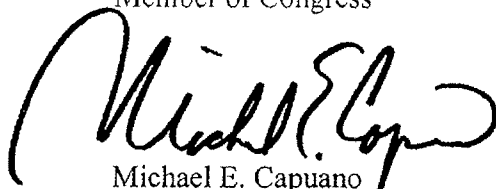
Donald Payne
Member of Congress



Thomas G. Tancredo
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress