

STOP THE NIGHTMARE IN SUDAN

From: The Honorable Frank R. Wolf

Sent By: elyse.anderson@mail.house.gov

Bill: H.R. 4169

Date: 3/20/2012

Dear Republican Colleague:

Recently I was part of a bipartisan group of Members who introduced the Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act of 2012 (H.R. 4169). This important legislation is aimed at developing a comprehensive strategy to bring lasting peace to Sudan and end the decades-long cycle of violence and human rights abuses in the war-torn country. I urge you to join me as a cosponsor.

The Republican Party, as modeled best by President Ronald Reagan, has a proud tradition of being a voice for the voiceless. This legislation is in keeping with that tradition.

Having recently returned from South Sudan, I was appalled by what I encountered. I spent time in Yida refugee camp in South Sudan, just miles from the border with Sudan. Those I spoke with had fled violence in the Nuba Mountains. There are 25,000 people and growing in the camp. Many of the women I met with recounted how their villages were pillaged and burned by uniformed Sudanese soldiers. They relayed stories of women and young girls being routinely raped. They lived in fear of daily Antonov bombing raids that indiscriminately shelled civilian populations -- a trademark of Sudanese president Omar Bashir's regime. In short, I heard echoes of Darfur.

Time and again those I spoke with told me they were being targeted because of the color of their skin. One woman said: "It didn't matter if you were a woman, a child or a man. I can see that my color is black and that was the reason they were killing us." The same woman also raised the issue of religion, saying that soldiers armed with AK-47s would come to their villages in trucks with machine guns in the back and say "we don't want anyone who says they are a Christian in this village." The refugees pleaded with me to take one important message back to America: bring Bashir to justice. The sanctions in H.R. 4169 would target countries that fail to execute international arrest warrants against Sudanese officials like Bashir, who, despite facing

charges of crimes against humanity and genocide, has continued to travel internationally with virtual impunity.

In addition to horrific human rights abuses and crimes committed by Bashir and his party, Sudan remains on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. The people of South Sudan were at the tip of the spear in the global struggle against radical Islamic terrorism. It is well known that the same people currently in control in Khartoum gave safe haven to Osama bin Laden in the early 1990s. Moreover, Khartoum was a revolving door for Hamas and other terrorist groups.

The people of Sudan deserve better. The people of Sudan deserve peace after decades of war. The people of Sudan deserve security rather than terror at the hands of their own government. The people of Sudan deserve to see those who have brutalized them held to account. The people of Sudan deserve strong bipartisan support of the Sudan Peace, Security and Accountability Act. Please contact Elyse Anderson (elyse.anderson@mail.house.gov or x55136) in my office if you would like additional information or are interested cosponsoring.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf

Member of Congress