



August 1, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We commend you for your commitment to fostering democracy, religious freedom and human rights. We believe that your leadership on the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan -- including sending Secretary of State Colin Powell to the region -- has been appropriate thus far. It is our judgment that deteriorating circumstances and obstruction, indeed complicity, by the Khartoum regime now necessitate additional actions by the United States government.

The decision of the United States Congress [S. Con. Res. 124; H. Con. Res. 427] urging the Administration to call the atrocities being committed in Darfur, Sudan by their rightful name -- genocide -- is consistent with what evangelical relief and development agencies are reporting from the region. We agree with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum which has named the Darfur crisis a "full-fledged genocide emergency," the first such warning in the museum's history.

It is imperative for your administration to take additional clear action. We represent organizations which led efforts to enact these ground-breaking human rights initiatives: the *International Religious Freedom Act*, *Sudan Peace Act*, *Trafficking Victims Protection Act*, and just last week House passage of the *North Korea Freedom Act*. Your Administration's goal -- to redefine our national interest not as power but as values, and to identify one supreme value, what John Kennedy called "the success of liberty" -- could be jeopardized by not taking a strong enough position on Sudan's genocidal behavior. The World Health Organization estimates that ten thousand people are dying each month and that a catastrophe equivalent to what occurred in Rwanda a decade ago could unfold within weeks.

Americans, especially tapping our resources within the religious and non-governmental community, must act quickly to alleviate this crisis. As representatives of our 51 denominations and 45,000 churches, we are urging our churches and related para-church ministries to give generously to the relief and development agencies active in the Darfur, and encouraging other national alliances in the World Evangelical Alliance to do same. Our agencies are willing to work with any and all international bodies, including the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, to alleviate the suffering. We are already consulting

with the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, Tony P. Hall.

Now is also the time for the United States government to take a more decisive role to prevent further slaughter and death. It is irresponsible to expect that the Government of Sudan, which has backed the Janjaweed militia, to restore peace in the Darfur. Since Khartoum can not be counted on to provide security, others must lead the way. In sum, we urge your swift action authorizing:

(1) Massive humanitarian aid to protect the highly endangered civilian populations displaced in Darfur. Thus far, collective financial contributions by the European Union are very small and may require that our own government increase its commitment to fill the gap; (2) Active exploration of *all* available intervention options -- including sending troops to Darfur as has been proposed by the United Kingdom and Australia -- in order to stop the killing. One option short of military intervention would be dramatic expansion of the efforts of the African Union Protection Force by providing its soldiers and monitors with much-needed equipment and resources, toward the goal of securing humanitarian relief corridors; and (3) A serious multinational effort within the United Nations to remove Sudan from membership on the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Sudan's genocidal policies make its continued participation on that body a travesty. Its removal would be an important step toward restoring integrity and strength to international human rights advocacy.

A litmus test of Sudan's willingness to restore peace would be the removal of all obstacles to aid distribution, including the granting of visas to aid workers; a decision to stop providing air cover to the militia; and the arrest and prosecution of Sheik Musa Hilel, the Commander of the Janjaweed militia in Sudan.

In statements adopted in 1996 and in 2002, the NAE has urged governmental action to stop religious and other forms of persecution, such as the "ethnic cleansing" taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan: "If, as is true, the United States government cannot end all evil in a large and complex world, it can nonetheless immediately adopt policies that limit today's persecutions and ensure greater fulfillment of inalienable and internationally recognized rights to freedom of belief and conscience."

As stated in these historic documents, which led to a prairie fire of concern for human rights and passage of ground-breaking legislation, we "vow never to commit the sin of silence whenever we learn of persecution."

Sincerely, the undersigned,

Ted Haggard  
President  
National Association of Evangelicals

Richard Cizik  
Vice President for Governmental Affairs

National Association of Evangelicals

Gary Edmonds  
General Secretary  
World Evangelical Alliance

Diane Knippers  
President  
Institute on Religion and Democracy

David Neff  
Editor  
Christianity Today

Ambassador Robert Seiple  
Chairman of the Board  
Institute for Global Engagement

Robert Andringa  
President  
Council on Christian Colleges and Universities

Peter Vander Meulen  
Coordinator of Social Justice and Hunger Action  
Christian Reformed Church

Paul F. Yaggy  
OC International

Steve Beard  
Editor  
Good News

Peter Borgdorff  
Executive Director of Ministries  
Christian Reformed Church

Stephen E. Freed  
President  
IT USA

Ann J. Buwalda  
Director  
Jubilee Campaign

Richard J. Mouw  
President and Professor of Christian Philosophy  
Fuller Theological Seminary

Johan Candelin  
Goodwill Ambassador  
World Evangelical Alliance

Bernard Evans  
President  
Elim Fellowship

Richard Snyder  
Bishop  
Free Methodist Church of North America

David Rambo  
Director  
Beeson International Leaders Program  
Asbury Theological Seminary

Robert E. Cooley  
President Emeritus  
Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary

Randall Bell  
Associate Director  
Association for Biblical Higher Education

Edward L. Foggs  
Minister at Large/Interchurch Relations  
Church of God Ministries

Harry Thomas  
President  
Come Alive Ministries and Creation Festivals

Kenneth D. Hunn  
Executive Director  
The Brethren Church

Paul Edwards  
President  
Paul Edwards Consulting

James W. Skillen  
President  
Center for Public Justice

William Hamel  
President

Evangelical Free Church of America

M. Donald Duncan  
Vice Chairman of the IPHC  
Executive Director of World Missions Ministries

Thomas E. Trask  
General Superintendent  
General Council of the Assemblies of God

Clyde M. Hughes  
Bishop  
International Pentecostal Holiness Church

Don Argue  
President  
Northwest College

Paul de Vries  
President  
New York Divinity School

Winnie Bartel  
Executive Director  
WEA Women's Commission

Don Lyon  
President  
Illinois Association Network

Paul McKaughan  
President  
Evangelical Fellowship of Mission Agencies

B. Edgar Johnson  
General Secretary (Ret.)  
Church of the Nazarene