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ISSUE UPDATE / ACTION ALERT

DATE: December 19, 2007
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau



NAACP-Supported Sudan Divestment Bill Passes Congress Overwhelmingly

***BILL SUPPORTS DIVESTMENT BY STATES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND
COMPANIES FROM CORPORATIONS DOING BUSINESS IN SUDAN;
URGE PRESIDENT BUSH TO SIGN THE BILL INTO LAW NOW!***

THE ISSUE:

On December 18 and 19, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed, both by overwhelming margins, S. 2271, the *Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007*, legislation to promote economic divestment from Sudan. Under this bill, which will put pressure on the Sudanese government to stop the genocide in Darfur, companies would be barred from receiving federal contracts unless they certify they do not work with Sudan's energy or military sectors. It would also allow asset funds and pension fund managers to divest from companies doing business in Sudan's energy and military sectors and would protect them from lawsuits over profits lost as a result of the divestment. Finally, the legislation makes it clear that states have the right to divest.

Divestment is a proven tool in struggles against inhumane governments: Americans' divestment was a major contributor to bringing down the racist apartheid regime in South Africa in the 1980's, when people, municipalities (including the federal government) and corporations pulled billions of dollars out of that country rather than make money off of an immoral government that supported slavery.

According to recent estimates, at least 400,000 people have died in Darfur since the genocide began in February of 2003. It is impossible to know what the final number will be as the genocide is still taking place today. What is known is that there are approximately 3.5 million men, women and children in the western Darfur region of Sudan trying to survive the Sudanese government-permitted campaign of violence, rape, murder and forced starvation. These innocent victims are essentially on life support, their continued existence dependent on U.S. and international humanitarian aid and the presence of African Union peacekeepers. Despite the best efforts of the under-funded and under-manned African Union peacekeeping force, attacks have increased in recent months, leading to tens of thousands of new arrivals at refugee camps in Darfur and across the border in Chad.

The divestment legislation must now be signed by President Bush to become the law of the land. The NAACP urges everyone to contact the White House to urge the President to sign this vital legislation into law before the end of 2007.

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact President Bush and **URGE HIM TO SIGN THE SUDAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND DIVESTMENT ACT INTO LAW** . To contact the President, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call the White House comment line at (202) 456-1111.

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write a letter to the President, the Mailing address is :

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, the White House fax number is (202) 456-2461

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to the President, his e-mail address is
comments@whitehouse.gov

To visit the White House website, the address is www.whitehouse.gov

THE MESSAGE

- ❖ The United States must use all available means, diplomatic and financial, to ensure that the crisis in Darfur comes to an end.
- ❖ The United States must recognize the role that financial investments play in the crisis in Darfur and must encourage divestment.
- ❖ The scale of the atrocity in Darfur can be compared to any genocide in global history. Every conscionable citizen of any country has an obligation to ensure that it comes to an immediate end.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naACP.org

Sample Letter

(date)

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: SUPPORT FOR DIVESTMENT FROM SUDAN

Dear Mr. President;

As a member of the NAACP, an American, a leader in my community and a registered voter, I am very concerned about the genocide in Darfur. Time is running out for the people of Darfur. Four years of genocidal violence has left over 400,000 dead and 2.5 million innocent civilians displaced, and 4 million men, women, and children struggling to survive. **I thus strongly urge you to sign S. 2271, the *Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007* into law as soon as it reached your desk.**

The *Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007* is an urgent piece of legislation that would protect states and investment firms' rights to divest from companies that fund the genocide in Darfur. It would also bar companies from receiving federal contracts unless they certify they do not work with Sudan's energy or military sectors.

Divestment is a proven tool in struggles against inhumane governments: Americans' divestment was a major contributor to bringing down the racist apartheid regime in South Africa in the 1980's, when people, municipalities (including the federal government) and corporations pulled billions of dollars out of that country rather than make money off of an immoral government that supported slavery.

I hope I can depend on your support and that you will sign this legislation into law as soon as possible. The people of Darfur cannot afford to wait any longer.

Thank you so much for your attention to this urgent issue. Please contact me in the near future to let me know of what else you are doing to end the genocide in Darfur and what you believe I can do to help end the atrocity.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)