



April 23, 2007

H.Con.Res. 7 – Calling on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to step up their efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur

Floor Situation

H.Con.Res. 7 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) on January 4, 2007. The Foreign Affairs Committee favorably reported the resolution to the full House by unanimous consent on April 19, 2007.

H.Con.Res. 7 is expected to be considered on the floor on April 25, 2007.

Summary

H.Con.Res. 7 resolves, with the Senate concurring, that the House of Representatives:

- Strongly urges the League of Arab States to declare the systemic torture, rape, and displacement of Darfurians a genocide;
- Strongly urges the Arab League to agree and pass a resolution at their next meeting to support and accept the United Nations peacekeepers as the best option to enforce the ceasefire, protect civilians, and ensure access to humanitarian assistance in Darfur; and,
- Strongly urges the Arab League to work with the United Nations, the African Union and the United States Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios, to bring about real and lasting peace and stability to Darfur, the refugee camps, and along the Chadian border.

Background

Since 2003, at least 200,000 people have been killed and 2 million people have been displaced in Darfur, Sudan. The House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Administration have each declared that the atrocities in the Darfur region constitute genocide. Despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May 2006, violence against civilians, peacekeepers, and humanitarian workers continues unabated. At present, there are approximately 7,000 African Union troops serving in Darfur – a region roughly the size of France – to provide security and promote stability.

In August 2006, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution expanding the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sudan for the additional deployment of 17,300 peacekeeping troops and 3,300 civilian peace personnel to Darfur. After months of foot-dragging and evasion, Sudan's government agreed last week to allow 3,000 UN peacekeepers into Darfur. President Bush has unveiled a new package of sanctions against Sudan if its leadership continues failing to cooperate with international efforts to stop the genocide.

While the Arab League has voiced concern over the developments in Darfur, it has failed to take substantive action and fully cooperate with international efforts to stop the violence.

Cost

This bill has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

Staff Contact

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