



**H.Res. 573 – Recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes**

**FLOOR SITUATION**

H.Res. 573 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 James Moran (D-VA) on July 25, 2007. The Committee on Foreign Affairs agreed to seek consideration under suspension of the rules on October 23, 2007.

H.Res. 573 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on October 29, 2007.

**SUMMARY**

H.Res. 573:

- Recognizes and commends the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan;
- Supports the efforts of the various local schools, communities, and faith-based, human rights, humanitarian, and youth-led advocacy organizations that have dedicated their time and energy to help end the genocide in Darfur and to promote peace, defend human rights, and improve the lives of those affected in Sudan and Chad; and,
- Urges the United States to work with its partners in the international community to implement a more robust set of multilateral measures until President El-Bashir accepts a full-scale international peacekeeping force in Darfur.

**BACKGROUND**

The violence conducted by the Sudanese-backed Janjaweed militia in Darfur, Sudan, has left nearly 2,500,000 people displaced from their homes and up to 400,000 civilians dead. Despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement on May 5, 2006, violence, death, and destruction in Darfur continue unabated, threatening the lives of thousands of civilians, humanitarian aid workers, United Nations officials, and African Union peacekeepers.

President Omar Hassan El-Bashir of Sudan continues to reject the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force to Darfur as stipulated in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006) and has yet to unconditionally accept the terms of the

African Union/United Nations hybrid peacekeeping force as generally agreed to on November 12, 2006.

On July 22, 2004, Congress declared the atrocities unfolding in Darfur as genocide, and on September 9, 2004, former Secretary of State Colin Powell declared that 'genocide has been committed in Darfur and that the [G]overnment of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility.' On April 18, 2007, President George W. Bush declared at the United States Holocaust Museum that the United States has a moral obligation to help end the genocide in Darfur.

Hundreds of United States faith-based, human rights, humanitarian and youth-led advocacy organizations have established Darfur-related campaigns since the United States declaration of genocide in 2004.

**COST**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) did not have a cost estimate available at the time of publication.

**STAFF CONTACT**

For questions or further information contact Matt Lakin at (202) 226-2302.