

# NOV. 17, 2008 UPDATE FOR SUDAN ADVOCATES

**ACTION SUMMARY:** We certainly don't have to wait for President-elect Obama to take office in order to act effectively for the people of Sudan. We should do everything in our power to lay the appropriate groundwork: we need to make sure that the new administration helps to impose strong targeted sanctions against the Sudanese government's senior leaders.

At this moment of transition, all of us can take a few minutes to call Congress, to make sure that it does its part in holding an Obama administration accountable.

- Go to [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org) to find the phone number of your Senator's Washington, DC office. (Feel free to call both of your Senators.)
- Call this number. Ask to leave a voice message for your Senator.
- Say the following: "Senator \_\_\_: Please urge President-elect Obama to do everything in his power to impose targeted multilateral sanctions against the Sudanese government's senior leaders." Feel free to personalize your message, and make sure to leave your name, phone number, and city of residence.

**BACKGROUND:** During the 2008 presidential campaign, President-elect Barack Obama promised to "make ending the genocide in Darfur a priority from Day One" of his administration.

Earlier this month, the ENOUGH Project, the Save Darfur Coalition, and the Genocide Intervention Network released [an open letter to the President-elect](#), outlining the steps that an Obama administration needs to take to stop the genocide and bring a sustainable peace to all of Sudan. The authors begin their letter by underlining the immense consequences of current and future inaction:

"Five-and-a-half years into Darfur's crisis, and three-and-a-half years after the signing of a peace deal for southern Sudan (the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, or CPA), there is no prospect of a peace deal for Darfur and no coherent effort to ensure that the CPA gets implemented. This is a damning indictment of U.S. and international efforts in Sudan to date. Despite an abundance of rhetoric, it is clear to all parties, including the Sudanese government, that the United States government and its international partners are content simply to manage the consequences of the crisis in Sudan, rather than resolve the situation."

"The costs of this approach have already been immensely painful for the Darfuris, who continue to be killed and driven from their homes in large numbers by government and rebel attacks as a U.N. force is incapable of protecting them. Equally important, without a substantial investment in peacemaking in Darfur and peace implementation for all Sudan, the facts on the ground have the potential to become much worse: Darfur's war likely will continue to escalate, the CPA may collapse and reopen a direct north-south conflict, many more people may die, rebel groups will become larger and even more lawless, and Sudan will potentially disintegrate as a state. In addition, a wider war could also open up fronts in eastern and northern Sudan; continued war in Darfur will further fuel proxy war in Chad and the Central African Republic; and north-south tensions in Sudan could lead to the Lord's Resistance Army becoming more active in northern Uganda and southern Sudan. Sudan's potential fracturing in particular has a range of serious international security implications ranging from disruptions in oil supplies to the increased ability of terrorist groups to operate within such chaotic settings."

The authors then go on to outline a practical Sudan plan for the U.S. These steps don't reflect last-ditch wishful thinking. In fact, in large part these are policies that the Sudan movement has been advocating for all along. We just need a new surge of activism to see that they're put in place as soon as possible.



**OurPledge**  
An Initiative of  
Americans Against  
the Darfur Genocide

The open letter discusses the urgent need for imposing strong targeted sanctions against the government of Sudan's top genocidaires:

**“The new president should work through or with selected members of the U.N. Security Council to bring a larger collection of nations on board with targeted sanctions** against those most responsible for violence in Sudan. If the Security Council fails to pass these broader sanctions, then the new administration should build an international coalition to bring this pressure. Along with the ICC, these instruments can create much higher legal, financial, and political costs to those who are responsible for violence against civilians. If efforts to pass targeted sanctions through the Security Council fall short, a concerted effort should be made to work with the European Union to jointly apply U.S.-EU sanctions. In addition, the possibility of capital market sanctions for oil companies contracting with the Sudanese government should be explored.”