

## **U.S. Senate, House candidates give policy statements on Darfur**

Editor:

Since 2003, the government of Sudan has sent its troops and proxy militias to systematically eliminate the people of Darfur by bombing and burning villages, looting resources and committing such crimes as murder, rape and torture. Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, has been cited with crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court. The U.N., President Bush and both presidential candidates have declared that a genocide is underway. Yet Congress has not yet divested U.S. funds from interests that support Sudan, although many states, such as Colorado, have done so. We represent approximately 600 families and collaborate with many other secular and non-secular groups that also advocate for Darfuri victims. We sent the same brief questionnaire about Darfur policies to 11 candidates running for U.S. Senate and House Districts 2 and 4. Those who did not respond initially were asked a second time.

The candidates who responded were: for Senate, Rep. Mark Udall;, Douglas Campbell; for House District 2: Jared Polis, and Bill Hammons.

Candidates whom we contacted but did not respond were: for Senate, former Rep. Bob Schaffer, Bob Kinsey; for HD 2, Scott Starin, Joe Calhoun; for HD 4, Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, and Betsy Markey. Their answers are quoted below.

Make ending genocide a priority; do your part to inform your leaders that "We will not stand idly by!"

Rabbi Deborah Ruth Bronstein  
Elizabeth Milligan  
Linda Farb  
Louise Silvern, Ph.D.  
Alan Farb  
Harriet Boonin  
Becky O'Brien  
Barbara Gould  
On behalf of the Sudan Genocide Response Team  
Congregation Har HaShem  
Boulder, Colo.

***Question 1:*** *Have you previously taken or supported actions intended to alleviate genocide in Darfur on behalf of individual victims or general conditions? For example, have you personally divested investments from companies that either do business in Sudan or with the government of Sudan, with the goal of influencing the United States to stop supporting the genocide in Sudan?*

Thank you for your letter in support of H.Res.1093. I appreciate your taking the time to get in touch about this important subject. Over the years, I have strongly supported legislation to curtail the violence in the Darfur region. I signed a letter to President Bush urging him to designate a leader within the Administration to articulate a clear strategy to end the conflict in Sudan, place an adequately staffed, full-time diplomatic team in the region, and encourage our allies to provide needed logistical assistance to the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). — *Rep. Mark Udall, U.S. House Dist. 2, candidate for U.S. Senate*

Personally, I have no such investments. However, I fail to see how I can influence the U.S. to stop doing something it is not doing. Certainly, you cannot be serious in claiming that the U.S. actively supports genocide in ANY country. — *Douglas "Dayhorse" Campbell; U.S. Senate candidate, American Constitution Party*

As a lifelong member of Har Hashem, I am very supportive of the role that our synagogue has played in raising awareness of and advocating for action with regard to the genocide in Sudan. I co-signed a letter that appeared in the *Camera* two years ago raising attention to the issue. I support influencing the United States to intervene and oppose the genocide in Sudan. I have not yet taken action to divest my investments from interests that support the Sudan, but I would be very willing to speak with a representative of Har HaShem and look into investing my money in funds that do not promote the continuation of the genocide in Darfur.— *Jared Polis, candidate for U.S. House District 2*

I am a man of average means who until recently held stock in numerous indexed mutual funds, which no doubt at one time or another included American companies that indirectly did business with the Sudanese government, despite the U.S. trade embargo against Sudan still in effect. Much as I recently sold an inherited direct interest in an oil and gas exploration company in order to practice what I preach about protecting the environment, I would never knowingly own a direct interest in an enterprise (including, of course, an oil company) that would deal directly with the Sudanese government. —*Bill Hammons, Unity Party; candidate for U.S. House District. 2*

U.S. House District 4: *No responses.*

**Question 2.** *As U.S. Senator or Representative, what tangible measures will you support in Congress concerning funding for UN Peacekeeping forces? How will you exercise leadership in regard to this issue?*

As further legislation comes to the House floor for debate, I will continue to be supportive of peacekeeping efforts in Darfur as well as efforts to hold the Sudanese government and its militias accountable for the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region. — *Rep. Mark Udall, U.S. House Dist. 2, candidate for U.S. Senate*

I will support any constitutionally allowed method to stop genocide in ANY country. — *Douglas "Dayhorse" Campbell; U.S. Senate candidate, American Constitution Party*

A primary reason why I am running for Congress is to restore the United States' relationship with the United Nations. We are so far behind in our payments to the UN that it is embarrassing, and as a Congressman, I will direct our funding to support UN led initiatives, not unnecessary, unilateral wars. These dues should be used to stop the genocide in Darfur as well as other projects like repairing tsunami-ravaged coasts in Southeast Asia. The U.S. must stand up to Sudan with real force and real action, and we must do this right now. Unlike Iraq, there is no speculation about what might be going on in the Sudan; we know exactly the kind of atrocities that are being committed and we are currently turning a blind eye to the genocide. First, we need a unified effort led by nations from across the globe coordinated through the United Nations and the African Union. Then we must provide the U.S.'s military might to fuel the surge against the Janjaweed. We must make it very clear to Sudan that they have a decision to make — to join with the UN and stop the genocide or to continue backing the Janjaweed and face the consequences. We also must deploy a UN peacekeeping force to eastern Chad to ensure the genocide does not grow to a regional conflict. The most difficult, but most essential, step in the process of establishing a lasting peace in Darfur and ending the genocide will be enlisting China to take a sincere and supportive position against the genocide. China is an essential trading partner with Sudan and without them taking clear actions to end the genocide, our own efforts will be futile. — *Jared Polis, candidate for U.S. House District 2*

UN peacekeeping forces have historically been tragically hamstrung (the Srebrenica massacre obviously comes to mind), and, while I would support funding for UN peacekeeping forces if I thought those forces would be allowed to fight effectively if fighting is necessary, I believe a U.S.-led force outside a UN mandate would be far more effective. Such a force could include elements from the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy, both of which have been relatively underutilized in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Such a force could easily blockade Port Sudan, and, since oil comprises 90% of Sudan's exports and much of that oil flows through pipelines leading to Port Sudan, a blockade of the port and the support of an alternative Sudanese strong man who expressed a commitment to cracking down on the Janjaweed and ending the conflict in Darfur could easily force the handover of President al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court. The funding of an operation along these lines I would support wholeheartedly. — *Bill Hammons, Unity Party; candidate for U.S. House District. 2*

U.S. House District 4: *No responses.*

**Question 3.** *As U.S. Senator or Representative, what tangible measures will you support in Congress concerning divestment of U.S. wealth that indirectly or directly supports the Sudan regime or its supporters? How will you exercise leadership in regard to this issue?*

I will support any constitutionally allowed method to stop genocide in ANY country. — *Douglas "Dayhorse" Campbell; U.S. Senate candidate, American Constitution Party*

The first substantive step we must take is to join the International Criminal Court and bring to justice perpetrators of genocide, especially national leaders that commit this atrocity against their own people. We also must pass meaningful legislation on the national level and on the international level through the United Nations to lay the groundwork for ending the genocide. I support HR 6416 and S 831, and would like to see our Congress take real action to get these bills on to the President's desk to be signed. But we don't need a new bill identifying the problem: President Clinton called for divestment over 10 years ago and the conflict has only worsened. Without the support of the United Nations, the African Union, China and Iran, more lives will be lost, more refugees will seek asylum and create further instability in the region, and nothing will be resolved. With my Responsible Plan to End the War in Iraq ([www.responsibleplan.com](http://www.responsibleplan.com)), I will come to Congress with a mandate to promote peaceful relations across the globe. I do not believe the 2nd Congressional District of Colorado supports the U.S. engaging in aggressive violent, international interactions, and I know they will not stand for us turning a blind eye to the atrocities of genocide. In Congress, I will be a strong, confident representative that will remember my fellow Coloradoans that marched with me in opposition to the Iraq war, and I will remember their passionate commitment to ending the war and helping the victims of genocide across the world. — *Jared Polis, candidate for U.S. House District 2*

There are multiple Executive Orders in place prohibiting investment in Sudan. Since China and other countries have merely stepped into our place, especially regarding the Sudanese oil industry, more proactive measures regarding Sudan must be taken. — *Bill Hammons, Unity Party; candidate for U.S. House District. 2*

U.S. House District 4: *No responses.*

**Question 4.** *What policies should the U.S. pursue regarding China's support of Sudan's present leadership, given UN findings of that regime's complicity in genocide?*

H.Res.1093 called upon President Bush to not attend the Opening Ceremonies of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing in order to signal to China that it needs to take credible steps to persuade Sudan to end the genocide in Darfur and allow full deployment of UNAMID. I did not get a chance to vote on this legislation, since it was still in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs during the Opening Ceremonies. — *Rep. Mark Udall, U.S. House Dist. 2, candidate for U.S. Senate*

I will support any constitutionally allowed method to stop genocide in ANY country. — *Douglas "Dayhorse" Campbell; U.S. Senate candidate, American Constitution Party*

The incoming administration must abandon President Bush's strategy of tough talking and begin utilizing good diplomatic relations to solve the problems we face. We must sit down with [Sudan] President al-Bashir and have good-faith negotiations and work to create a lasting peace. I am firstly concerned with stopping the displacement of Darfuris, the raping and killing of innocent men, women and children. I want to stop the violence,

the intimidation and the atrocities that are being perpetrated in the region. When we have stabilized the region and eliminated the Janjaweed's presence, then we should explore who was behind the genocide and who could have acted to stop it. Simply cutting off economic support — even if China is fully complicit — is not going to end the conflict. Once we enlist the support of the Sudan's government, we must increase our aid to the Darfur region and provide food and medical assistance to the displaced refugees. I am most concerned with preserving life and removing the menacing threat the Janjaweed pose to the native people of Darfur. We must stop the genocide as fast as humanly possible. — *Jared Polis, candidate for U.S. House District 2.*

The United States should proceed with actions along the lines I've already described above. The Chinese would have an opportunity to end a tragedy reminiscent of Japanese atrocities on Chinese soil leading up to and during the Second World War, and they might go along through inaction.

I have previously stated that I support the issuing of global carbon emission licenses to cap and gradually reduce emissions of carbon dioxide worldwide (worldwide action is the only way we'll be able to avoid a worldwide catastrophe). Since such a system on a global scale would involve transfers of wealth from high emitters (i.e., the relatively prosperous) to low emitters (i.e., many of the world's poor), the issuing of global CELs would in many ways act as a rolling global Marshall Plan. Western Europe's carbon dioxide emissions plummeted in the mid-Forties, namely because much of European industry had been reduced to rubble during the Second World War, and the transfer of wealth caused by global CELs would have immediately primed the pump of Western European economies much as the Truman Administration's Marshall Plan did. In much the same way, a global carbon emission license system could have an immediate and practical effect in places like Darfur. Refugees whose only carbon emissions are from the burning of firewood, and those nomads who have been driven by desertification to drive others out of their homes, could be encouraged to stop fighting and start living with the prospect of relative wealth transferred into their pockets through a global CELs system. — *Bill Hammons, Unity Party; candidate for U.S. House District. 2*

U.S House District 4: *No responses.*