

House of Representatives  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania State Public Fund Divestment from Sudan in Response to Genocide –  
House Bill 1140

Testimony by:  
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“Why Divestment from Sudan”

- 1- I’m Ali B. Ali-Dinar, born and raised in Darfur. I came to the United States in 1987 to pursue my doctorate degree at the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1995.
- 2- I’m the President of the Darfur Alert Coalition (DAC). DAC is a Philadelphia area coalition of grassroots organizations that includes Sudanese and American educators, peace activists, religious leaders, artists, businessmen, students, all committed to support of the people of Darfur from the atrocities committed on them by their own government from what the State Department has described in September 2004, as Genocide. The Darfur Alert Coalition is a Pennsylvania 501c3 nonprofit organization (<http://www.darfuralert.org>).
- 3- During the course of the Darfur conflict (February 2003 – Present), I have delivered many presentations to various audiences via different mediums, both nationally and internationally about the Darfur conflict. I’m not affiliated with any political entity which is related to the government of Sudan nor to the Darfur opposition movements.
- 4- Judging from the recent Sudan history, conflicts between the state and armed groups with political agendas have dire impact not only locally, but regionally and to the global peace and security. The Sudanese civil wars of 1955-1971, and of 1983-2005, would not have ended without regional and international pressures on the government of Sudan and the rebel movements.
- 5- Unlike the past wars in Sudan, the presence of the international community in the Darfur conflict was there from the beginning due to the level of causality, and the systematic targeting of civilians based upon their ethnicities, a situation that has prompted the US government to call it Genocide, based upon its own investigation and findings.

- 6- Since 2004, one year after the start of the Darfur conflict, the United Nations Security Council has passed 9 resolutions (1547, 1556, 1564, 1591, 1593, 1663, 1666, 1706, 1769), all calling for the government of Sudan to end the conflict, but nothing has happened and the carnage in Darfur continues to this very minute.
- 7- The US Congress has organized several hearings throughout the years of the Darfur conflict, and passed several resolutions one of which is “Darfur Accountability Act” which calls for an end to the genocide and imposing sanctions against implicated individuals. The White House has appointed Special Envoy: Ambassador Andrew Natsios, who with other officials have made several visits to Sudan and its neighbors, but attacks against civilians by the Sudanese army and its ethnic militias (the Janjaweed) did not stop.
- 8- In May 2006, the Darfur Peace Act (DPA) was signed in Abuja – Nigeria under the auspices of the international community between the Government of Sudan and one rebel faction to end the conflict in Darfur. But even with the signed DPA, the Janjaweed are still in action and the government policies of targeting civilians using foot soldiers and aerial bombardment continued.
- 9- The small contingent of the African Union (AU) force which was present in Darfur since 2004 has no impact in stopping the genocide. The mandate of the AU force is to monitor the “Ceasefire” agreement which was signed by the Sudanese government and the Darfurian armed groups in 2004, but the force is not entrusted with the protection of civilians.
- 10- In August 2006, the UN Security Council passed resolution 1706 for sending 21 thousands UN troops to Darfur under Chapter 7 to protect civilians, but only with the consent of Sudanese government. Although the government of Sudan has refused repeatedly to accept such a UN force, however it finally bent to the will of the international community, but at the same time it now started a campaign to depopulate these camps by force.
- 11- During the course of this conflict in Darfur over 200 thousands have been killed, and over 3 millions are displaced inside Sudan and in Chad. Atrocities against civilians include mass killings, destroying of belongings, mass rape and expelling residents from their lands. All these atrocities would not have happened without the government of Sudan acquisition of material resources in executing these policies which comes mainly from oil revenues.

- 12- Revenues from oil exploration, has provided the government of Sudan with good financial assets to fund the war machine against the civilians in Darfur, and at the same time in encouraging other companies to come and invest in Sudan.
- 13- Since the government of Sudan, (a) is in denial of the genocide in Darfur, (b) in opposition to accept the UN resolutions towards the protection of civilian, (c) countries like China, Russia are in opposition to any UN sanctions against the Sudan; now it is up to individual countries to pursue economic sanctions against the government of Sudan, through divestment. Divestment is intended to put pressure on the government and its associates and not on ordinary citizens.
- 14- The war machine in Sudan, has exasperated with the oil export, whose revenue is used for acquiring arms, inflating the budget of defense and other security organs; building of arm factories: ammunition, guns, armored vehicles; and enriching of those associated with the regime, but not towards improving the lives of ordinary citizens.
- 15- Sudan's oil industry is currently divided between the country's own state oil company (%5) and China's CNPC (%40),, Malaysia's Petronas (%30), and ONGC of India (%25). These foreign companies possess the largest concessions, with the Southern Darfur fields being developed by the Chinese.
- 16- Main oil-related investment is now carried by Asian countries, which are now viewed as abusers of Sudanese human rights by assisting the regime.
- 17- During the civil war in the South: over 2.5 million southerners, mostly non Muslim has perished, and more than 4 millions had been displaced.
- 18- Now in Darfur over 3 million (Muslim) been displaced inside and outside the Sudan, using again the military might of the regime from oil revenue, for elongating the war.
- 19- Today, the ordinary Sudanese, Darfurians and others view China and Russia as on the side of the government, while the US is not, regardless of the depicted picture from the state-controlled media.

- 20- Today in Darfur: US is the main/The provider of relief, and the most outspoken against the atrocities in Sudan. US saved lives in Darfur, while other elongated the life of the regime, the suffering, the abuses, and the world peace.
- 21- Divesting is one of the leveraging tools which could be use by organizations in pressuring the government, and for bringing real peace in the country, which is part of US national security to maintain regional and global peace.
- 22- Divesting from a regime that is referred to by the UN Security Council as “committing genocidal acts against its citizens”, and unanimously referring the case to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, is a moral obligation for all of us to follow.
- 23- In the partial peace agreement signed by the Sudan and one faction of the rebel movements (August 2006), the government of Sudan acknowledged that the Janjaweed militia is under its control and that it will disarm them. But, the UN has issued a resolution in July 2004 for the same purpose, and the government did nothing towards disarming the Janjaweed, up to this minute.
- 24- We have to acknowledge the tactical nature of the Sudanese regime in buying time and in signing agreements when it comes under intense international pressure, as it did with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) for ending the war in southern Sudan and now with the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), but inherently its acts are different from the “Peace” that it signed. The current conflict the government has with its partner the South Sudan People Liberation Movement is the latest evidence of the attitude of the government of Sudan towards agreements that it signed.
- 25- From the recent history, without divestment campaigns and other kinds of sanctions, the Apartheid regime in South Africa will continue to this day. The government of Sudan tactical ethnic policies of war in Darfur has much of resemblance to the Apartheid policies. The government of Sudan is using race in the creation of its militias, and in targeting its victims, who are Sudanese citizens.
- 26- We really need to rethink where we want to invest our money, especially when it comes in supporting and benefiting the Sudanese regime which most of us would agree that it’s killing its own people.

- 27- We urge you to support quick action on Sudan divestment as embodied in the careful targeted-divestment model of House Bill 1140, which passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives last session.
- 28- With all the atrocities that we have watched over the past 4 years, with all the national campaigns of pressure, today is the day for the Commonwealth State of Pennsylvania to be at front in the US in defending democracy and human rights, it's now for it to consider what steps it needs to take in clearing its conscience, responding to its constituency by the power invested in it with regard to investing its money in a regime that is killing its own people to remain in power.
- 29- Now is the TIME to state our positions to the world, and especially to the Pennsylvanians. The world is now watching.

Thank you for the opportunity.

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